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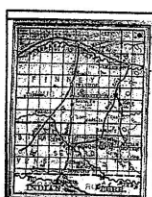
Plymell, Kansas and the Southern Stage Line

The Southern Stage Line was started in 1885 by partners J.C. Plymell and William Leighton. It ran from Garden City south to Springfield, Kansas. The businessmen then secured a contract to carry the mail six times a week between Garden City and Fargo Springs, with stops at Plymell, Ivanhoe, Santa Fe, Loco and Springfield. The contract paid \$2,999. The stage line office was located in Garden City on Main Street with A.W. Stubbs as manager.

From the Garden City Herald, June 4, 1886: Plymell and Leighton have the finest equipped stage line in southwestern Kansas. The coaches are easy, the drivers gentlemanly and careful, and their accommodations for both man and beast at their ranches along the route are excellent. And further, in view of the speedy completion of the free bridge and Sand Hill road, they have reduced the fare 50 cents from former rates."

Plymell, the first stop on the stage line sometimes referred to as Plymell Ranch, got its name from J.C. Plymell. Although records indicate that J.C. lived in Garden City, not in the Plymell area, his younger brother Charles, a driver for the stage line, did buy a tree claim on the quarter section south of the Plymell Station in 1894.

Plymell, while an important stop on the stage line, never grew into a town. The settlement did have a post office for two periods of time: July 1886 to September 1894 and October 1918 through July 1926. A school was located in the area from about 1885, a church was established in 1914 and Plymell Ranch was a voting precinct with 37



Top left: Route of the Southern Stage Line. Top right: Changing horses at Plymell Station. Above: Southern Stage and Express coach in front of the Buffalo Hotel.

votes cast in 1886.