

CITIES OF SEDGWICK COUNTY, Valley Center

by: Elizabeth Truax
Bessie Walters

VALLEY CENTER is in the valley of the Little Arkansas River, in Valley Center township, range 1-west, on the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe and St Louis and Santa Fe railroads. It is about two miles west of U.S. Highway 81, fifteen miles northwest of Wichita.

Valley Center has two banks, a hotel, and a tourist park. There are several stores, postoffice and good school and hospital facilities. The town has municipal water works, with gas and electric service.

The production of oil has increased the business interest of Valley Center and brought many people to the city. Production at the present time is not as prolific as it was a few years ago, but Valley Center still profits from the discovery of this commodity. It is also an agricultural district, where river bottom land adds to the fertility of crops. It has two grain elevators and is an important railroad town. The population of the city was 639 in 1935.

Western Union Telegraph service is found in the railway Station, while Postal Telegraph messages are telephoned from Wichita. The elevation of Valley Center is approximately 1300.

When the Santa Fe line of railway was built from Newton to Wichita, E.P. Thompson was then a member of the legislature from Sedgwick County. Mr. Thompson owned a large body of land in Kechi township and was importuned to go into a townsite deal with the railway company for a townsite several miles south of the present location of Valley Center. Mr. Thompson feared that his motives

would be misconstrued and declined , the deal resulting in the present town of Valley Center being located on section 36 in Valley Center township.

Sources:

Rand McNally Commercial Atlas
History of Sedgwick County, by G.H. Bentley
Sedgwick County map, Public Library, Wichita
Offices of the County Treasurer and County Assessor, Wichita.

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SINCE 1895