The history of Wildcat Hollow is recounted briefly here. The Hollow was somewhat of a “backwater” in the history books because it was shadowed by Petroleum Centre where all the glory was claimed. Actually the Wildcat Hollow area commenced just across the road from Petroleum Centre. Maybe the perfectly sculptured hogback which helped to hide it was a blessing. In the sum, the Hollow supported more wells than the commercial sprawl of the Centre did, and didn’t have all the troubles of the adjacent “wildest town in the oil regions” (Ashby, 1942, p. 219).

Wildcat Hollow is almost a circular ravine or half-bowl depression with an isolated hogback in the center (Fig. 10). It is open only eastward, facing Oil Creek. It is probably an ancestral bend of that creek. The present drainage array in this depression consists of Wildcat Run which isn’t much of a watercourse, a swamp, springs, and seasonal runoff from the surrounding slopes. Maybe there were wildcats there in the late 1700s and early 1800s when the first settlers were clearing land. There are bear, deer and a host of lesser critters there now.

The original owner of land at Wildcat Hollow (year 1797) was Francis McClinton, a Scotch-Irish cobbler. George McClinton, son of Francis, built a frame house along the banks of Oil Creek never imagining that it would someday become a hotel and that the place would be called Petroleum Centre. These McClinton’s contributed to the frontier