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Amarillo Roots Tied To The Old West

The first European believed to set foot in the wide-open spaces of what is now known as the Texas Panhandle was Francisco Coronado. He passed through in 1541, some 79 years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock, in search of gold and land for the Spanish Crown.

In the 19th century cattlemen, buffalo hunters and adventurers pushed west in search of a new life and Amarillo was settled in 1887. The name Amarillo, which means yellow in Spanish, was adopted because of the color of the subsoil in the channel of Amarillo Creek. In the early days, most houses were painted yellow in honor of the name.

The first county courthouse was built in 1888 and the Amarillo Hotel followed in 1889. The Texas Rangers administered City Council incorporated acres and 1,442 citizens. 1910 when Amarillo wrote town in the Southwest, and the Commission-Manager



the only law until 1899 when the to govern the fledgling city of 925 The population grew to 9,957 in its own charter and became the first fifth in the United States, to adopt form of government.

Cattle breeding was Goodnight and Judge O.H. to the Panhandle and mixed Interbred herds developed a inheriting Longhorn

started in 1877 by Col. Charles Nelson, who brought registered bulls them with native Longhorns. distinctive Panhandle beef, hardiness and Hereford beef quality.

Amarillo industry merchandising. intersection of the Fort the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe, Amarillo quickly became the world's greatest cattle-shipping market.

began with railroads, cattle and Strategically located at the Worth & Denver City Railroad, and

The first newspaper was founded in 1887, the second in 1889 and the surviving newspaper, the Amarillo Globe-News, was founded in 1892. At the turn of the century, the fencing of ranges began, wheat was planted and Amarillo became a major wheat belt of America. Scheduled air transportation began in 1929 with airmail service following in 1930. The city's first schoolhouse was built in 1889, West Texas State University (now West Texas A&M University) was chartered in 1909, and Amarillo Junior College (now Amarillo College) was added in 1929.

Gas was discovered in September, 1918, 20 miles north of Amarillo in the Hapgood well. This has grown to be the world's second largest gas field. Pipelines deliver Panhandle gas as far away as the Atlantic seaboard, creating the world's largest area of natural gas development.

Petroleum was discovered on May 2, 1921 by Gulf Production Company on the Burk Burnett 6666 Ranch.

Amarillo's central location at the intersection of two major interstates, I-40 and I-27, and U.S. Highway 287 helps make it the trade center of a five-state area and home to many of the highest-rated quality hotels and motels. The Amarillo Civic Center, which opened in 1968, can accommodate groups of up to 7,000. It hosts over 45 trade shows per year, one of which is the Farm & Ranch Show, one of the top five agricultural trade shows in the nation.

The "unhurried friendliness" of Amarillo was cited when Entrepreneur magazine selected it as one of the "25 Best Cities for Small Business." Factors such as success rates for business, payment performance of companies, personal incomes, state programs and cost of living were considered in the selection of the top cities. Deliberate diversification efforts, financed in part by a half-cent economic development sales tax, have contributed to a flourishing economy that finds new businesses opening every day.

Health-care related business growth will be fueled by the 450-acre regional medical center complex. The development of the Bell Helicopter plant to build tilt-rotor aircraft was a big plau for the area..

Friendly people, a thriving pioneer spirit and a progressive attitude make Amarillo a great place to live and prosper.

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