

— NEWS —
Gascapades

By Shila Moore

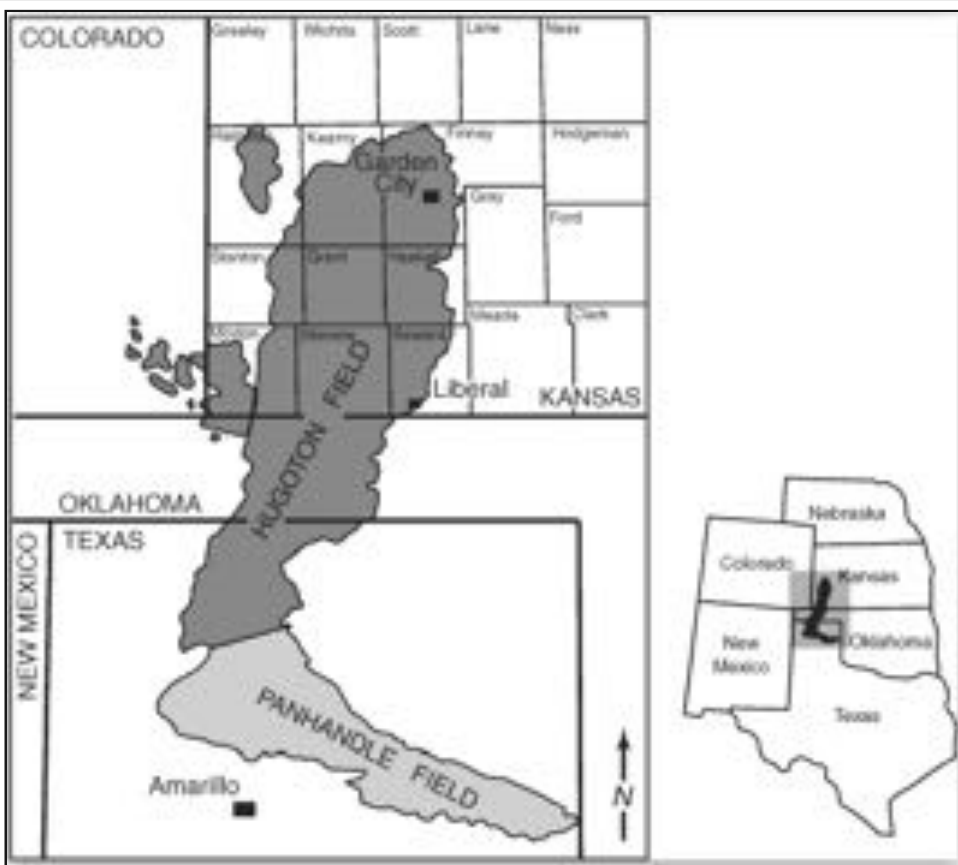
From Hugoton Hermes, May 20, 1927, "Crawford No. 1 which has been in process of drilling for the past five months justified the faith of the promoters when on last Sunday night it was producing an excellent flow of wet gas which has constantly increased since the drill has bit deeper into the sand. Gas was encountered first at 2620 feet. Drilling continued to 2730 feet with constantly increasing flow until Tuesday night a gauge showed ten million feet with the pressure increasing at the rate of about a million feet per hour. The sand encountered is the thickest gas sand of which there is any record in the entire history of oil and gas operations, there being 120 feet of producing sand at this time and the drill is not yet through it.

“Representatives and officials of the various companies interested in the development of Stevens County are on the ground awaiting further results. The compa-

nies interested in Stevens County are the Marland, Gypsy, Empire, Tidal, Roxanna, Mid-Kansas, Independent, Phillips Petroleum Co. The Independent being the one who is drilling the present test, who have a large amount of acreage. Drilling operations on this well will continue. Those in charge are most optimistic that a still greater flow of gas will develop and that oil will be found in paying quantities. Crawford No. 1 is located only a few miles from Hugoton. Geologists have always held and are still confident that Hugoton is in the center of one of the greatest potential oil and gas fields in the mid-continent area. This opinion together with the wonderful amount of gas already discovered puts Stevens County decidedly on the map in big letters. Already Hugoton is filling up with oil men eager to get into the game and all confident of a marvelous future in store for our city and county.

