



HURLEY, NEW MEXICO

HISTORICAL DATA from 1910-1960

50 Years of Recorded Memories by Claude Dannelley

July 13, 1960: I am about to start to tape record memories of 50 years in Hurley. In compiling this data I have done my best to give factual happenings, accurate dates and as near authentic (information) as possible. As I am neither a writer nor orator, it will have to come deep from within and be very plain and simple. My thanks go to those who have helped me prepare this data in various ways, especially Dave Boise, Frank Phillips, Mrs. Charles Sherman and J. E. Byrne.

Arriving in Hurley in the summer of 1910 on our way from Carlsbad, Eddy County, headed for the Mule Creek country in Grant County by covered wagons (it took three weeks to travel from Carlsbad to Hurley), was my father, mother, two sisters, one brother and a friend of ours and his family in their caravan. Our family returned to Hurley on September 6, 1910, where we made permanent camp under a cottonwood grove at B ranch. Dad and I went to work for Chino hauling gravel from B creek to the mill site with two four-horse teams. We hauled six trips per day, one and one-half yards per trip, at \$.75 per yard. Alfalfa hay was \$12.00 per ton, shelled corn was \$1.25 per hundred pounds.

The main road at that time from the south came up B canyon to B ranch, and topped out there at Hurley mesa north and west of town. The chino personnel had a mess hall at B ranch and a small building used for engineers' quarters. Men were sleeping on cots under trees. These two buildings were later moved up on the mesa and located at the corner of Romero and Chino Blvd. They were enlarged and used as a Chino staff mess. The smaller building was used as quarters for mess employees.

The B ranch got its name from the original owner, a Mr. O. Brauhm who used OB as a cattle brand. The last owner before Chino got it was a Mr. Al O'Brien, so the name was changed from OB to B ranch (for short).

Hurley got its name from a Santa Fe Railway official, when the branch line was being laid from Whitewater to Fierro siding to haul ore from the CF&I mines at Fierro to Colorado. It was named Hurley (after Mr. J. E. Hurley), long before Chino acquired the property.

Cortez street was laid out and a few houses built. Also constructed was a small frame store and a smaller butcher shop, a livery stable and mule barns were leased to Herb Robinson. A three-room house on the corner of Santa Rita and First street (where the present fire station stands) was occupied by Mr. P. H. "Buck" Williams, construction superintendent. He later moved to a better house at 11 Carrasco, where their first boy was the first white child born in Hurley.

The second house was occupied by the first manager of the Company store, Mr. Chan Derbyshire and is still in the same location where Mr. and Mrs. Harold Trapp, the village barber and Mayer, now lives.

The third house was a three-room dwelling used as the first boarding house while the main boarding house was under construction. When it was finished and opened in 1911, it was leased to Charles Fox as the first operator, so boarders were transferred from No. 13 Cortez to the New boarding house. No. 13 Cortez is still in the same location is occupied by Mr. Williard Willis and family. It was also our first post office. Doc Robinson was our first postmaster and Howard Boise, brother of Dave, was second postmaster with Miss Pearl Bernard as his assistant (now Mrs. Herbert Herman of Silver City).

The first Company store was a frame building next to the present store. It was used while the new store was under construction. The meat market was a little wooden frame structure about where the present bar is located.

It was known and operated as the GOS Market. Ed Dalrymple was the first meat cutter. This building was used by them until the new brick market was opened in 1913 and a Mr. Boudinette opened a bakery there which he ran for several years.

The first company office in Hurley was in a little red corrugated iron building back of the store near the underpass. It had two offices, one for Dave Boise, chief mill clerk and paymaster, the other for Dr. F. N. Carrier, the Company physician and surgeon who lived in Santa Rita.

The livery stable and mule barn was leased and managed by Herb Robinson, contractor; Ed Burch was foreman; George Case, assistant; John Woods, chauffeur; Dave and Joe Penton were the foremen of the mule teams, barns and equipment. In those days the equipment was wheelers, fresnos, scrapers, plows, rippers, wagons, dump wagons, picks and shovels. There was no powered machinery of any kind, just teamsters and mule skimmers. All were under contract to Ponton Brothers.

That was the picture as it looked in the fall of 1910. The main job going on then was the excavation of the clear water storage reservoir, and the cut for the railroad track to the mill yard. Water development at Apache and at Cameron and Whiskey creeks, and water exploration work at the T box on Lampbright canyon was underway. There were about 200 men employed here at that time. People were arriving daily by wagon, buggy and train. Two chair car coaches were hooked onto the local train at Whitewater to Hurley, Santa Rita and Fierro. No camping, horses or mules were allowed on the south side of the tracks. The only source of water for animals and campers was from B ranch by pipeline to corrals, mule barns and a livery stable located about where the present smelter is.

