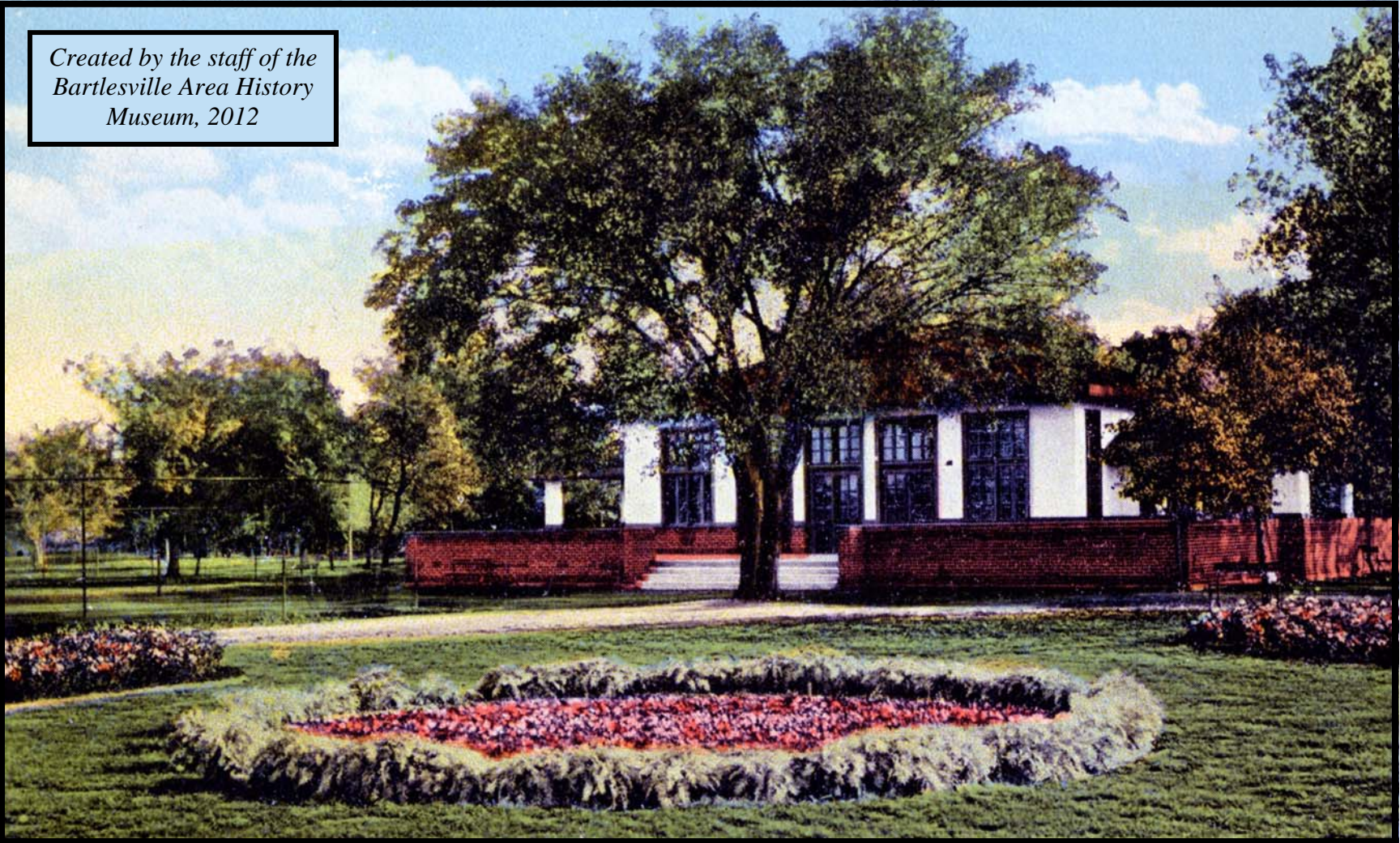


# JOHNSTONE PARK ART CENTER

*Created by the staff of the  
Bartlesville Area History  
Museum, 2012*



***JOHNSTONE PARK TRANSFER OF DEED  
FROM HOWARD AND NELLIE CANNON  
TO THE CITY OF BARTLESVILLE***

January 13, 1916, Nellie V. (Johnstone) and Howard D. Cannon (husband and wife) deeded the property described as follows to the City of Bartlesville for the sum of \$6000.00.

