

# TASCO

*Established 1888*

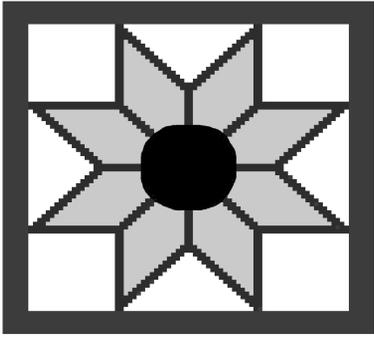
## ART

*Chairs and Tables of Sticks and Rope*

The Girl Scouts used to camp in Tasco once a year, and would often build chairs and tables out of sticks and rope. After the Scouts' week was

complete, the locals enjoyed finding the artistry the Scouts left behind.

**Kansas Sampler Foundation**



**Eight Rural Elements**

## ARCHITECTURE

*School House Became Scout Headquarters*

Visit Tasco's WPA stone school house, which was constructed in 1935-1936 with rock quarried north of Studley, Kansas. The building had two large classrooms, a full basement, a large auditorium, cloak rooms and a room used as a kitchen. This school was discontinued in 1962. After the building closed, it was used by the Sunflower Girl Scout Council as a headquarters for campouts. It now serves as a residence.

A grain elevator built in 1916 by E.T. Crum was used until the early 1990s. Additionally, several early-day stores are still standing.



*The WPA-built Tasco School House, erected in 1935-1936, served as a center of community affairs for many years.*



*The Tasco Presbyterian Church was the only such structure in the community's history. It was in operation from 1922 to 1954.*

## GEOGRAPHY

*Locals Soak Up the Dry Life*

Tasco is located in a valley at the junction of the South Fork Solomon River and Sand Creek. The community endures a dusty and dry climatology that is commonly associated with western Kansas.

## HISTORY

*Tasco, a Battle Site*

It is thought that a battle between a large number of Cheyenne Indians and U.S. Cavalry took place near the site of Tasco in 1857. A sod fort was erected to house the wounded for the winter. This is probably the first sod building in Sheridan County, but the exact location has not been determined. Tasco was officially established in November 1888.

## CUISINE

*Family-owned Services at One Time*

Years ago, Leon Sample and Slim and Ina Hill owned gasoline stations that serviced the town. The Hill family also operated a country store at the family's filling station. Older natives remember being able to reach into the old-fashioned coolers to enjoy a bottle of Coke.

## COMMERCE

*Traditional Economics Sustain Town*

In the past, cattle ranching and crop farming dominated this rural economy, and these factors continue to shape local livelihood today. The original site of Guy also served as an early and important livestock shipping center for area farmers.

## CUSTOMS

*Scouts on a Mission and a Useful Soap-weed*

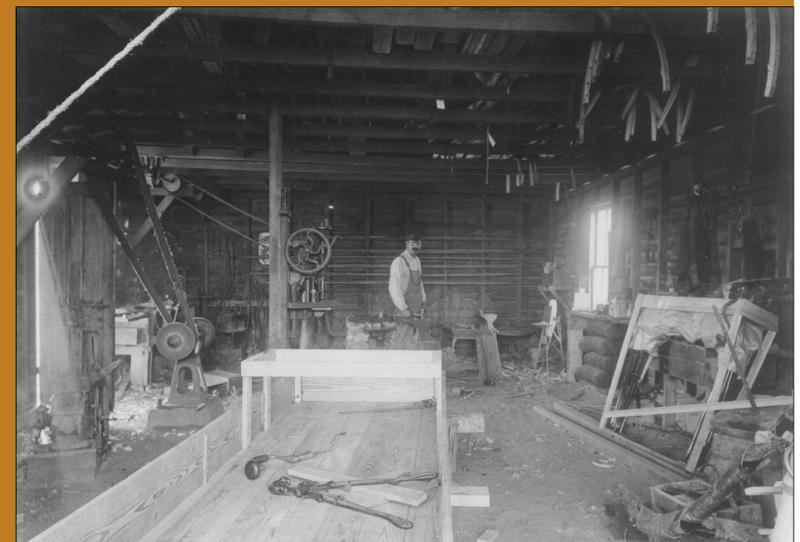
For one week out of the year, the Girl Scouts used to come from many different troops around the area to meet and camp at Tasco's old school house. Local residents recall that the girls would 'troop' around town and gather items to use for arts and crafts.

Yucca plants are very common to the area and have many benefits. Soap-weed, as the yucca has been nicknamed, makes a good soap to use in cold water, as the Native Americans and pioneers once used it for. One can also enjoy the yucca's petals in a salad. Tastes a lot like cabbage, locals say.

## PEOPLE

*Railroad Heritage*

Located eight miles east of Hoxie, Tasco was the official name of a small railroad station along the Union Pacific Railroad in 1888. C. E. Perkins and his father-in-law, John O. Hopkins, then laid out a town site around the small railroad station and named the site Guy, in honor of Mr. Hopkins' son. On June 15, 1923 the name of the post office (Guy) was changed to Tasco, making the Tasco/Guy location less confusing. Most of the early people of Tasco were probably of English descent, but it is not known for sure.



*John Conard standing in his blacksmith shop at Tasco in about 1917-1918.*