West on A street, up on to the little muddy reservoir was settling fast with tents, shacks and camps. There was a gooseneck type yard hydrant about every 220 feet where all water was carried for house use and to the horses. A no. 4 washtub was used for bathing. Water was carried in and heated on wood stoves for baths.

The men would pool their labor and tools and help each other every evening to build shacks and one or two-room tents. The working hours were from seven a.m. in the morning to six at night, with one hour off for lunch, so nearly all building after hours was done by coal oil lantern light and early dawn. Camp sites were available to one and all for \$1 per month ground rent. Early in 1911, working hours were cut to 9 hours; by 1912, to 8 hours.

In the winter of 1910, there were only six families with teenage children. They were George Bluem, the paint foreman's daughter Blanche and two sons, Walt and Ben; Jack Dumlop's twin daughters, Laura and Lilly; Raymond and Viola De Lounsey, my two sisters and me. (Note: missing the remaining family name here.) The only form of entertainment for us was pitch, dominos, candy pulls and other home games.

There was not electricity, no phonographs, telephones, or musical instruments. We used coal oil lamps and lanterns and wood burning stoves. The winters were severe, cold and wet. They were too disagreeable for horseback or buggy rides at night and no chance for that in the daytime. After putting in 9 or 10 hours on the job and then 3-4 more building or helping others to build, it was time to hit the schucks.

Single men and family men who had left their family's elsewhere until they could get settled, predominated. Men slept in feed rooms, saddle and harness houses, or camped out until suitable places could be built. The company had a little generator going by 1911 for lights. It was located about where the power plant is now. There was no mill yard fence, so the stragglers, hoboes and drifters would flock into the generator house to get next to the boiler to keep warm at night. This practice grew until it got out of bounds and had to be stopped. There was a railroad track running from back of the store into the generator power house. There was no jail and no facilities for handling these heat hunters, so Chino's chief of police hired a night watchman, a Mr. Roe Robb, and supplied him with trace chains and padlocks. He gave him orders to arrest and lock all heat hunters with a 10 foot chain from one ankle and then to a rail where they remained until morning. Then they were set free to rustle jobs as the Company was hiring every able bodied man they could get. These men were interviewed next morning and usually most of them were hired. Those who were not, were ordered to move on. Very few showed up at the little power house the second time.

The first section of the mill started operating on October 19, 1911. Mormon bosses were sent here from Utah Copper Company to start it. They were quartered in a four-room dwelling at No. 15. Romero. Later on, it was called the Mormon Temple where some lively parties were held, especially on Mormon Day, July 24, every year.

By late 1911 and early 1912, business houses and recreation facilities were starting. A new modern saloon on Cortez street, still in use as the Mexican Casino, was built. Also, an open air theater was built of corrugated iron 8-foot walls, dirt floor, wooden benches and, for the first summer, the star-decked heaven for a roof. A tin roof was added later. It showed silent movies and tickets were \$.15 each. It stood where the Chino Club is now, and was operated by Lee Gooding, the village tailor. It was replaced in 1915 with a new modern building built by Chino and located on the corner of First and Cortez. It was leased to Mr. Murray and his son Leroy (the father and brother of Mrs. Beryl Sweske who still lives here). The next manager was Eddie Ward, an ex-Copper League baseball player. He named it the Tejo Theater and it was on the Gibraltar circuit. He ran it until 1955 when it was sold to John W. Galbraith along with the townsite, resold and then torn down and hauled to Deming in 1958. The foundation still remains.

Chino, about this time (1911-12), leased a strip of land in North Hurley about where the Hurley golf course is now. A street was laid out reaching from the Old Bayard road east to B ranch, and buildings built by individuals and businesses of their own choosing, were started. On the west was the John Byrne Grocery Store, a little shoe repair shop, a "2 x 4" jewelry store, the Blue Goose Saloon run by Joe McAllister, a meat market by Max Gauding, on the extreme east end of the brow of the hill just above the present rodeo arena.

A large first-class modern saloon and gambling hall was built; next to it a two-story, 25-room Red-Light building. Just below it was a 10-room adobe row of one-room apartments called the Cribs, all owned and managed by an Italian and his wife named Charlie Recanzone, referred to as Recanzones.

By this time the need for a jail, a JP and additional law enforcement officers was clear. The first jail was a little two-cell 8 x 10 brick, steel and concrete building with steel doors. It was built just back of the Company store across the tracks. The first sheriff and deputy were the famous Wright brothers, Luther and John. Our first Justice of the Peace was the chief mail clerk, Dave Boise (now retired and living in Silver City).