*Beginning at the Northeast corner of Section 12, Township 26, North, Range 12 East; thence South along the East line of said Section 12 a distance of 1319.8 feet to the Southeast corner of the Northeast Quarter (NE1/4) of the Northeast Quarter (NE1/4) of said Section 12; thence Westerly along the South line of said Northeast Quarter (NE1/4) of the Northeast Quarter (NE1/4) of said Section 12, and the North line of Block Six (6) of the Original Townsite of Bartlesville, and the same produced West, and making a deflection angle to the right of 89°58' with the last named course a distance of 1591.0 feet to the center of Johnstone Avenue; thence Northeasterly and making a deflection angle to the right of 100° 00' with the last named course, a distance of 321.97 feet to the East line of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway Company right of way; thence Northeasterly along said right of way line and making a deflection angle to the right of 29° 38' with the last named course, a distance of 1302.23 feet to the North, line of said Section 12; thence East along said North line of Section 12, and making a deflection angle to the right of 50° 30' with the last named course, a distance of 704.24 feet to place of beginning, containing 37.09 acres, more or less.*

And Nellie V. Cannon and H. D. Cannon, for their heirs, executors or administrators, do hereby covenant, promise and agree to and with said party of the second part, that at the delivery of these presents they are lawfully seized in their own right of an absolute and indefeasible estate of inheritance, in fee simple, of and in all and singular the above granted and described premises, with the appurtenances; that the same are free, clear, discharged and unincumbered of and from all former and other grants, titles, charges, estates, judgments, taxes, assessments and incumbrances, of what nature or kind so ever, except as to a one hundred (100') foot railroad right of way parallel and adjoining on the East and South the present railroad right of way of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway Company, all the right, title and interest of the grantors in and to said one hundred (100') foot strip passing, however, by this deed: subject to pipe line right of way to The Prairie Oil & Gas Company; subject to rights of the Bartlesville Water Company in and to a certain dam and dam site across the Caney River in the Southeast corner of said lands; subject to the right reserved in the

grantors for a period of sixty (60) days from this date to remove from said lands all buildings and structures owned by them and situate thereon; and, further, subject to a certain oil and gas mining lease owned by the Cudahy Oil Company. In reference to this lease, the grantors reserve the oil and gas rights and the right to collect the agreed royalty reserved thereunder; all as more fully provided for in contract of even date and placed of record, to which reference is made. And that they will warrant and forever defend the same unto the said party of the second part, its successors and assigns, against said parties of the first part, their heirs, and all and every person or persons whomsoever lawfully claim-ing or to claim the same.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, The said parties of the first part have hereunto set their hands the day and year first above written.

Nellie V. Cannon

H.D. Cannon

State of Oklahoma, Washington County

\_\_\_ day of January, 1916, personally appeared NELLIE V. CANNON and H.D. CANNON wife and husband, to me known to be the identical persons who executed the within and foregoing instrument, and each for themselves acknowledged to me that they executed the same as their free and voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes therein, set forth.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and official seal the day and year last above written.

Seal of N.R. Kerr, Notary Public, Washington County, Oklahoma.

N. R. Kerr, Notary Public.

My Commission expires May 27, 1919.

(Revenue Stamp \$6.00 E. E. B. 1-13-16)

Filed for record Jan 13 1916 at 4:15 o'clock P.M.

J. C. Mitchell, County Clerk.

By Neva M. Scott, Deputy.





