

THE STORY OF HONOR PARK

In August 1991, the members of Pisces Garden Club decided to conduct a fund raiser for construction of a Logan County Veterans Memorial

With permission from the City of Guthrie, a site was selected in Veterans Park, just across the street from Mineral Wells Park.

On the first anniversary of Desert Storm. January 1992, a ground breaking ceremony was held in Veterans Park. The ceremony was attended by the Guthrie High School ROTC Honor Guard, City leaders, Officials from the American Legion, of Guthrie and Crescent. Veterans of Foreign Wars, Guthrie High School and Citizens of Logan County.

A sign was installed showing a depiction of the monument at the site selected for the location of the monument

The goal was to have the monument installed by Veterans Day 1992.

The hope for donations died soon - and the brick sales started. The only worry now was if enough bricks could be sold to raise the funds for the monument

At the end of September 1992, the project received a serious slap in the face. It was pointed out that the land comprising Veterans Park did not belong to the City of Guthrie and the owners would not allow the monument to be placed there.

The monument was ready and waiting to be installed, but there was no place to put it. City officials told the Pisces

Garden Club to pick and place in the city as long as the land was owned by the city. With the help of city staff and garden club members the corner of Harrison and Second Street was selected.

Just like originally planned the Monument was installed and dedicated at 2 PM on Veterans Day, November 11, 1992. A sudden thunderstorm moved everyone inside the Blue Bell Saloon, who graciously offered their facility to get everyone out of the rain.

After guest speakers Army chaplain, GHS ROTC Honor Guard, GHS Band, members of the 5th US Cavalry, veterans and citizens made themselves comfortable. The Dedication Ceremony was presented as planned. Our brave troopers from the 5th Cavalry stepped outside, in the pouring rain, to sound Taps.

It was the first, and most likely the last, time that the GHS Band played the National Anthem in a Saloon. It sounded great

Everyone agreed that the Saloon was a fitting place to hold the ceremony as many old soldiers had, from time to time, spent several hours in one.

After 10 months and raising \$30,000 the members of the Pisces Garden Club finished their job and they have been very proud of it

In January 1993 the Honor Park Committee was formed, but it was not until November 1995 that things really started to happen. The old ugly wood fence came down, the land leveled and a new fence was installed, thanks to the Guthrie Public Works Department.

Walk ways. benches, light fixtures. trees. and shrubs were installed. Paid for by the committee, with funds raised by selling bricks. The committee also decorated the monument for special occasions.

When you see the pictures from 1992 to 1999 we will all agree that everyone involved did a great job.