

News Release for September 27th, 2010

Centennial website offers window to Edson's past

Edson's Centennial website offers viewers a window to the past with a collection of photographs that date as far back as 100 years ago.

One photo shows Edson's first hotel, a structure sitting amidst the bush, and believed to be situated where the Medical Clinic stands today. John Boniface's tar papered hotel would stand dwarfed by the hotels and motels of Edson today that serve visitors and oil patch workers alike.

The photo reveals just how far Edson has come in 100 years of history, with a bustling downtown core today where untamed brush and a wagon trail existed before.

With a little imagination viewers can picture the businesses and buildings that line 51st Street today as visions of a century of progress to come.

With every click of the mouse you see image of the downtown core growing, year-by-year.

One picture stands out: the town's water pump at what is now the corner of Third Avenue and 51st Street.

The story of Wop May landing a plane on Edson's main street is one of the stories that has passed into near-legend.

Longtime Edson resident, John Switzer, says that what people don't know is that when May had to lift off from the main street, he had to miss the town's water well located at the intersection of 3rd and 51st.

"Until 1931, there was a well and a pump at the intersection," says Mr. Switzer. "Wop May had to clear that when he flew his plane from the top of main street, on the hill by the water tower."

The pictures capture remarkable images: the first passenger train arriving in Edson in 1910, a pack train of horses loaded for the famous Grande Prairie Trail, and even a house fire.

Visit edson100.com to explore photos, facts and more.



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Edson's 100th Anniversary Committee

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Submitted by Edson 100th Anniversary Committee

Sincerely,

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Media Liaison

Edson's 100th Anniversary Committee
