

# OKLAHOMA NATIONAL STOCKYARDS

THE LARGEST STOCKER AND FEEDER CATTLE MARKET



Visitors looking to experience the feeling of the Old West are encouraged to visit Stockyards City. Located three short miles from Downtown Oklahoma City, the District is alive with Oklahoma history, family friendly activities, and commerce. The local businesses cater to clientele from all over the world who are looking for this one of a kind atmosphere.

Oklahoma City businessmen met with the representative of the Nelson Morris Company of Chicago in May 1909 to propose building a packing house. The cost of this venture included a \$300,000 bonus and property concessions. (An industrial district was formed and the District's first packing houses were built.) "Packingtown" was formed and one of Oklahoma City's most substantial and memorable building booms had arrived.

The Oklahoma City Stockyards and its meat packing plants were Oklahoma City's first major industrial businesses and generated the greatest demand of labor ever seen in the Oklahoma City area. The Oklahoma National Stockyards Company began operating as a public livestock market in October of 1910. Morris & Co. (Armour Meats) opened a large meat packing plant adjacent to the stockyards. In 1911, Schwartzchild & Sulzberger (Wilson Foods) opened a similar processing plant. With the introduction of the Morris & Co. and Schwartzchild & Sulzberger investments,

of approximately \$3.5 million, 2,400 new jobs became available in a city with a population of 60,000.

In the first five years of operation, the volume of livestock handling increased by 130%. By 1966, the Oklahoma National Stock Yards Company had become the 6th largest market in the nation, generating a sum of \$125 million annually on the basis of the number of livestock handled. The stockyards took the nation's lead in cattle sales in 1973, when 919,280 head of cattle passed through the gates of the Stockyards' market. To date, the Oklahoma National Stockyards still remains the largest stocker and feeder cattle market in the world.

Many other businesses and job opportunities for Oklahomans were generated from the opening of the Oklahoma City cattle market. A post office, a bank, hotels, restaurants, and other businesses needed to support the growing city were soon established in the "Packing Town" area. The businesses established during the stockyard boom, maintain the romantic, rugged, flavor of the Old West. Brick sidewalks, period lighting, and the nostalgic "Heading to Market" bronze statue add reminiscent accents of a by-gone era.

The Stockyards' restaurants still serve some of the best steaks in the area. In fact, eating a steak at Cattlemen's was listed in the popular book, "1,000 Things to Do Before You Die," a New York Times Bestseller by Patricia Schultz. The western gear and apparel stores still boast the American cowboy way of life: friendly, tough, and made to last. Visitors can also meet Western Artist Jack Wells in his art studio or enjoy a Saturday night listening to live country music performances at the Rodeo Opry. The colorful, working world of the Oklahoma National Stockyards provides a glimpse into the unique history of the District and the solid foundation upon which it was built.

There is nothing like experiencing Stockyards City first hand. Stockyards City is located three miles from Downtown Oklahoma City. From Downtown, visitors may take Interstate 40 west for 2.5 miles to the Agnew/Villa Exit. After exiting, turn left on Agnew and drive 1/2 mile south until reaching Stockyards City. For more information, visitors may contact (405) 235-7267.

WELCOME TO  
STOCKYARD  
CITY



Cattlemen's  
STEAKHOUSE

CATTELEMEN'S  
CAFE

