

GREENSBURG, KANSAS
BIG WELL

WELCOME TO
**GREENSBURG
KANSAS**



GREENSBURG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
GREENSBURG, KANSAS 67054

THE WORLD'S

Largest

HAND-DUG WELL

An Engineering Marvel of the 1800s

For the story behind the world's largest hand-dug well, turn back the pages of history to 1885, when the railroads were driving forward to serve the booming prairie towns such as Greensburg.

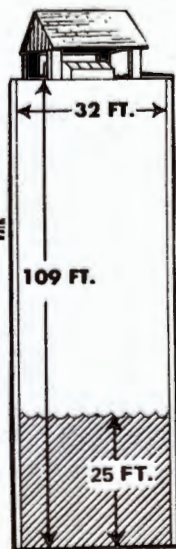
The Rock Island and the Santa Fe Railroads were racing to be first into Greensburg. In 1887, the city government granted a franchise for a waterworks system, to cost approximately \$75,000.00, a huge sum in those days.

With Jack Wheeler of Stafford County as supervisor, the Santa Fe put down the well, hoping to use it as a source of water for its trains also. But the Rock Island won the rail laying race and the Santa Fe terminated its construction at the west Kiowa County line.

The well was completed in 1888, a gigantic excavation, 32 feet in diameter and 109 feet deep, cased with a wall of native stone to prevent caving in. The stone was hauled 12 miles from the Medicine River, over roads that were little better than cattle trails.

Construction was a masterpiece of ingenuity. The stone wall casing was built on a circular wooden platform on ground level. As the dirt was removed, the casing, acting as a keystone, was lowered into the excavation inch by inch. When the desired depth was reached, the casing was eased the last inch and the well was done. This well served the town of Greensburg until 1932 and to this day has adequate supply of good water for use if needed.

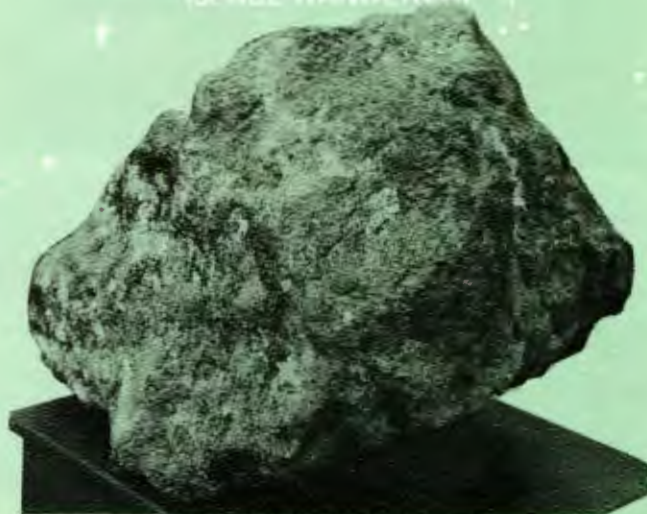
Over 3,000,000 visitors from every state in the nation and many foreign countries have descended into the cavern of the world's largest hand-dug well.



LARGEST PALLASITE

METEORITE

(SPACE WANDERER)



A Visitor from Outer Space

Half iron and half stone, the Pallasite Meteorite (Space Wanderer) on display in the Celestial Museum at the Big Well in Greensburg is the largest meteorite of its kind to survive entry into Earth's atmosphere. The Space Wanderer was found on the Ellis Peck farm east of Greensburg by Mr. H. O. Stockwell of Hutchinson, Kansas, using a device similar to a mine detector. A fragment of a comet that at one time shot across the sky—what we call "shooting" or "falling" stars—the Space Wanderer may indeed be old beyond imagination, from the fringes of the universe or beyond. Millions of people worshiped similar fragments as omens of good fortune down through history. Even the "Black Rock of Mecca," inspiration for the sacred vision of Mohammed, is a meteorite.

GREENSBURG, KANSAS 67054

POPULATION 2,200 ELEVATION (at Airport) 2,230 ft.

Greensburg, incorporated in 1886, and named in honor of pioneer stagecoach driver "Cannonball" Green, is a growing and attractive community. Located on U.S. Highway 54, one mile east of the junction of this highway and U. S. 183, it is also served by the main line of the Rock Island Railroad, mobile freight lines and a municipal airport.

A self-contained community, it has a municipally owned and operated electric power plant, well lighted and nearly all paved streets. Conveniently situated in an oil rich area, natural gas is an important and economical source of energy for heat and power needs. Seven churches provide for spiritual growth of the community and there are excellent shops, restaurants and motels to meet the demands of both residents and tourists.

SCHOOLS

U.S.D. 422, Greensburg, Kansas, was reorganized in 1965 to comply with Kansas legislative action. The district is composed of 244 square miles, operates five bus routes, and is directed by a seven member board of education elected by the patrons from three equal districts and one member-at-large for a tenure of four years.

Greensburg Schools are organized as a 6-2-4 system with a principal at each level and the system is housed in two major buildings. The district employs approximately sixty persons and enrolls 500 to 600 students.



PRIMARY AND ELEMENTARY



JR. HI & HIGH SCHOOL

The schools are accredited by Kansas Department of Education and North Central Association. The high school curriculum offers almost sixty units of credit per year and the elementary curriculum is geared to individualized instruction. The libraries are the finest in facility, equipment and materials. The senior high school library has been designated a **DEMONSTRATION LIBRARY**.

Activities play an important part in school life and Greensburg participates in all major sports, speech/debate activities, music, plus many school sponsored activities in the fine arts. The **RANGERS** are a member of the Iroquois League, one of the finest in the state and the **RANGERS** were winners of the annual sweepstakes trophy in 1970-71.



KIOWA COUNTY COURT HOUSE

Greensburg is the County Seat of Kiowa County, center of the rural farm community. Other towns in the county are Haviland, Mullinville, Wellsford, and Belvidere.

RECREATION

In the Greensburg community, we have many forms of recreation for those interested—three picnic and recreation parks, swimming pool, lighted ball park, Kiowa County State Lake, tennis courts, bowling, golf, archery, and trap shooting.



KIOWA COUNTY LAKE



MODERN LIGHTED BASEBALL FIELD



MUNICIPAL SWIMMING POOL

BURKETOWN, U.S.A.



LOOKING WEST INTO BURKETOWN, U.S.A.

A true to life reproduction of western life near the turn of the century.

Summer activities at Burketown, U.S.A. includes train rides and productions in the opera house.

GREENSBURG INDUSTRIAL SITE



The Greensburg Industrial Site is located on an 8½ acre tract south of Highway 54 at the east edge of the City.

The building has 30,000 square feet of floor space and is occupied by Kansas Precision Products Co., a division of Safeguard Automotive Corp. Manufacture includes new and rebuilt automotive clutch and water pump assemblies.

There are also compressor stations of four major natural gas companies located within a radius of five miles from Greensburg.



CITY OFFICE & FIRE DEPARTMENT

The modern City Building houses the municipal business office, police judge, utilities superintendent's office, and a meeting room for the commissioners. Equipment for an up to date city-county fire department is housed in the rear of the building.



KIOWA COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Complete medical services are provided by the Kiowa County Memorial Hospital. Across from the hospital is a privately owned modern clinic—with two resident physician/surgeons and a resident dentist. The doctors are also a part of the hospital staff.

Iroquois Mental Health Center, serving four Kansas counties, is also located in Greensburg and Caremore Haven, a modern skilled nursing home with a 50 resident capacity.