ONE WHO ONCE CALLED DYER HOME

May 1, 1930

Joe Chitwood

Mr. Joe Chitwood, manager of the L. T. Hill store at Borger, Texas, first saw the light of day at Dyer, Arkansas, on December 28, 1893. Dyer is about 20 miles northeast of Fort Smith, and Mr. Chitwood remained in that vicinity until young manhood. After completing the Public School System he attended the Arkansas State Agricultural College at Russellville, Arkansas, for two years. Indeed, it was not until he reached the age of twenty-one that he forsook his studies and emigrated to Oklahoma with his parents as merchants.

In 1916 he moved to Eufaula, Oklahoma, and entered the store for Dunlap Brothers, and he also saw service in a store owned by this Company in McAlester, Muskogee, and Cleveland.1 At that time California called and Mr. Chitwood made the tour "a la Jack London." Returning to Oklahoma he accepted a position with the J. P. Martin Company. Next he moved to Hominy, Osage County, Oklahoma, and managed the L. T. Hill Company: managed by L. T. Hill. Leaving the Martin Company he was for a time with the Big Hill Trading Company at Fairfax, Osage County, Oklahoma. After that he joined the C. R. Anthony store at Drumright, Creek and Payne Counties, Oklahoma, then supervised by L. T. Hill.

He was transferred to Panhandle, Carson County, Texas, and became a member of the L. T. Hill Company when the store was taken over in the early part of 1927. When the Borger, Hutchinson County, Texas, store was opened a few months later Mr. Chitwood became its manager and, to quote his own words, "It is still fighting in the wonder city of the oil world".

It would be an injustice to Mr. Chitwood to make no mention of the fact that he knew every man, woman, and child in Borger, and there is not a one of them who doesn't call him "JOE". Incidentally Joe can call them by name in return. With the exception of the Grand Jury, Mr. Chitwood has no hobbies...and he remarked in closing that he doesn't like dogs.

***1 ~ McAlester, Muskogee, and Cleveland are cities located in Oklahoma.***

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"Yes, Virginia, there are still honest people." Anna Morrison Bluff lost $220 dollars while shopping in Fort Smith. On returning home she received a call from Cuba Leakey of Dyer. She had found the money with name on the envelope and was calling to return it.

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