The rough element of a boom mining town was very much in evidence and included floaters, panhandlers, stock promoters, hoboes, gamblers and job seekers. Violators of the law were jailed at night. Employees unfortunate enough to be caught in the net of minor infractions were released the next morning in time to go to work. Others were held for a JP hearing court that was held after work, every evening. Those sentenced to a fine were released on payment of fine. Those sentenced to jail terms, or bound over to District Court, were sent to Silver City by buggy.

The first and only attempt to rob the Chino payroll was staged on August 10, 1911 by a couple of Chino employees. It occurred two miles north of Hurley, about where the Penjamo Night Club is now. That area was uninhabited at that time. Through respect for living surviving relations I will not mention names, but those two men whom I knew had been employed here several months until they acquainted themselves with pay-day procedures. At that time, the two weeks' pay was made up at Santa Rita, all in silver dollars and change placed in envelopes, sealed and with each employee's name put on them. The payroll was brought to Hurley by Mr. John M. Sully, the general manager, on the 10th and 25th of every month. He was accompanied by the Chino chief of police, Mr. Jim Blair. Mr. Sully owned the only car at that time, an EMF Studebaker. On this particular morning, the chief Company physician and surgeon, Dr. F. N. Carrier was with Mr. Sully and Mr. Blair. But they did not have the payroll this day.

They were waylaid and relieved of their pocket cash, rings, watches and personal things, then ordered to drive on. They came on in to Hurley in the EMF. Posses were organized at once out of Hurley and Santa Rita, on horseback. The robbers headed east back into the hills toward the Mimbres, on foot. They managed to elude the posses that day. By the next day, they were miles away. Communications were few and far between. They continued to pursue them and the final outcome was five dead when robbers and officers met in the wilderness area in Lincoln County. The bodies were carried out to wagon roads on pack mules then taken by wagon to the railroad and shipped to their homes.

By this time the Company began to hire the best peace officers available. Among them was the famous, (?) Red Schrimshire, who was first hired by Charlie Recanzone as house officer. Later he was head of the Chino police force. Another noted man was Jesse Stansel, a famed officer from El Paso. Also, the noted El Paso detec-

tive Claud Smith; Layman Garrett, brother of the famous Pat Garrett; John Armstrong from West Texas; Bill Carrigan, Elmo Murray and Johnnie St. John. During peak times in Hurley, the Company maintained a large force of competent officers, especially during World War I.

The brawls, shootings and killings, most of which erupted in North Hurley, were too numerous to mention. But there was one that happened at Racanzones while Red Shrimshire was house officer that was unique and which is worthy of mention. It happened in the summer of 1914. On a dark night, two Mexicans were trying to settle an argument with their pistols at the cribs. One was running south toward Hurley, the other standing in an open crib door, shooting at him. Red heard the shooting and ran outside the saloon to see what was going on and found himself in the line of fire with both men shooting at him. He fired at the one in the door from a natural forward position, and at the other over shoulder, backwards. Red was a crack shot. He killed the one in the door and broke the other one's leg, but he got away. They hunted him all that night, all to no avail. About five in the morning, Santa Rita officers reported that they had found a man shot through the leg who had almost bled to death on the platform of an ore car pulling into Santa Rita. He was captured and identified as the one Red had shot. He had been put on the ore car in Hurley by his *amigos*.

In due time the little red brick jail was replaced by a larger one back of the butcher shop, across the tracks. It had four cells with bunks, a gun room where Chino housed their machine gun, rifles and ammunition. It held the police headquarters, JP office and court room. Hurley's first elections were held there after statehood in 1912. It is still there and owned by the City as a material yard and storage area.

The Australian ballot system of voting was used on election days. I was one of the four election board members and many times worked till 4 a.m. tallying votes.

The only medical service in 1910 and part of 1911 was by Dr. Carrier who ran the hospital and lived in Santa Rita. He made his regular trips to Hurley, dispensed medicine and called on house patients and accident victims. He traveled via buggy.

Dr. Hanks, a young man from the Midwest just out of college was Hurley's first doctor. He was later promoted to chief surgeon and moved back to Hurley as Company doctor until his retirement in 1944.

In 1916, my father bought a little Overland 83. He used it for hauling private parties on shopping trips; also for hauling Dr. Hanks on his calls before the doctor got his own car.

The Hurley Community Church was opened in March, 1917. The first wedding held there was Miss Agnes Sully, daughter of the general manager, in 1917. Hurley's first minister was a Rev. Stone. The first catholic church was built slowly by volunteer adobe makers in North Hurley. It was replaced later by a large adobe building on Cortez street that was used until 1942. It was then torn down and replaced with a modern church built by contract craftsmen.

Housing facilities were still a problem. In addition to individually owned tents and shacks on A and B street in North Hurley, Chino built a double row of 40 boxed, floored tents. It was called Tent Row and was mostly bachelors' quarters.

