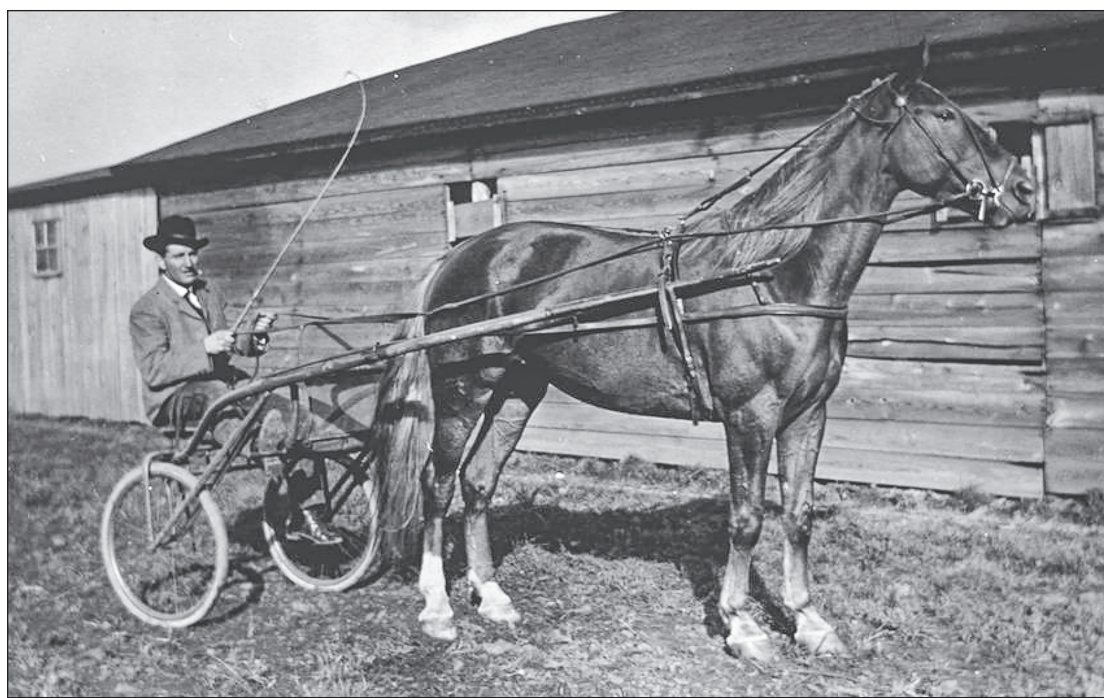


# Horses had a speed limit on Vine Street



**HORSES HAD** a 5 MPH speed limit on Vine Street, but west of the 500 block, Arthur was famous for its horse race track.



**IT WAS AN ANNUAL EVENT** in the early 1900s to place a Christmas tree in the intersection of Vine and Illinois streets. Here, a couple of dogs appear to be on their way to visit the tree. This is looking north from the intersection.



**OLE DAVIS** and Shorty Reed in front of Barrum's Drug Store on east side of Vine Street. At left is the Silver Moon Cafe.



**A GROUP OF WOMEN** in coats and hats in front of 121 S. Vine, probably in front of Maxwell/Dawson Millinery shop.

## Incorporation four years after Arthur founded

Even though Arthur was founded in 1873, the village was not incorporated until 1877. Results of the election for incorporation were 33 yeas and 30 nays. Those for incorporation wanted the community to have a local governing body to proceed with improvements to the streets and alleys, provide other amenities in the future, and form rules and regulations for townsmen to abide by. Those who opposed incorporation knew there would be new municipal taxation to pay for these things.

On June 12, 1877, the first village election was held and six trustees were elected, and J. W. Barrum was elected Village Clerk. The trustees at this time would elect a president of the Board.

John W. Sears, who had built the first house in Arthur, had also built a building for use as a town hall in 1875. It was located in the middle of the west side of the first block of South Vine Street, but it was destroyed by fire in 1879. The Village Board then met at various business locations over the next 13 years.

In 1895, there was a major revision to the town's ordinances including one that set the speed limit for horses going down Vine Street to 5 miles per hour.

## Village creates police position and president

The revisions to the ordinances adopted on Oct. 7, 1895, also created the offices of village president separate from the Board of Trustees, and the position of village policeman. M. E. (Matthew Elmer) Reeves was declared the village president, and Lloyd M. Binegar was appointed Village Policeman.

A special Board meeting was called on March 30, 1948, to authorize the purchase of the Village's first police car. It was a new, 1948 Ford Super Deluxe Tudor V-8 sedan at a cost of \$1,576.35. The Village was able to pay \$376.35 as a down payment and a note was secured for the balance of \$1,200.



**WATER TOWER** under construction, 1914, at 314 W. Progress St. In 1911, the Village residents voted 125-95 to erect a 100-foot steel tower holding 50,000 gallons of water and install a water system for \$9,500. Previous to this time, each house and most businesses had a private well.



**CIRCA 1900**, one of the policeman's duties at the time was to light the gas street lamps each evening.



**John Warren's harness shop**, circa 1905.