

Overton James
GOVERNOR OF THE CHICKASAW NATION
6033 Glencove Place
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73132
PA 1-5366

March 13, 1973

The Honorable Carl Albert
H-209 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Albert:

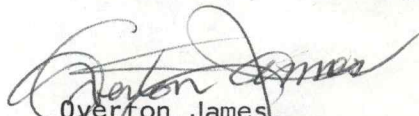
Attached is a copy of a letter and a brochure which is being sent to the members of Congress in those states where most of our American Indians reside.

It is my hope that you will take of your valuable time to read the information in the attached brochure and then I believe you will agree with my letter, which is printed on the second page.

And, with your influence and cooperation we can do something great, good and constructive for many of your Indian constituents.

It is my understanding that our mutual-help Indian housing program has not been included in the President's moratorium of subsidized housing. To you and all others who were responsible for helping us continue this badly needed program, we extend our grateful thanks.

With best personal regards,


Overton James,
Governor, Chickasaw Nation

OJ:mak

Enclosures

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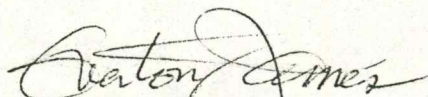
The Honorable John E. Moss
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Representative Moss:

May I be so presumptuous to suggest that since you have a number of American Indians living in your state, you may find the enclosed brochure to be of interest to your constituents. May I call your special attention to page two underscored in red.

And, please accept our grateful thanks for your efforts in behalf of the Indian Housing Program for needy Indians.

Respectfully yours,



Overton James
Governor, Chickasaw Nation.

OJ/ld

Enclosure

March 16, 1973

The Honorable Overton James, Governor
Chickasaw Nation
8033 Glencove Place
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73132

Dear Overton:

I was pleased to get your letter and a copy of the brochure and communication you are sending to members of Congress in whose states most of our American Indians reside. I have scanned the brochure and have found it very interesting. I think the whole story is told in those two pages of contrasting pictures of Indian homes before and after on Pages 6 and 7 of ~~the~~ brochure. I also liked your message and the article about you. You know how proud we are of the role we played in your initial appointment as Governor of the Chickasaw Nation. We have appreciated the leadership you have provided.

Our continuing good wishes.

Sincerely,

The Speaker

CA/wst



JOB

SKILL



HOME

FOR

OKLAHOMA

INDIANS

Sponsored by the

CHICKASAW

INDIAN

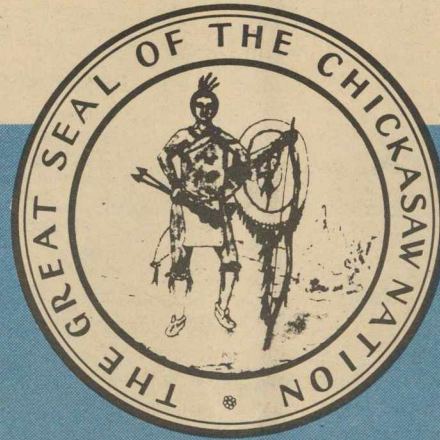
NATION





Gov. Overton James

'This modular home factory has been pioneered through the joint cooperation of the Chickasaw Nation and Atkinson Industries.'



A Message From Overton James, Governor Of The Chickasaw Nation

I am firmly convinced the decade ahead is going to see a revolution in housing construction unmatched since man started building dwellings with his hands.

We are now just in the first stages of the industrial age in housing production to fill the needs of the rural areas, but before the seventies are over, the type and quality of housing being built by the Atkinson Industries will dominate the rural market.

I also predict that by the end of this decade, based on our experience with houses built by W.P. Bill Atkinson Industries, that at least two-thirds of all housing production in rural Oklahoma will be factory produced.

We have been involved with operations of the Atkinson Industries factory for more than a year. They have given us better homes and at a much faster speed than we ever dreamed.

I must admit in the same breath that until we saw the Atkinson-built homes we were prejudiced against factory-built homes because of some bad experiences of some of our Indian friends.