The worst nuisance then was the noisy burros that were used by Mexican wood haulers to pack stove wood in from the hills. The wood sold for \$1.00 per load. These Mexican "canaries" as the burros were called, roamed the town at night braying, pilfering camps, foraging for food and generally disturbing the peace.

The livery stable was now doing a thriving business, renting saddle horses and buggies for trips to Silver City for shopping, and for dances at Bonner Grove, Faywood Hot Springs, Dwyer, Old Town on the Mimbres and Whitewater.

Bonner Grove, just above Lone Mountain between Cameron and Whiskey creeks, was the most popular spot. An open air pavilion there, with picnic grounds, attracted people from far and near to bar-b-ques and dances. Square dancing was popular then. The noted cowboy fiddler, Ira Sheely who later recorded for RCA, was the fiddler and was accompanied by Charlie Webb, on the guitar.

Hurley's first barber shop was in the saddle room at the livery stable. The barber had a high wooden chair and cut hair after work for his friends, free; for others \$.25. He had more friends than foes. Our first licensed barber

opened a shop in one room of the first post office building at No.13 Carrasco. His name was Bert Gorman. He, John Woods and I were the hinge-pins for snipe hunts for the “new boys” arriving from the east. There was only one man that ever survived a snipe hunt – the hinge-pin.

We also promoted the badger pulls which were held after work and started at a coal shed east of the store and ended in front of Siefert’s Saloon, where the badger puller was stuck for drinks for the house. No one ever survived a badger pull. Ed Essary saw to that, assisted by Jimmy Cox, the bartender. The snipe hunts were lonely and at night, while the badger fights were in daylight before a crowd of spectators. Cock fights were started by a Mormon mill foreman, Jack Dyer. Game cocks were used with sharp, steel gaffs attached to their feet. High stakes were won and lost.

Hurley’s first school was started in a three-room house that still stands as the middle building of our present grade school grounds. The first four teachers were a Miss Mary Lee, a Mrs. Bliss, a Miss Hurtah Mulholland and Pearl Bernard. As demand arose, the building was enlarged and more buildings erected.

Hurley’s first cars were owned by the livery stable and chauffeured for hire by Ed Burch and John Woods. The first car was a 1915 Apperson Jack Rabbit. The second passenger car was a Cale 8 1916, seven-passenger model. It cost \$15.00 for a round trip to Silver City for one passenger, or a carload. It cost \$22.00 to go to Deming and back. All car travel was over rough wagon roads at an average speed of 12 to 15 miles per hour. It took all day to go to Silver and back for a shopping tour. It took three to four hours to go to Deming, and a long 12 to 13 hours to El Paso – one way.

The first taxi or service car was a Model T that was operated by an old Frenchman. It was called “Frenchie’s Service Car.” The first gas pumps and auto repair shop was built on Cortez street by a carpenter foreman named Jim Lewis. He later sold out to Horace Stovall who ran it until 1918 when he sold to Dick Ranstead. In 1945 it was purchased by Eddie Hickman, who still operates it at the same location.

The first baseball diamond was laid out about where the 300 block between Aztec and Elguea streets are now. At that time it was the edge of town. It later had to be moved to make room for more dwellings, so a new baseball diamond and grandstand was built south of town where it stands today. Chino sponsored one of the best baseball teams in the Southwest at both Hurley and Santa Rita. Among the players were some of the outlawed professionals from the East: Chick Gandel, Tommie Clark, Jack Powell and many others. The old Copper League was formed.

Hurley’s first ball players in 1911 were mostly civil engineers: Don Doyle, Bob Kirchman, Johnnie Clelland, Ira Wright, and Mr. Bliss and others.

Chino owned two Packard trucks by now. The first truck was a heavy duty Jeffery Quad, four-wheel drive. The little Packard was equipped with wooden seats along the sides and center. It was used to haul ball players to and from games.

Gordon Cutlif and his wife Mary came to town and opened a little restaurant just about where the Galbreath offices are at present. They called it the Manhattan Café. A photography shop called Shaw’s Photo Gallery, was built next to it. Cutlif ran the café a few years and later took charge of the Chino Mess and ran it for several years. The Mess was closed as an eating place in the early 50’s and the old store dormitory was remodeled after the teachers were moved out and a new restaurant was opened there by Mrs. Verna Johnson. It was called the Copper Café as it is, today.

The old mess hall was converted into company offices and is still used as such. The employee’s quarters behind it came from the B ranch and was later used as the credit union office. The upper floor of the mess was used as the Chino guest house and a few permanent rooms for Chino personnel.