*Photos Courtesy of the Bartlesville Area History Museum*  
*First bridge Johnstone Park, Mrs. Twyford standing at the entrance.*



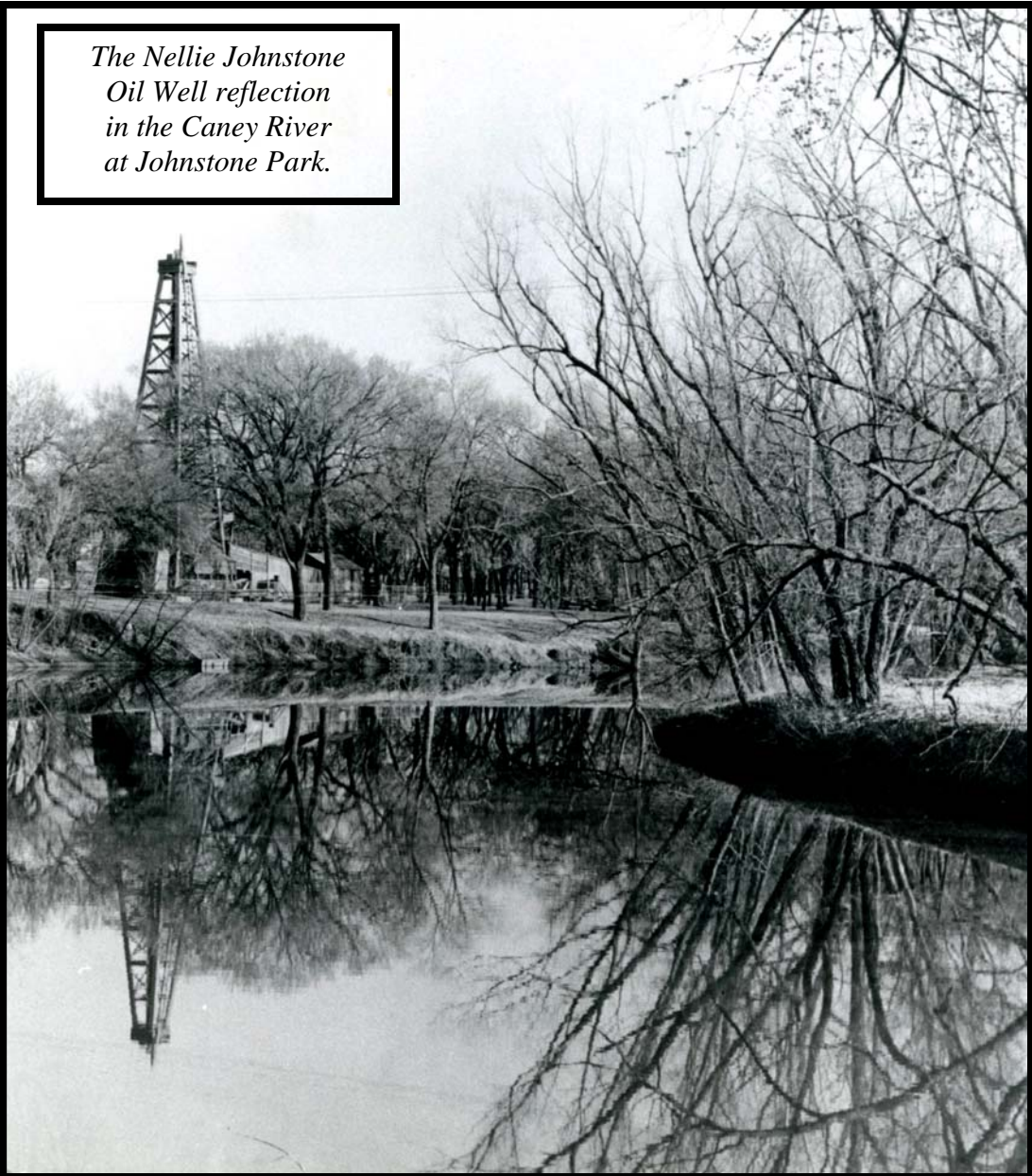
*Washington County Rally Day, April 1917 at Johnstone Park*

Johnstone Park, located between north Johnstone and Delaware Avenues toward the west side of Bartlesville is closer to the downtown district. Johnstone is a wooded area covering 79 acres and adjacent to the Caney River. It has two shelters, a picnic area, playground, walking path with benches and a restroom. This is the other primary entrance to Pathfinder Parkway. Also located at the park is the Bartlesville Playground Association's Kiddie Park, Bartlesville Art Association's Art Center, four lighted tennis courts with bleachers, a lighted softball field.



