

## Pottawatomie Co. Courthouse Issue Stalemated; Pinet Reminisces on Anniversary of Legal Battle

Letter to the Editor, Eli Pinet

Dear Bill:

You would never guess what anniversary this is, or about is. So, I'll remind you that about a year has passed since an item in the Herald stated that the County Commissioners from the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Districts had decided to build a new courthouse for us. We, the taxpayers, were to furnish the money, of course. They were only doing the deciding.

Hopefully, a petition was circulated to try to convince the duly elected representatives of the Masses that we did not want our historical old courthouse destroyed nor did we need a new one. Our efforts were to no avail. Finally, in self-defense the controversy was taken into District Court and from there to the Kansas Supreme Court. To the best of my knowledge the hearing date has not been set.

The timing of their decision to build could hardly have been worse. Taxpayers by the hundreds had visited the courthouse protesting the results of the Tax Equalization. Also, while there they discovered that they had built a very elaborate Welfare Building and that the plush furnishings put their own homes to shame. Wives said, "If the Welfare people can have wall-to-wall carpeting, why can't I?" The old boy, hard put to find his tax money and faced with a much heavier load in the future, was not about to accept more spending for another building we could do without.

Yes, the past year has been interesting. What the outcomes will be is hard to predict. The proponents of the new courthouse refuse to put the question to a vote.

Maybe I have not talked to the right people but I know of no one who has changed his mind and favors building at this time.

I do know that hundreds of people from every part of the county contributed from \$1 to \$150 to help pay the court cost and attorneys' fees.

A person must have some convictions if he is to back up the position with cash.

Whatever the results, at least we tried, and exercised our constitutional right of dissent.

Eli Pinet