There were three other boarding houses on the north side of the tracks. A Mr. Reagan owned one; a Mrs. Weaver owned one; and my father and mother owned one. Our place kept an average of 80 boarders per day. In August of 1913, five Chino employees living at the Reagan place were struck with typhoid fever. One died. The health authorities closed their house and hauled the building to the B ranch. There it was saturated with coal-oil and burned. The owners were ordered to leave town.

Hurley's first fire truck was a little red Model T with hose carts. It was manned by volunteer firemen, a fire chief and captain. Hurley has been fortunate for having few fires in the townsite. However, the most tragic was on the corner where the Tejo Theater was later built. The meat cutter and his family lived there then. One day the mother had to run across the street to the market. She placed her tiny baby in a basket near the coal range to keep it warm. A spark popped out and set the baby's blanket afire. The house, contents, baby and all, burned to the ground. The house was, like all the early-day company houses, the box type. They were made of native lumber, lined with building paper and covered with burlap. The houses were painted in two colors, green or brown and striped with ¼ x 1 ¼ lathing placed four-feet apart. Some houses were finished with beaded ceilings or with both walls and ceiling beaded. Most of them had a hot water tank and a sink. All fuel for cooking and heating was wood or coal. Those who could afford it, used coal; others used wood. Most heaters were the small sheet iron type that burned wood only.

The mine was digging into old mine timbers, placed there by the early-day miners. The mine wood and timbers that were not sorted out at the mine in Santa Rita had to be sorted out at the crusher in Hurley. Enormous stacks of it accumulated, so in order to get rid of it and, at the same time help their employees, the company started giving away this wood. They even delivered it to the houses free until an accident happened one day in a non-company house across the tracks. A kitchen stove was blown out through the roof and the shack demolished. It was caused by an undetected dynamite cap embedded in the wood. No serious personal injuries were incurred, but that ended the give-away mine wood program.

The first fifteen houses built in Hurley by the Chino company, were for Chino personnel. After that, all employees placed their applications and were assigned houses in that order as fast as they were available. Sometimes, as many as 300 names were on the waiting list.

The new brick Company store was opened in 1913 on Cortez Street; also, the new meat market and general office. The market was the GOS meat market for several years. Both of the Santa Rita and Hurley company stores were managed by Mr. Bartlett, later by Mr. Ralph Sevier, and still later by Russ Andrews. Mr. Frank Lea, who started as a meat cutter for GOS Cattle Company at Santa Rita, was made resident manager of the Hurley Store and Market in 1946, where he continued to work until he and his associates bought the two businesses. They changed the name from Santa Rita Store Company to Hurley Stores, Inc.

One afternoon during the construction of the two-story brick general office, a tragedy occurred. While a crew of men were laying brick on the upper story, a bolt of lightning struck. It knocked them all down and killed one of them.

Mexican Independence Day was an annual affair, usually two days and nights on the 15th and 16th of September. Around the north side tennis court, there were fireworks, rodeos and ring tournament races on horseback. It was always opened at 5 a.m. by a round of dynamite shots as the opening salute. The dynamite was furnished, free, by Chino.

One of the largest attended celebrations was in 1915 when a program was started by public subscriptions and Chino donations for a rodeo, bar-b-cue and ball game . . . all at our present baseball park. Burros were used as roping stock. It was unlawful to use cattle for this purpose. Eight beeves were used for the bar-b-cue. It was a two-day celebration with an estimated 8,000 people attending.

Another celebration of note was in 1917 on one of Mr. D. C. Jackling's periodic trips in his Cypress rail car. There were eight Pullman cars loaded with AIME engineers and their wives. They made the trip across country, visiting all of the Chino properties. A siding was in readiness in Hurley. It reached from the assay office to the staff mess hall. A large tennis court was just east of the assay office and temporary bars were set up close by. Drinks and everything else, was free. A good orchestra was brought in and everybody was welcome. We danced and made merry till the wee-hours. There happened to be about 4,000 soldiers camped at Apache Tejo that night on a practice hike on foot from Camp Cody at Deming. They were infantry and cavalry men, so Hurley had their share of soldiers at the party.

The boarding house, Old Mulligan, was the only place large enough for dances and parties, which was very popular for all forms of entertainment. The rooming house was restricted to male employees only for several years

as housing was still at a premium and single men were in the majority. Chino built a mill dorm back of the store dorm for single men, bosses and clerical personnel. It is still in the same location and used as a rooming house, men only. No women ever lived in the mill dormitory. It is now called the Hurley Hotel and is owned and operated by Hurley members. There was another rooming house across the tracks, about where the city water reservoir is, for the public as well as for transients. It was operated by a Chino deputy, Powell Roberts, and his wife.

There was theater in North Hurley called the Star Theatre. It was on C street.