*Hazel and Alan Withers at  
Johnstone Park, 1921.*

Johnstone Park offers a tour of the area's history with a recreation of the historic Nellie Johnstone Oil Derrick, a cannon and the restored Hulah Depot which was moved to the site. The park is also home to the annual Fantasyland of Lights Christmas celebration sponsored by the Bartlesville Area Chamber of Commerce.



*The Nellie Johnstone  
Oil Well reflection  
in the Caney River  
at Johnstone Park.*





*City of Bartlesville 75th Anniversary Celebration — Don Cone at microphone.  
Phillips 66 Singers at the Art Center in Johnstone Park on August 20, 1972.*





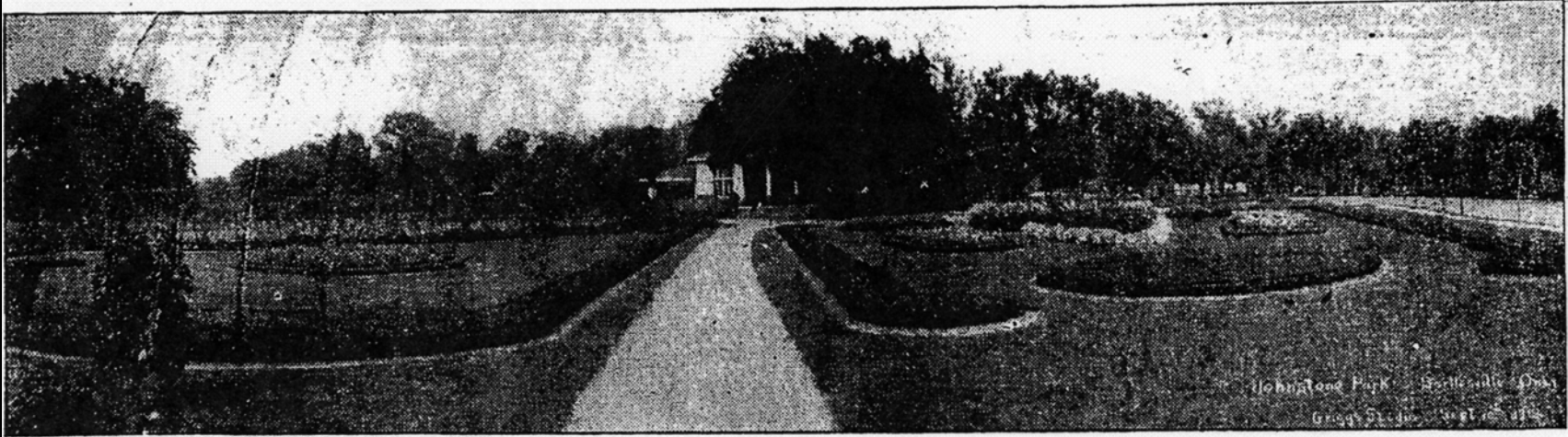


**Mike May Memories:** My dad was president of the chamber in the thirties when they put the first replica of a drilling well and a stone marking the Nellie Johnstone and I have seen photos of bathers and a bath house on the Caney in the teens and also ice skaters in the winter. I remember the Art Center building, which was also the Garden Center, was there when I was a kid in the forties. I also remember riding horseback on the bridle path that went around the park with my dad in the forties. There were stables where the police station is now where you could rent riding horses. I remember having picnics in the park as a kid, they had picnic areas, but no recreation equipment that I recall. F.E. Rice, an early garden enthusiast and Phillips 66 Vice President was instrumental in the creation of the Johnstone Park Gardens.





## VIEW OF FLOWER BEDS AND REST HOUSE FROM SOUTH



Beautiful Johnseone Park, Bartlesville, is the largest natural reserve used for municipal park purposes in Oklahoma. It covers an area along the winding Caney river that approximates seventy-five acres and is equipped for scenic drives, for playgrounds, for picnics, for tourists, for bathing beauties. The Bartlesville park system maintains two other beautiful breathing spots, but Johnstone park is far larger than the others—the West Side park and Kiwanis park.

Johnstone park proper, where an ornamental rest house is maintained, is gardened for beauty. The park superintendent says there are twenty-five varieties of flowers and fifty varieties of shrubs necessary to maintain buds and blooms from early spring until late fall.

