

Stewart Verckler's Abstracts of Abilene Newspapers

1891

- Telephone from city to Sand Springs—five leaks in the main line, much delay and trouble putting in new pipe.
- The new “hello girl” at the telephone office is Miss Eva Adams.

1893

- Cleyson Brown & Bride [Maud Elizabeth Irwin] are back from the World's Fair.

1894

- Jacob Brown will rebuild the dam on the Smoky River, having bought the old Child's Mill property—will require 40,000' of oak timber.

1895

- Ordinance passed and presented to S.O. & A.H. Norris of Kansas City, allowing them to install a light plant. Franchise to last 21 years. Planned to run lights from Brown's Mill if do not build own plant. 11 are lights & 5 incandescent for \$1000 [\$25,641 today] per year to City. Private lighting 4/5 cents [\$1.02 - \$1.28 today] per hour per lamp per month or 65 cents [\$16.67 today] per month, light to remain on until 10 PM., midnight 75 cents [\$19.23 today] per lamp, all night would be \$1.50 [\$38.46 today].
- Brown Mill leased to Nelson & Dingee—make “Golden Shaef” flour.

1896

- Several business men want lights in the city, interviews. City Treas. B.B. Giles says city cannot afford them—taxes are too high now and city has many expenses coming up.
- City Council votes not to have lights, cannot afford them, would cost \$1200 [\$30,769 today] a year. T.M. Jones spoke against them, Eicholtz and GWC Rohrer spoke for them.
- Committee headed by J.B. Case will ask the Harrison Co. to come to Abilene with a new telephone plant. Present company has 50 phones at \$2.50 [\$64.10 today] per month, new company will charge \$1.00 [\$25.64 today].

1897

- G.A. Rogers replaces J.S. Hibbard as telephone manager.

1898

- Long distance telephone to be between Salina, Abilene, Junction City, Topeka and Kansas City. G.A. Rogers is manager in Abilene, no mention of what company it is.
- Miss Jennie Brown is now employed at the City Mills.
- Lights are turned on in Abilene on Dec. 11, 1898.
- The long distance telephone line from Salina, through Abilene to Kansas City is completed in Dec. of 1898.

1902

- Geo. Hirsh & John Reeves, road viewers of Newbern Twp. Objected to where C.L. Brown had put his poles. They said they were in the road and proceeded to cut down 1 ½ miles of poles. Brown secured a temporary injunction and proved they were not in road.

1904

- New telephone directory issued 375 phones in Abilene, 66 farm phones.

1905

- Brown installed new switchboard, can handle 1000 local phones, 40 toll lines and 40 rural lines.

1906

- Brown Electric is reorganized to be called Riverside Light & Power Co.—\$50,000 [\$1,190,476 today] capital.
- 1500 Brown Telephones serve farmers and city residents.
- Telephone system throughout house [new Seelye home], steam heat, electric lights and water throughout.

1907

- All county phones (2000) are connected with Brown Telephone Co.

1908

- C.L. Brown has the agency for Rambler automobiles.
- 8 wire telephone line being built to Solomon by Brown

1909

- New ten wire line to Wichita and Hutchinson. Home telephone & telegraph Co. C.L. Brown is Sec'y, cost \$75,000 [\$1,744,186 today].
- 1000 Brown phones in Abilene, 5750 in county. Brown has 11 operators, handle 7000 calls per day. Long distance operator handles 250 per day. 40 are on monthly pay roll. 7500 miles of wire in county.

1910

- Home & Long Distance Telephone Co. had profits of \$364,767 [\$8,105,933 today]. C.L. Brown is Sec'y.
- Brown Telephone Co. puts electric lighted clock at corner of 3rd & Cedar
- Brown telephone lays title underground for lines.

Courtesy of Dickinson County Heritage Center