The main Mexican sport was handball. It was played by batting a hollow ball with the open palm, against a high two-sided adobe wall located on B Street in North Hurley. There was also a Mexican dance hall on B Street, as the two races were not allowed to mix at any social gathering in those days. Americans were not allowed on the north side, nor were the Spanish-Americans allowed on the south side at night until about 1916 when the Tejo Theatre got underway and served everybody.

There were big gangs of steel workers here. Both the Kansas City Structural Company and the Minneapolis Steel and Machinery Company had contracts here. There were also the Diamond A cowboys from surrounding areas. There were local cow pony races and lots of gambling and night life. All of this created a condition which gave the officers plenty of trouble. In 1918, when prohibition became law, practically all of the saloons, gambling houses, etc. in North Hurley were closed down. Before that happened, the largest population by estimate, was between 7,000 and 8,000. No official census was taken until 1920.

In 1917, World War I was taking its toll of enlistees and draftees. Security precautions were set up. Governor McDonald of New Mexico organized groups of men all over the state called the New Mexico Mounted Police. They were volunteer members. Official membership cards were issued and signed by the governor, W. E. Lindsey. Hurley had a large group headed by the Chino chief of police and staff of officers. Men furnished their own horses, but the Company also furnished some horses, a truck, a machine gun, rifles and ammunition. I was a member of that group. We were only called on twice. Once when the IWWs or Wobblies, as they were known then, were run out of Bisbee, Arizona and were on the move. We were called to go to Lordsburg to intercept them. The other time was when Poncho Villa raided Columbus. That call was cancelled before we left Hurley and the Deming MPs handled the situation.

About this time, warnings were sent out of a typhoid fever epidemic. It originated in Mexico. Chino again took precautionary means to prevent an outbreak here by quickly building a one-room plant just below the doctor's office and inside the mill fence. It consisted of steam cabinets into which chemicals were added. It was called the dipping vat. All job applicants, transients and floaters under suspicion of carrying typhoid were put through this plant by the medical department. It was then demolished and hauled away.

Our next tragedy was the big flu epidemic of 1918, starting in October and lasting through December. The hospitals were full, also homes and the bachelors' quarters. People were dying every day. The Chino Club was under construction then, but not complete. Cots were set up there, as close together as possible and filled with patients. Doctors and nurses were scarce. Volunteer women and men came to the rescue. The Company furnished grave diggers and the little cemetery by the ball park was filling fast. The Company Store put in a supply of caskets and hired an undertaker. It set up a morgue in the old red barn in back of the Store. The first undertaker was Herb Nelson who now owns the Nelson Funeral Home in Las Cruces.

Operations were seriously hampered at the mill due to sickness as well as the servicemen going away. On top of that, the biggest snow storm ever to hit Hurley, an 18-incher, struck.

The Chino Club was completed, opened and dedicated on February 2, 1919. A board of directors was elected. At first it was for male Chino employees only. Later, a bowling alley and the library were added and wives were admitted. The Chino Club is still operational under a board of Directors.

During World War II, the age limit for Chino employment was lowered to 18 and as more men went into service, it was made as low as 13.

The first change in housing-style was during 1917 and early 1918 when our mill superintendent, Mr. Frank W. Wicks, ordered a street to be set up with California-style bungalows. The street was named Patio. They were pre-

fabricated and assembled by Company carpenters. Housing facilities for teachers were becoming a problem, so Chino added additional rooms on the east wing of the rooming house. It had two floors with a large lobby on the ground floor with adjoining kitchen and dining room. This served well until the new, more modern brick teacherage was built on Cortez in 1938. This was used until 1955 when the Cobre consolidation moved all single teachers out and in 1957 the teacherage was remodeled and the old general offices from Chino Boulevard were moved to the Cortez address.

The Masonic Hall was completed and opened March 6, 1919. The ground floor was rented or leased and became a barber shop (Bert Gorman was the barber), post office and sweet shop. Howard Boise was postmaster and also ran the sweet shop.

The first laundry was opened and operated on Cortez Street in 1920 by Tom Gose, Sr., and is operated today by his son, Randall.

In 1921 rumors were afloat of an approaching depression. Jobs were curtailed and in April of 1921, the first complete shutdown came. It was a surprise to everybody, a loss to the townspeople as well as to the Company. Chino notified all employees that they could remain in their houses rent free, until they could find work elsewhere or until operations were resumed. Most men left their families here and went elsewhere to look for work. The Elephant Butte Dam was under construction then and many found work there. Others sold their furniture where they could, gave it away or left it behind in their homes, took their families and left. Most of them returned when recalled to work.

