



~ *Part 38* ~
Reflections on a Common Theme
Recreation

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CLOUD COUNTY

Recreation in Glasco

by Joan Nothern

Recreation seems to be woven into the fabric of Glasco, stemming from the land and landscape. The level lay of the land encourages walking, biking, and jogging. Taking the dog for the daily walk is a routine enjoyed by many dogs and their people friends.

Another Glasco recreation that encourages walking is golf at the Glasco Country Club. This 9-hole sand green course is located on US 24 just a mile east of Glasco. Raking sand greens adds a special twist to the golf experience, reminding us of the men who were determined to play without the extravagance of watered grass greens.

Water does figure in other forms of recreation though. In 1979, a long determined citizen effort led to building a swimming pool in City Park. This is a popular oasis on summer afternoons. The park also has horseshoe pits, tennis and basketball courts waiting for evening relaxation.

Farm ponds and the Solomon River attract those who like to fish. Some fishermen store their catch in the freezer until they have enough for a grand neighborhood fish fry.

ROOKS COUNTY

Nova Theatre

The Nova Theatre in Stockton has been a place of fun and recreation since it first opened in 1932. The Nova has provided the residents of Stockton and Rooks County a place to view glamorous stars, thrilling chases, and good guys always winning in the end. Today the Nova Theatre not only serves as a movie theatre, but also as a grand stage for concerts, plays, dinner theaters, and other presentations and special events.

After sitting vacant since 1974, the Nova Theatre in Stockton was brought back to life beginning in 1997 by an energetic group of local residents determined to restore the building to its former glory. The theatre officially reopened in late 2001, and has now seen over 40,000 people pass through the front doors to view movies, plays, and concerts.

The Nova is operated entirely by volunteers. Since the initial reopening, volunteer managers, ticket takers, concession workers, and projectionists have donated thousands of hours to theatre operations.

A tornado in 2005 threatened the continued existence of the theatre, destroying part of the building and much of the air conditioning and heating units. Fortunately, structural engineers determined the building could be saved and repairs were made. The triumphant reopening came in mid-October 2005.

Recent improvements have brought the Nova into the digital and 3-D age. These improvements also make it possible to view DVDs and game systems. Individuals and groups are able to rent the theatre and bring in their own DVD to watch it on the big screen, or plan a "game night" with their X-Box, Playstation, or Wii games!

The Star Theatre was opened prior to 1926 with 250-seats. It was reopened in 1932 as the Nova Theatre, with a seating capacity of 400.