“In an exclusive inter-

view given The Hermes by Fred Phillips of Tulsa, Oklahoma and W. L. Sidwell of Winfield, Kansas, in charge of the drilling operations, they said, 'Never in our experience in the oil and gas game have we ever seen finer prospects for the opening of a big field than exists today in Stevens County, and especially in the vicinity of Hugoton, we were optimistic when we spudded in, and our optimism has grown as the drill has sunk foot by foot into the earth, we have always been willing to gamble that Crawford No. 1 would be a big producer and the indications are that we win. Never in the experience of the oil and gas industry has such a wonderful sand been encountered as we have found in this well. The bit is now 120 feet into the sand and no indications of having reached the limit yet. We know of no such thick sand in the history of the business. The well is now producing ten million feet of gas on the gauge and is constantly increasing. Today our highest hopes seem



Those involved in this “discovery well” in Stevens County probably had no idea how massive the gas field was they had just discovered. This map shows the extensive size of the Hugoton Gas Field. It covers 8,500 square miles. (map is from alchetron.com)

on the verge of fulfillment. We have a gas well now that is a commercial producer. Every indication is that it will become a greater one and we wouldn't give anybody a dime to insure us that oil will be struck in paying quantities. We congratulate ourselves on our good fortune in having chosen Hugoton and Stevens County as one of the fields of our activities.

This promises to develop into a far greater field than Borger, Texas.'

within our grasp.

"The Hermes feels mighty good and confident over the situation. We have always had faith in Stevens County. We knew it was the garden spot of Kansas and with the present outlook for oil and gas development there can be no limitation to its future prosperity."

“Messrs Phillips and Sidwell are both veterans in the oil and gas game. Men of wide experience and sound judgement, not given to rainbow chasing, and they are both confident that the success for this field in the oil game is not just around the corner but



Football pep rally in the late 1950's early 1960's, pictured left to right are believed to be Harold James, Dick Perry, Carl Thurow, Principle R.L. Stafford, Clifford Binns, Wayne Hoskinson and ?????????? *Photo courtesy of Dana Swan.*

History from the Hermes

Thursday, August 22,
1996

Kelsey Bond of Hugoton was awarded ninth place in the Equitation Over Fences competition at the American Quarter Horse Youth Association World Championship Show August 3-10 in Fort Worth. The 14-year-old daughter of Greg and Tami Bond, she competed against 78 entries in the event. She won a ninth-place medal, a blanket, and a patch for her effort. The show is the pinnacle event for the 31,000-member association and featured 2,080 entries from around the world. Kelsey remembers seeing teams from Belgium, Australia, Canada, Hawaii and England.

Thursday, August 21,
1986

Northern Natural Gas Company today filed the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to lower its Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA) rate. The filing will result in a reduction of 23.01 cents per thousand cubic feet (Mcf) in the commodity portion of the company's sales rates.

Thursday, August 19,
1976

August 17, 1769 this notice appeared in the Virginia Gazette.

To be RENTED on reasonable terms, THE house and Lots in Williamsburg, belonging to Col. George Washington; a lease will be given for 6 to 7 years and the lots put in good order. For terms apply to Col. Washington in Fairfax, or to the Subscriber near Williamsburg.

Newspaper Advertising has kept America growing for over 200 years.

Thursday, August 18,
1966

Eugene Crawford, newly elected commander of the 8th District of the Veterans of the Foreign Wars, will be honored Sunday, August 21, at a reception at the Veteran's Hall in Hugoton from 1:30 until 4:00 p.m.

State and District officers and representatives of the 21 Posts and 17 Ladies Auxiliaries in the District are expected to attend the reception.