The Company kept 12 men as watchmen in the mill yard, tailings dams and townsite. We worked 12-hour nights at \$3.50 per shift. All regular watchmen, except Chief Chapin, were laid off. Skeleton crews in the power plant and at the Apache pumps were maintained. Business houses, dental offices and eating houses remained open for a while, but some had to close before work resumed at the mill. Chino saw to it that no family suffered. They gave them free fuel, medical care and other absolute necessities.

The mill was down for one year. It started up again in April of 1922. Men were recalled and things got back to normal. Lots of new people moved in. More houses were being built. A new high school was under construction in 1923 and opened in September of 1924 under Superintendent J. C. Gordy and Principal Rex R. Anderson. There was a staff of qualified high school teachers.

Everything progressed normally until the fall of Wall Street in 1929. Then things began to go badly. 1930 and 31 were very lean years. A recession began in 1932.

Our General Manager, John M. Sully, died on July 15, 1933.

In 1934, Chino was again compelled to close down, this time under the assumption that it would never start up again. However, the Company made the same offer as in 1921 . . . to allow families to remain in their houses free of charge.

Skeleton crews were retained. Foremen were assigned to various jobs, replacing regular crews. Until August of 1934, we were advised to seek work elsewhere. In January of 1935, the power plant was shut down as well as everything else except the pump-men working at Apache Tejo. The Chief of Police continued working as well as one night watchman. Community Public Service furnished power and lights. Vacant houses were boarded up and the Company began selling others to be moved out. That is when Bayard and Mimsville started to grow.

The WPA and PWA absorbed many unemployed men; the Black Range road construction created jobs too. Others scattered all over the country. Again the needy had to be helped. The Company did its share by furnishing fuel and rent, free. The government bought cattle at \$12.00 a head, shot some letting them lie to rot. It also set up a slaughter house at Tom Foy's ranch where the groups of needy killed and butchered the beaves and divided the meat. Hurley was almost deserted. The highways were cluttered with people moving to new locations.

In November of 1936, 31 months after the shutdown, the Company began recalling men to work. By January 1, 1937, the plant was in full operation. Most ex-employees returned and many new ones came to town. A large housing program began. All of A, B, C, D and E streets in north Hurley were resurfaced and the old shacks cleared out. New modern houses were built. All the vacant lots of Hurley itself, as well as along two new streets,

Anza and Nevada were filled with new style homes.

On February 7, 1939, Hurley's first square dance club was organized at the Old Mulligan Hall. The first slate of officers elected were Claude Donnelley (myself), President (I served 3 years as such); Gladys Holman, Secretary Treasurer; Lawrence Richardson, Music Director and Thomas White, Floor Manager. The club was active and grew from 21 charter members to 84 at its peak. It operated from February 1939 to 1949. Chino furnished and heated the Old Mulligan building for our dancers.

The next blow was the Pearl Harbor disaster on December 7, 1941. World War II again caused a shortage of men. The Company built an Indian village both at Hurley and at Santa Rita, and brought Indians from the Navaho reservation to replace laborers. However, it did not succeed, as the Indians did not adjust to modern living. The houses were one-room buildings and were later moved into yards at South Hurley that had no garages.

So, in 1944, the Company started to hire women to replace men as truck drivers, janitors and general laborers. This proved to be very beneficial. Most of them advanced to better grade jobs and are still performing them. Few remain in the labor department as cleaning women.

Gasoline, tires and other things were rationed. NRA and other government agencies were set up. Strict security precautions were in effect. For the next 19 years, progression in the town site as well as in the Company expansion was heavy. The only hindrances were strikes, work stoppages and sit-downs during the 40's and 50's.

In the 1940's, a number of old landmarks were replaced with modern buildings. Among them was the Old Mulligan, which was given away to various people who tore it down and moved it away. It was replaced by a modern recreation building on the same street next to the Community Church. The new building served as additional classrooms for the high school and Sunday school rooms until the Cobre consolidation. A new city jail and police office was built on Cortez Street. The Community Church was remodeled and a new heating system installed. A swimming pool was built at the Chino Club. The bunkhouse was modernized and redecorated and modern fixtures were installed. A new fire dorm and fire station were built and a new fire truck and equipment put in use. City streets were oiled.

The street from North to South Hurley over the railroad tracks which had been controlled by a crossing watchman and hand operated drop gates was closed. Vehicle traffic was routed around the depot and a concrete underpass for pedestrian traffic only was built behind the Hurley Store. A new football stadium with floodlights, grandstand and chain link fence was built south of Nevada Street and west to the highway (260). Also, a softball field with floodlights and bleachers was built near the baseball park. A new and elaborate entrance gate flanked by a cactus garden (at the west end of Cortez Street) was built. It was named Goodrich Park for Mr. W. H. Goodrich, the general manager. The lot where the American Legion hall is located and a large part of the materials to build it were donated by Company General Manager Horace Moses. The building itself was built by volunteer Legion members.

