

## HISTORY OF PROSPER

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by Pat Gilliland

A great man once said, "What's in a name; wouldn't a rose by any other name smell as sweet?" I am just wondering if this little West Collin County town would mean the same with a name other than Prosper.

To me, this name is a very appropriate one for this little town situated in the heart of a prosperous farming section. In the beginning its three room frame school building, with two teachers was called Richland. Due to the fact that Texas already had a town by that name, Mr. T. C. Slaughter, a citizen, suggested the name of Prosper.

In 1901, the first railroad was started and the town of Prosper had its beginning. It was not until March 17, 1902, that the first passenger train came through causing very much excitement. Rock Hill, its churches, residences and business houses moved to Prosper and located on the east side of the railroad track. J. J. Maxey was the owner of the first grocery store and Jim and Joe Taylor, the first gin.

In 1902, Prosper had its first postmaster-L. A. Anderson, who also operated a grocery store in the same building. A short time later the store and post office were taken over by B. J. Naugle, who served as post master until four or five years ago when this was taken over by A. E. Robinson. A rural route was established July 1, 1904, with our present banker, Mr. U. N. Clary, as carrier. In 1929 the route was consolidated with Celina, Frisco and McKinney.

In July, 1903, the Continental Bank and Trust Company was established with C. A. Sanford as cashier. In 1929, the name was changed to the Prosper State Bank. The territory served by this bank has been extended until now it serves a large part of West Collin County.

A four-story flour mill was built in 1904 to accommodate an enormous wheat crop.

Our town has grown until we now have five grocery stores, three grocer, one cafe, three churches, two gins, mill and grain elevator and a lumber yard.

Our school have grown from a two-teacher to a nine-teacher, consolidated school with eighteen credits of affiliation. We have a modern two-story brick building. Our health program is carried on by a hot lunch project and physi....

Looking Back on 50 Years, Prosper Feels Destiny Met