THE SINGLE MOST DECISIVE EVENT IN THE HISTORY OF OKLAHOMA – THE GLENN POOL OIL FIELD DISCOVERY

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KEYNOTE ADDRESS

In the late 1800’s, Oklahoma was not a state. It was occupied by large Indian reservations that were strictly regulated by the federal government. The Creek Indian reservation to the south of the railroad stop called Tulsa was first opened for drilling. In 1905, the first great oil field in Oklahoma, the Glenn Pool Field was discovered on that reservation. Robert Galbreath, an Oklahoma City real estate man and his partner, Frank Chesley had drilled a well in a corn field on the 160 acre Ida Glenn farm that blew out. The Ida Glenn #1 was only 1,481 feet deep and produced from an unknown sandstone that was originally called the Glenn Sand but later was identified as the Bartlesville Sandstone. The original well made 85 barrels of oil per day. The second well just to the south came in at 700 BOPD and the third well to the north at 2,000 BOPD. The oil was high grade, the well depths were shallow and the field was very large (43 square miles) in size. This was one of the largest oil fields in the world during its time. The oil boom was on! In 1907 when Oklahoma became a state and pipelines finally reached the field, the Glenn Pool produced 46 million barrels of oil, more than any other state in the United States. It made Tulsa the “Oil Capital of the World” from 1907 to 1930. The field has since produced 340 million barrels of oil.