



Search Share



Model of Conklin Hardware Store donated by James D. Conklin

1/14/2019

1 Comment

In December, James D. Conklin donated a model of the Conklin Hardware Store to the Talbot Library and Museum. James is the grandson of Henry and Ruth Conklin. The model was made by Paul Lantzer, the son-in-law of the Conklins, several years ago. Henry and Ruth operated the store for several decades.

The Conklin Hardware Store building was located on the southwest corner of Main and Colcord. The building was still standing in Colcord as late as 1985, but is no longer standing. The SW corner of Main and Colcord is now occupied by the Colcord Town Hall.

In January, 1946, Henry and Ruth Conklin purchased the Hardware Store in Colcord (then named Overman Bros. Store). The previous owners were Overman Brothers and Ed Smith/Elmer Andrews. The Conklins renamed the store Conklin Hardware and were successful entrepreneurs.

Upon buying the store, Henry built a new and larger ice house and grew the ice house route he had started for Ed Smith and Elmer Andrews.

Over time, Henry and Ruth enlarged the inventory/stock and introduced new variety items, including seasonal items. Customers would come from Fort Smith and Tulsa to pick up specialty items for holidays like Easter, July 4th, and Christmas. Ruth especially enjoyed selling children's toys.

After the Rural Electric Co-op was formed, and electricity was available to everyone in the area, Henry began stocking refrigerators. These sold almost faster than he could keep them in stock. Over time, the Conklins also did plumbing and electrical jobs.

Henry and Ruth were well liked in the community. The



Henry and Ruth Conklin, 1942



Henry and Ruth Conklin, 1968

Sources:

The Story of Two Towns: A History of Row-Colcord and the Surrounding Area, Volume 1 (1985)

A Bit of History Blog

Bits of History from

*NE Oklahoma &
NW Arkansas*

Archives

- April 2024
- January 2022
- October 2020
- September 2020
- July 2020
- May 2020
- April 2020
- January 2019
- August 2016
- June 2016
- March 2016
- January 2016
- November 2015
- February 2015
- January 2015
- October 2014
- September 2014
- August 2014
- July 2014
- June 2014
- September 2013

Categories

All

RSS Feed

central wood-burning stove was a favorite meeting place for the townspeople. Henry worked to establish a water and sewer project in Colcord. He also served as the first mayor of Colcord after the town was incorporated.

The Talbot Library and Museum

The Talbot Library and Museum is honored to display the Conklin Hardware Store Model. There are memories of this store by so many people who have grown up in Colcord and those who still live in the area.

This post can also be found in our News and Updates section.

Like 0 Post

1 Comment



Museum Hours:
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
8:00AM - 4:00PM
Friday
8:00AM-2:00PM
(or other days by appointment for research)
Phone: 918-326-4532

Email: talbotlibrary@earthlink.net



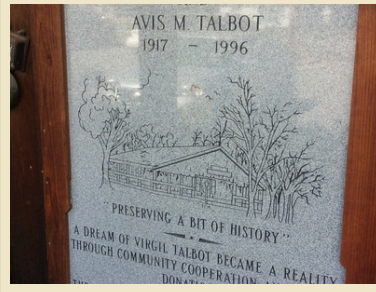
Links:

- [Goingsnake District Heritage Association](#)
- [Cherokee Nation](#)
- [Dawes Rolls](#)
- [Oklahoma Historical Society](#)

Talbot Library & Museum is listed at:

- [TravelOK.com](#)
- [AmericanTowns.com](#)
- [Cyndi's list](#)
- [A](#)





© 2014-2024 Talbot Library and Museum