

History of Rozel

Rozel incorporated November 29, 1929

Rozel, located 17 miles west of Larned, was incorporated Nov. 29, 1929, and has a mayor-council form of city government, with water and gas systems municipally owned. It is situated on the Jetmore branch of the Santa Fe Railroad, formerly the Chicago, Kansas and Western Railroad.

The original town site, consisting of two city blocks in the SW 1/4, Sec., 27-21-19, was deeded to the Arkansas Valley Town and Land Company by the railroad on July 19, 1886. The name Rozel was selected in honor of a daughter of one of the founders of the Land Company, whose name was Rozella.

Beginning in the late 1890s and continuing for the next decade, the business section rapidly expanded to include two grocery and general merchandise stores, a cream station, a drug store, a meat market, three grain elevators, a lumber yard, a livery stable, a barber shop, a blacksmith shop, a pool hall and bowling alley, a restaurant, a church, a bank, a hotel, a telephone

Bank

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farm land, vehicles, and even building their dream home on the family farmstead," said Thompson. "Our friendly staff is always willing to help in person or on the phone. Our free Mobile and Internet Banking products help the busy family, or business owner access their financial information on the go."



office, a millinery, and a dry goods store.

Dr. A.E. Reed was the first doctor in Rozel in 1904, followed by Dr. Howe in 1905 and Dr. Cayhill in 1907. Dr. J.H. Tapscott moved to Rozel in July 1909 and continued in practice for more than 50 years.

Religion and education have always been important to the residents of the vicinity. A Methodist Church was built in 1905; it was replaced by a new building in January 1965 that was dedicated April 23, 1972. The Baptist Church was built in 1916. The Rozel Christian Fellowship started in a garage owned by Ronald Bryant in 1975 and has since been remodeled into a church building.

The first post office was in 1870 and was known as Keysville. In 1880 the name was changed to Ben Wade to honor a Civil War lawyer at the suggestion of Timothy McCarthy, Larned postmaster. The current postmaster is Preston Duncan.

Rozel has survived two disastrous fires, a tornado, and numerous floods. Nearly all the business district in the original town site was destroyed by fire, Sept. 24, 1928. Rebuilding was started immediately with modern brick structures. On the evening of May 20, 1949, a tornado

and hailstorm severely damaged or destroyed nearly every building in town.

Due to an abundance of underground water, considerable acreage of alfalfa, milo, corn, soybeans, forage of crops, and wheat is under irrigation in the surrounding area. In 2001, under the management of Ed Taylor, Golden Plains Co-op merged with Tri-Ag Co-op at Sanford and Farmers Co-op at Burdett to become Golden Valley, Inc. In 2002, Golden Valley, Inc., purchased the Rozel branch of the Pawnee County Co-op, with a combined storage capacity of over 966,000 bushels. They now have the facilities to handle the grain harvest with a minimum of effort on the part of the producers.

In late July 2003, Golden Valley built and moved into a new service shop and office facility. An open house was held in February 2004. Until the first elevator was built in 1905, the grain had to be scooped by the farmers from the wagons into boxcars.

There are several farm-connected business enterprises in the town. A fourth-generation industry is Blattner Inc., started from a blacksmith shop built in 1906. In 2015 the business was purchased by Rick and Ronda Blattner and became Blattner Mfg.,

LLC.

Rozel schools evolved from a one-room school in 1883 to a modern school plant in 1950. They are probably the first school system to transport students using horse-drawn school wagons in 1914. The first Rozel school building was built in 1905 to handle the lower grades. In 1913 a consolidation between Rozel and Elm Grove brought the need for high school classes. The first class of eight students to graduate from Rozel High School was in 1917. The current building was dedicated in April 1950 and was called the Rozel Consolidated Schools. In

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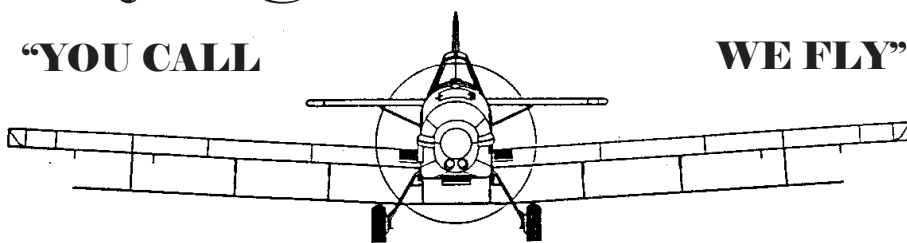
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