Thursday, August 23,
1956

The T.R. Gooch family, who live Southeast of Hugoton, first became acquainted with the 4-H program in Stevens County when their two older children Theo and Jim, joined the Bethel 4-H Club, now disbanded.

When the Maple leaf
Rustlers 4-H Club was or-

ganized in February of 1950, Jim had enough 4-H work to realize its value and immediately became a charter member and the clubs first president. He was also a county delegate to the state 4-H Round-Up at Manhattan that year. In the fall of the following year at the annual Achievement Banquet, Jim was named one of the five outstanding 4-Hers in the county, and received the silver achievement pin awarded to the top 10 percent of the 4-H members in the county. He was also county beef and wheat champion.

Jim served as president of the Maple Leaf Rustlers and the 4-H Council until he left in March of 1954, for 2 years of army training. While away he was the recipient of the coveted Who's Who Gold Key Award, the highest county award given to a 4-Her in the state of Kansas. Due to his absence his mother, accepted the award in his behalf. He was the first maple Leaf Rustler to achieve this goal.

If any readers have pictures or memories for the history page of the Hermes, please bring them in to the staff at The Hugoton Hermes newspaper.

*Hermes is now
printed at 3:00
on Tuesdays - so
Deadline has to be
strictly enforced
5:00 Mondays*

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PUBLIC NOTICE

(First published in The Hugoton Hermes, Thursday, August 20, 2026)

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NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of
City of Houston
will meet on 9/8/26 at 5:45 PM at CITY HALL for the purpose of hearing and
answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax.
Detailed budget information is available at CITY HALL and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2027 Expenditures and Amount of 2026 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2027 budget.
Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

	Prior Year Actual for 2025	Current Year Estimate for 2026	Proposed Budget Year for 2027
FUND	Expenditures Actual Tax Rate *	Expenditures Actual Tax Rate *	Budget Authority for Expenditures Amount of 2026 Ad Valorem Tax Proposed Estimated Tax Rate *
General	3,299,562	3,560,848	4,665,905
Bond & Interest	353,455	104,296	270,314
Special Highway	101,776	100,000	141,524
Animal Care Homevolence	2,974	3,000	4,300
Community Improvement Dist.	77,225	45,000	52,600
Convention & Tourism	22,676	30,000	114,000
Diversions		5,000	15,000
Economic Development	20,000	30,000	58,600
Electric Distribution System U	39,316	50,000	1,685,000
Gas Royalty	417,596	120,000	196,000
Golf Course Expansion	195,558	25,000	151,000
Oxleyd Settlement Fund			
Shop w/a Cop	5,971	6,500	20,900
Special Park & Recreation	25,134	15,500	19,600
Special Street Machinery			
Streetscape	330	350	2,200
Water Improvement Reserve	117,670	337,707	1,778,000
Electric	4,324,413	3,544,420	5,945,000
Water	1,038,443	1,092,349	1,096,000
Sewerage	442,693	496,894	786,000
Sewer	756,618	480,391	1,050,000
Non-Budgeted Funds-A			
Non-Budgeted Funds-B	27,370		
Totals	11,268,982	10,066,455	18,051,943
			Revenue Neutral Rate**
	728,424	434,564	5,655,269
Less: Transfers			
Net Expenditure	10,540,558	9,631,891	12,396,674
Total Tax Levied	960,545	953,707	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
Assessed			
Valuation	25,107,385	30,038,656	30,328,063
Outstanding Indebtedness,			
January 1,	2024	2025	2026
G.O. Bonds	1,215,000	1,215,000	820,000
Revenue Bonds	0	0	0
Other	0	73,163	229,535
Lease Purchase Principal	73,163	289,070	200,801
Total	1,288,163	1,577,233	1,250,336

*Tax rates are expressed in million

**Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by KSA 79-2983

CARRIE BAEZA

City Official Title: CITY CLERK