

by drilling “slant wells.” Immediately, Texas claimed half the oil even though Oklahomans had paid for and drilled the wells. The Oklahoma oilmen said no. The Texas State Legislature sued but lost the case because according to the *Adams-Onis Treaty of 1819*, the southern border of Louisiana Territory was to be the south bank of the Red River. Therefore, the river and everything under it belonged to Oklahoma Territory. So there!

The oil discovered during this period helped get our public schools and colleges off to a good start.

O.U. AND OKLAHOMA A & M-the territorial legislature meeting at Guthrie called for the founding of a state university and several teachers colleges in Oklahoma Territory in the early 1890s. But most people forgot that the Homestead Act and Morrill Act called for the founding of “land grant” colleges in each new territory and funded by the U.S. Government. Whichever town got this college would have a solid future. So how did Stillwater get ***OKLAHOMA A & M***? Guthrie wanted it, Perry wanted it, and Enid wanted it. The **Democrats** just barely had a majority in the Territorial Legislature. Payne County (where Stillwater is) voters were almost all **Progressives**. The Progressive Party legislators from Stillwater promised to side with the Democrats on several future votes and so in 1894 Democrats with the help of the Progressives gave the “land grant” college to Stillwater-ensuring its survival and growth as a city.

GRAFTERS-oil was mostly good for Oklahoma in the early years but there was a dark side. Almost immediately greedy men called “***grafters***” began cheating the Indians out of their allotments. They would get them drunk and buy their 160 acres and mineral rights for ten dollars. Few Indians understood the value of their land or the oil under it. Fortunately, the Osage were spared this humiliation because no individual could own the mineral rights under their land. These were owned by the tribe and after oil was discovered it made the Osage the richest Indians in north America.