The doctors' clinic was enlarged, remodeled and equipped with modern facilities. All non-employees occupying Company houses were asked to vacate to make room for Company employees. That's when Railroad Avenue was started near the depot. Railroad men began building their own houses, all except the superintendent, Mr. Carl Fraser. He was replaced at his death by Mr. John Fellabaum, who is still the Superintendent.

All residential garages were being enlarged to accommodate modern cars, as most garages built up to 1921 were for small cars; Model T's, Maxwells and Overlands.

Another change that was welcomed by the townspeople was the change-over from the old noisy steam locomotives, both yard and ore haul, to new quiet diesel electrics.

The old bunkhouse was sold to three different buyers, who dismantled and moved it out. The few remaining roomers were moved to the mill dormitory.

From 1909 to 1955, the town was Company owned and maintained. In 1955, rumors were out that the Company was going to sell the townsite. It was just not believed to be possible! The first move in that direction was the consolidation of the Cobre schools and the closing of the north side schools. The school houses were sold or given way and moved out. Cobre high school in Bayard was completed in 1955 at a cost of over \$900,000. It opened on

September 5, 1955 and was dedicated on November 5, 1955.

On December 1, 1955, the Hurley townsite was sold to John W. Galbreath for a consideration of **\$1,688,430**. This deal required \$1,406.25 worth of revenue stamps. The Company retained the general manager's house, assistant general manager's house, the mill superintendent's house, the guest house, the smelter superintendent's house and the water service system.

The Hurley Community church, recreation hall and parsonage and land were given to the Church. The Chino Club and land was given to the Club. Most of the football stadium floodlights and equipment were given to the Cobre high school stadium at Bayard. All recreation facilities were given to the City.

Next in order, was a meeting of the townspeople to coordinate and incorporate the village. Lots of people were skeptical and could not adjust to the drastic change. In due time however, the incorporation papers were processed and a proclamation was issued for a city election for mayor and councilmen. The election was held on August 14, 1956. The first mayor was a company carpenter, David A. Byington. The councilmen were W. H. "Shorty" Smith, Allard Bartlett, Richard Elvira and Chris Pena. The first town clerk was a retired man, Mr. J. E. Byrne. All Company police were moved to the plant and a city deputy was hired for the townsite, one for days and one for nights.

Residents were offered the first preference to buy the houses they occupied, which most of them did, either for cash or on long time terms. The first house sold was a three-room house at No. 13 Elguea Street to Richard Horth, an electronics engineer.

The natural gas system remained under the Gas Company. The Community Public Service Company acquired all townsite power and light facilities. The Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company began running lines for installation of phones, for which the demand was great and had been for years. In due time, phones were installed all over town.

So, the people were gradually adjusting to self reliance. The Company and the city maintained the fire department, jointly. The Company Store and Market were remodeled and the Grand Opening was held in May of 1960.

The first new competitive businesses to set up in Hurley after it was incorporated, was Ted Carr's filling station which was built next to the highway at the west end of Carrasco Street. The city removed all of the border fence from the depot to the old stadium, thereby opening all streets to traffic to the west. Water meters were installed by the city in 1958. The city built modern change-rooms at the swimming pool next to the Chino Club. In 1959, Little League ball teams were organized. The city fenced the ball grounds and maintains it with help from the Boosters.

Thus endeth my 50 years of memories.

Claud Dannelley

Note:

Since this was taped on July 13, 1960, things are pretty much the same. Frank Lea continues to operate the Hurley Store, Inc. Harold Trapp is the Village Mayor and barber. Mrs. Sam Stearman is the Post Office mistress, Mrs. Hester DeCosta, assistant with Mrs. Jim Sawers and Mrs. Clyde Maurey. Eddie Hickman owns and operates the Hurley Garage. Randall Gose owns the Laundry and Dry Cleaning Company. Mrs. M. M. McGee is City Clerk, Hurley Builders operates just in back of City Hall. Lou Wakefield owns and operates the one and only bar, the Hurley Bar. Ted Carr owns and runs a service station at the west end of Carrasco Street. The Sweet Shop is leased to and operated by Mrs. Louisa Ball. The Copper Café has been closed since early 1963.

A new elementary school was built and opened for the fall term in 1963 – it is just in back of the old Junior High School Building. The three old grade school buildings are to be sold and dismantled, the lots cleared and sold for other purposes. A new Beauty Parlor was built at the corner of Cortez and First Streets, next to the old Tejo Theater lot. The two large pillars at the west end of Cortez Street were given away and moved to the Catholic cemetery. Our streets, walks, ball parks and alleys have been improved under the leadership of our mayor, Harold Brap.

C. Dannelley