The gift of a citizen this summer made a bridle path possible and the automobile drive is lined with cars at all seasons when cars are admitted to the park.

Concrete tennis courts in the park are popular and the recent annual tennis tournament of the Bartlesville association was played off there.

There is a baseball park, with a grandstand seating capacity of 1,000. A wading pool and play devises make a portion of the park popular with children, and the big bathhouse and beach are popular at points far removed from Bartlesville. Many visitors during the recent Fourth of July celebration drove from 50 to 100 miles just for the pleasures of the beach.

There has been talk of approaching the park board with a proposition to buy and install a permanent, housed-in merry-go-round for the children of Bartlesville.

The drinking fountain in Johnstone park was a gift to the city and in years to come other citizens expect to do something toward the permanent beauty of the place. That is why the recently attempted charter for Bartlesville contained a clause providing for the acceptance and maintenance of gifts from citizens. This charter was defeated at the last spring election, but advocates of a new charter for the city to see that the park gift prevision included in a new charter within a few years.



*Morning Examiner April 17, 1921*

***To Erect a Fountain in Mother's Memory***

***Mrs. A.D. Morton Will Give Fountain for Use in the Park;  
Work Starts Soon***

*One of the most beautiful as well as the most useful gifts the city has ever received is to be presented by Mrs. A.D. Morton, wife of the widely known local oil man, A.D. Morton. It is to be a drinking fountain located just east of the shelter house in the southeast corner of the city park. The fountain will be dedicated to the memory of Josie C. Keeler, mother of Mrs. Morton. A bronze tablet on the front of the structure will state: "In Memory of Josie C. Keeler."*

*The fountain will be of Carthage white stone and of a classical Greek design. The designer is James Russell Scott. Bell Brothers of Bartlesville are now preparing and cutting the stone. The Graybill construction concern will put the structure in place. According to Mrs. Morton the fountain should be in use by May 15.*

*The base of the fountain is to be four feet square and the entire structure seven feet high. There will be one sanitary bubbler on three sides and the rear will have an entrance for the plumbers. It is to be equipped with an electric automatic pump, the water coming from the 500-barrel cistern which the park commissioners constructed last winter, with a view in mind of placing bubblers at different points in the park.*

*The city has also purchased two bubblers to be used near the shelter house. One will be located near the tennis courts for the benefit of the players in the warmer months and the other about a hundred feet north of the shelter house among the trees.*

