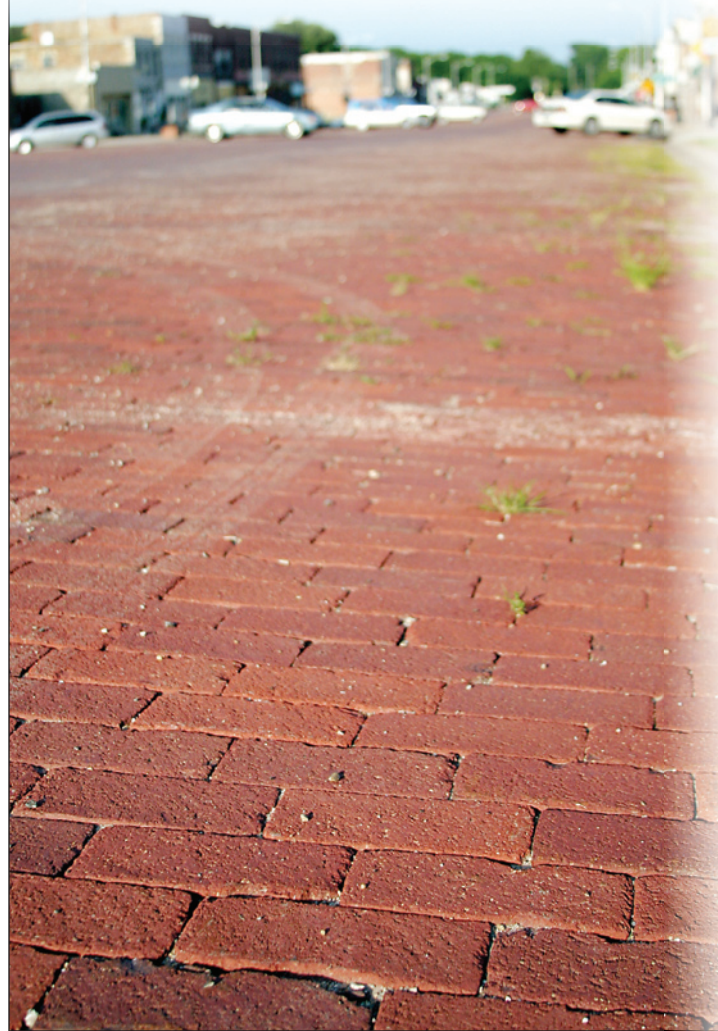




the 7 Wonders of Osage County

Burlingame Downtown Bricks



Rosie Blacketer
Staff Writer

Students from Osage County chose the wide Burlingame streets lined with bricks as one of the Seven Wonders of Osage County.

Researching Burlingame City Council meeting minutes of long ago, it was learned the first mention of changing the streets from dirt to pavement came in 1923. For many years, the topic was not discussed.

Later council discussions finally led to laying the bricks on the main street, which is now Santa Fe Avenue.

The council wanted to follow through with an idea to pave the streets, but Burlingame citizens turned out in high numbers to protest this idea. They wanted the streets to be brick.

In an eleventh-hour move during the Feb. 16, 1925, council meeting, the minutes read:

"Resolution changing paving in business district from concrete to brick on motion adopted. Resolution on file. M.N. Penny agrees in writing

to changes in paving contract in accordance with his bid. Supplementary contract with M.N. Penny authorized to conform with Resolution for part brick paving."

On June 25, 1925, a newspaper account read: "One of the early and necessary improvements in the town was the digging of the town well, near where the old Schuyler mill stood. It furnished an almost inexhaustible supply of water for the settlers and was in constant use up to a few years ago when a modern water system was installed. The old town pump was typically a town institution. The well is now prop-

erly capped and is covered with the new concrete and brick paving which has been laid the entire length of Santa Fe Avenue this summer as part of a two-mile federal aid project."

On July 6, 1925, the council minutes reflect a payment of \$77,106.21 for paving and brick laying.

The final payment on the bricks was recorded as Oct. 18, 1926, in the amount of \$106,970.89 and bonds paid in the amount of \$36,029.72.

The city of Burlingame began its water project two years ago. Part of the contract specified that any bricks that had to be moved

for the purpose of the water project must be replaced as found. It was necessary to remove bricks, but, as the contract required, they were returned in the spot from where they were removed.

The wondrous brick streets of Burlingame have lasted over the years and will remain in place for generations to come.

Historical photo of Burlingame's brick laying project was provided courtesy of Corinne Dubois, Scranton. Burlingame City Clerk Patti Gilbert assisted in the research of information for this article.



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