

Oral History Interview
Mrs. Robert J. Long
March 3, 1964

Historical note: According to Mrs. Long, she was the bookkeeper at the Belle Springs Creamery Company for thirteen years, 1903 - 1916.

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Mr. Barbash: Mrs. Long, when and why was the Creamery transferred to Abilene, Kansas?

Mrs. Long: The first Belle Springs plant was completed in November in 1886, at Belle Springs, which is about twelve miles from Abilene. Mr. Forney moved from the farm in October 1889 to Abilene. By this time they had built a new and somewhat larger plant in Abilene, into which industry he put all of his energy. They moved to Abilene for the reason that it was—the reason for their moving to Abilene and building the Creamery was for the fact that they had railroad facilities and it was a shopping center.

Mr. Barbash: Mrs. Long, how did you become connected with the Belle Springs Creamery, and in what capacity?

Mrs. Long: In the spring of 1903, Abilene had one of its floods, I was attending Business College here in a three-story building, located at the corner of Cedar and Third. On account of the flood, the top story fell to the basement, so, I lost my typewriter and my books, and I had not quite completed my course when they told me I might come down to the Creamery office and do some practice work there—which I did—and started as a stenographer in 1903.