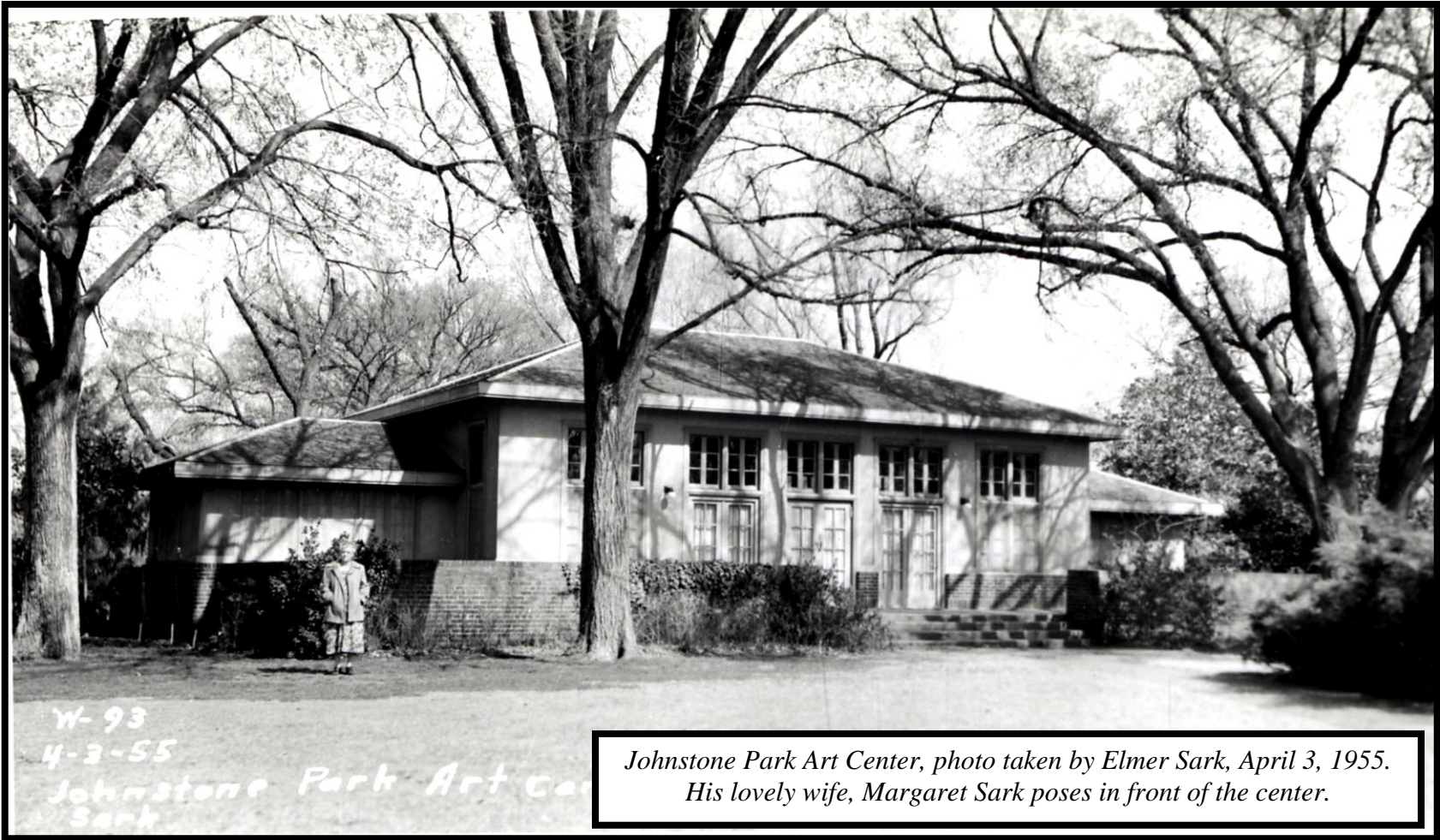
*The city will have its bubblers in place within two or three weeks, according to William Trautman, superintendant of the park. These bubblers are not elaborate, being similar to the fountains in use in the public schools and other public buildings.*





*The Garden Center landscape was perfect for the photo opportunities of the Elmer and Margaret Sark family, August 17, 1919.*





**Barbara Garrison memories:** When I was a little girl, my mother often took me to the park because we lived downtown on Second Street above the store where my father worked and I needed to play outside once in a while. It had tennis courts where my father played tennis. It appeared just like it does in all the pictures and post cards but it was only a shelter and had rest rooms. When at the park in a rain storm, we hid in the shelter until the rain stopped. I remember it being gray stucco with low walls around wide concrete entrances on two sides — I remember playing there and sitting on the wall to have my picture taken. There were also swings in the park. Also lots of grapevines and squirrels.





