

## **SUBLETTE**

### Haskell County, Kansas

Written by Eva Mae Cooper and Maxine Ridge  
*(Their notes have been combined)*

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*References: Frank McCoy's land office and Mr. Tilletson, County Engineer of Haskell County*

Sublette is a thriving little city with a population of about 700. It is the county seat of Haskell County and is located on the Kansas State Highway number 45, also situated one and a half miles east of State Highway 83, which is oil-paved. It is 71½ miles from the Colorado state line and 37 miles from the Oklahoma state line.

The most critical points of interest in Sublette are the three churches (which are the Methodist, Christian, and Nazarene), Sublette grade school, the Sublette high school, the courthouse, the ice plant, the Sosuntee Club Park, and the Santa Fe State bank. There are also other buildings such as the printing office, post office, firehouse, and the home of Mr. A. R. Murphy\*.

The Methodist Church is a basement church. The church is brick and is plastered and painted on the inside. It is not finished very nicely on the inside because the church people plan to build an addition to the church and use the church basement for socials and meetings. It is located one block east of Main Street on the north side of the street, which is Carson Avenue.

The Christian Church is also a basement church. It is a new construction this year, 1936. The inside is finished and is very attractive. There are built-in cabinets in the kitchen, and the roof was built in a slant. When the upper part of the church is added, the floor will also be slanted towards the altar.

The Nazarene Church is a frame stucco building and more of a bungalow style. It is located one block east of Main Street on the south side of the street directly east of the Court House on Wooten Street and Chouteau Ave.

The Sublette Grade School is a brick building and is considered plain-looking. It is on the west side of Main Street, across the street from the courthouse on Chouteau Ave.

Sublette High School is the most attractive building in the city. It is more of a Corinthian type of architecture. The back part of the high school building is part of the old schoolhouse that was destroyed by fire in 1929. The inside of the building is finished in white and is very modern. The high school is in the third block east of Main Street on Becknell Ave.

The courthouse is a brick building of a Teutonic type of architecture. At the end of

1935, a new basement was constructed beneath the building. It is where the relief offices are located. The people on relief are working on the building. They are rebuilding the entire inside of the building. The courthouse, when finished, will be by far the most attractive building in Sublette. It is located on the east side of Main Street on Chouteau Ave.

The ice plant is very unattractive, but it is the only plant in Haskell County that manufactures anything. It is a frame building painted white. There is no outstanding architecture in the construction of the building. On the east side of the street, the ice plant on Main Street is the first building north of the railroad tracks.

The women's Sosuntee Club Park is located by the ice plant. The club ladies bought the land next to the ice plant to access the plants' water. It was needed to irrigate the trees, shrubs, and so forth.

The Santa Fe State Bank is a brick building with no particular type of architecture. It is located in the center of town on Main Street and Becknell Ave.

The printing office is a small brick stucco building on Main Street's east side, the second building south of Carson Ave.

The post office is a brick building located on the east side of Main Street, one block north of the bank. The firehouse is one block west of Main Street on Becknell Ave. and Cody Street.

Mr. A. R. Murphy's home is the yellow stucco Spanish bungalow on Main Street just north of the railroad tracks at Highway 54. Most of the homes in Sublette are the American Bungalow style.

Sublette has a daily service from the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad, a branch running southwest from Dodge City. There is also a regular mail and bus service twice daily. One bus runs from Dodge City to Hugoton, and the other bus handles mail from Garden City to Liberal. There are also a few commercial trucks delivering merchandise daily.

The residential and business establishments are supplied with natural gas from one of the largest gas companies. The Kansas Power and Light Company provides electricity.

Sublette has a Farmers Coop Elevator that does a large business in gasoline, motor oil, and all kinds of feed and coal. They are also buyers of all types of grain. It is located in the extreme western portion of the city. We have four other grain elevators, besides the one mentioned, which do a large business also.

There are two large lumberyards. The T. M. Deal Lumber Yard is located in the business district. The Rounds and Porter Lumber Company is located one-half block west of the Santa Fe State Bank.

Sublette has a small greenhouse that was built in the year of 1934. It is located on South Highway number 83.

There is a ten-foot bridge over a small ravine in the Southwest part of Haskell County. There is also a bridge located over the Cimarron River. Haskell County is more noted for its lack of engineering structures than most other counties.

Today, Sublette has an up-to-date furniture store. Plus, there is an undertaker and ambulance service found on Main Street. There are also two up-to-date drug stores on Main Street. Otis L. Simms operates the Simms Drug Store. The Taylor Drug Store is owned by Charles Taylor of Liberal, Kansas, and is managed by Raymond Pennington. Sublette has a men's ready-to-wear store and a cleaning and pressing shop combined. These store buildings are all constructed of brick.

We have one very modern hotel with approximately fifteen rooms, with a modern dining room. The building is owned by one of the early pioneers, Clay Murphy\*. It is constructed of stucco and brick.

Sublette has a Chevrolet garage that sells cars and trucks and handles a full line of automobile parts and supplies.

The most noted locality in Haskell County was Santa Fe, and it was located seven miles north of Sublette on Highway 83. There has been a filling station placed on the junction near where Santa Fe was located. There is a very well-constructed school building, plus one of the original homes is still there.

The Ivanhoe Schoolhouse is the only building left to mark old Ivanhoe. Ivanhoe and Santa Fe once were quite large cities and battled over the county seat of Haskell County. Ivanhoe is on Highway 83, eleven miles north of Sublette.

### Additional Information

A. R. Murphy  
*(Arthur Raymond Murphy)*

ARTHUR RAYMOND "PINK" MURPHY, son of Joseph Owen Murphy (1869-1938) and Martha Louise Backus (1872-1959), was born on 18 Sep 1895 in Lakeside, San Diego County, California. His family moved to the Sublette area of Kansas when he was very young.

Arthur married CATHRYN ALENA WARD, daughter of William Ward (1859-1941) and Margaret Rogers (1873-1943), on 24 Jul 1919 at the Ward Ranch near Copeland, Kansas. Cathryn was born on 24 Jul 1898 in Meade, Meade County, Kansas. Arthur and Cathryn did not have children.

They spent their married life in Sublette where Mr. Murphy was a farmer at times, but he also worked as a painter when they owned and operated a paint and wallpaper store. He also owned and operated Murphy's Implement Company in Sublette for 23 years. Cathryn was very active in their businesses. They were members of the United Methodist Church in Sublette.

In their later years, they spent their winters in southern Texas. Arthur spent several years in the Satanta (Kansas) Senior Citizens Home. He died there on 11 June 1987. Cathryn passed away on 21 Mar 1994. Burial for both was at the Copeland Cemetery in Copeland, Gray County, Kansas.

*\*Arthur's father, Joseph Owen Murphy, was the brother of Henry Clay Murphy, Haskell County, Kansas. See story... "LIFE OF MR. CLAY MURPHY".*