



Search  Share

- [Home](#) | [About Us](#) | [Online Bookstore](#) | [Publications](#) | [Obituary Requests](#) | ["A BIT OF HISTORY" Blog](#) | [Links](#) | [Cart \(0\)](#) | [Log In](#)

## Model of Conklin Hardware Store Donated by James D. Conklin

1/14/2019

1 Comment

### Author

Talbot Library and Museum

### Archives

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 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 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 Bit of History Blog.*



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)

The Talbot Library and Museum

- April 2024
- November 2023
- September 2023
- August 2023
- June 2023
- May 2023
- April 2023
- March 2023
- January 2023
- October 2022
- September 2022
- July 2022
- June 2022
- April 2022
- January 2022
- December 2021
- November 2021
- October 2021
- September 2021
- July 2021
- May 2021
- April 2021
- January 2021
- December 2020
- September 2020
- June 2020
- May 2020
- April 2020
- February 2020
- January 2020
- December 2019
- November 2019
- October 2019
- September 2019
- August 2019
- July 2019
- April 2019
- January 2019
- November 2018
- October 2018
- August 2018
- July 2018
- June 2018
- May 2018
- April 2018
- March 2018
- February 2018
- January 2018
- October 2017

Like 15 Post

1 Comment

September 2017

August 2017

June 2017

May 2017

December 2016

November 2016

October 2016

September 2016

August 2016

July 2016

June 2016

May 2016

April 2016

March 2016

February 2016

November 2015

October 2015

September 2015

August 2015

July 2015

June 2015

May 2015

April 2015

March 2015

February 2015

December 2014

October 2014

August 2014

July 2014

June 2014

May 2014

## Categories

All

 RSS Feed



### 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](mailto:talbotlibrary@earthlink.net)



### Links:

[Goingsnake District Heritage Association](#)

[Cherokee Nation](#)

[Dawes Rolls](#)

[Oklahoma Historical Society](#)

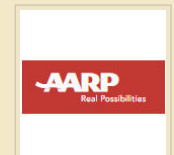
### Talbot Library & Museum is listed at:

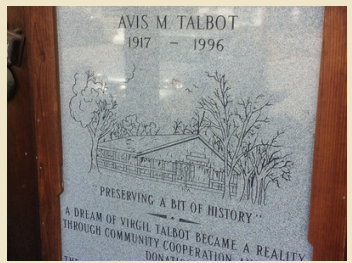
[TravelOK.com](#)

[AmericanTowns.com](#)

[Cyndi's list](#)

[AARP](#)





© 2014-2024 Talbot Library and Museum

Proudly powered by We