*Art Center Building in Johnstone Park — renovations, May 3, 1952.*



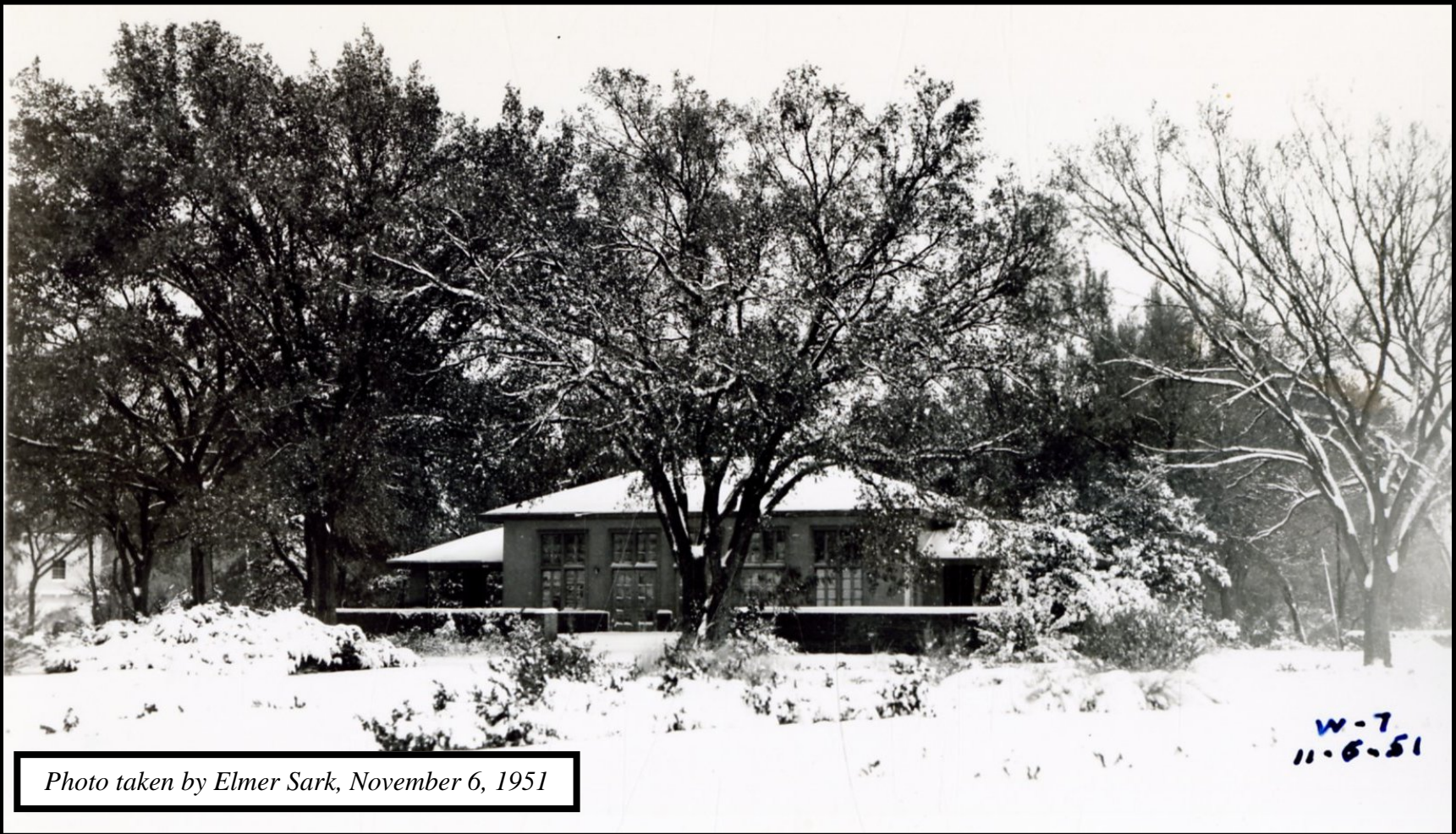
*Art Center building interior with paintings hung on the walls. Taken December 7, 1952, Johnstone Park*

*The City Park Garden (later called Johnstone Park) was created in 1916-17 and named after F.E. "Fred" Rice, Vice President of Phillips Petroleum Company, for his gardening guidance. Mr. Rice also had elaborate gardens at his home at 1351 S. Dewey. Band concerts were held on Sunday afternoons at the Shelter House which was later called the Rest House and now referred to as the Art Center in Johnstone Park.*





On January 13, 1916, the City of Bartlesville purchased 37.09 acres of land from Howard and Nellie (Johnstone) Cannon surrounding the bend of the Caney River with the purpose of a city park. The Art Center in Johnstone Park has weathered many floods, renovations, name changes and purposes throughout its service to Bartlesville.



*Photo taken by Elmer Sark, November 6, 1951*

*This “Bite of History” was created for your enjoyment by the staff of the Bartlesville Area History Museum with photos from the Museum archive, 2012.*

*We would like to recognize Mr. Elmer Sark for his photographic contributions, Bartlesville Enterprise for assorted newspaper articles and several other photographers.*

*If you are interested in photos from this publication, please contact the Museum at 918-338-4292 or email at [dkneece@cityofbartlesville.org](mailto:dkneece@cityofbartlesville.org).*