Before doing business with this factory, we couldn't get quality homes built fast enough at a price that we could afford to pay. Other tribes are having these same problems.

After working with the Atkinson people for more than a year, it is the judgment of the officers of our housing authority and tribal council that we should make an effort to form a joint pilot project with Atkinson Industries and share additional and expanded benefits for our people from this innovative, proven housing operation. We have found the Atkinson company officials to be receptive to such ideas.

We are proposing to become partners with one of Oklahoma's oldest and largest companies on a basis that will be mutually profitable.

The factory has a capability of building 450 homes a year on a one-shift basis and I am informed that it would be easy to go to a two-shift basis or 900 homes a year.

The factory operation will involve a constantly revolving cycle of Indian training in management, supervisory and skilled levels of the home building industry.

It has been proven that our people in less than a year can get on-the-job training in the factory and become

journeyman plumbers, electricians, drywall construction specialists and roofers and learn all other crafts necessary to build a home.

This means that they are then qualified to go out into the open market and command top wages for their skills which they have learned in the Atkinson Industries factory.

There is presently a serious shortage of qualified craftsmen in Oklahoma to build homes and good jobs would be plentiful.

Therefore, the modular home factory would become a two-fold industry of great promise to our tribe and to other Indian tribes in Oklahoma as well as over the nation.

First, it would continue to provide good, modern adequate housing for our people in rural areas, which will in turn improve their health, educational opportunities and life expectancy.

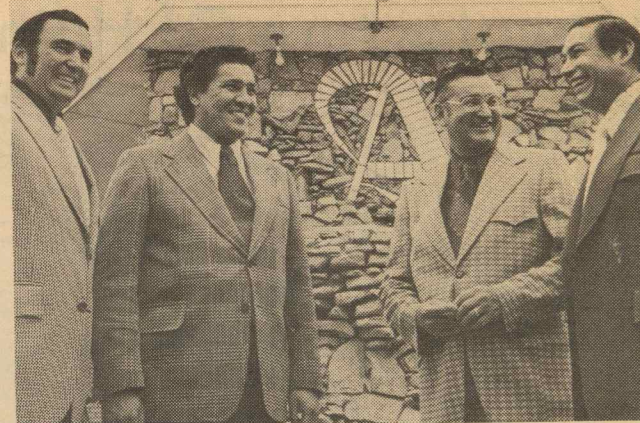
Second, it would provide a good, solid, on-going training ground to give our people an opportunity to become skilled craftsmen and business leaders.

We believe our proposed prototype partnership project could establish a pattern or model for Indian communities throughout the United States. We have the proven management team ready to help us.

We would hope that leaders of other tribes, not only in Oklahoma but throughout America, would send their leaders to our housing manufacturing plant in Oklahoma to learn how to expedite building badly needed homes for their people.

We appreciate Atkinson Industries giving us the opportunity to join them. Our council unanimously voted to pursue the proposal and we are looking forward to successful negotiations in becoming partners in this unusual opportunity.

Overton James
Governor, Chickasaw Nation



Overton James takes oath of office as first elected governor of the Chickasaws Oct. 16, 1971 (left picture), accepts title to 72-unit motor hotel at Sulphur from Hunter Kemmet of the Economic Development Association (center picture) and stands with BIA officials Ernie Stevens, second from left, and Jack Ellison, second from right. Choctaw Chief J. W. Belvin, right in second photo, shares occasion.

Overton James: New Indian Leadership

Overton James, governor of the Chickasaws, is considered by national experts to be one of the great new Indian leaders in America.

In more than nine years as principal leader of the Chickasaws, Gov. James has been widely acclaimed for his ability earning admiration not only among the tribe but among all Indians.

When he was appointed Chickasaw Governor in 1963, James was the youngest person ever to hold the important position.

Gov. James credits education as the major factor in his ability to provide the successful leadership that has put the Chickasaw

Nation in the forefront of Indian affairs. He is quick to admit that had he not stayed in school, the opportunity for leadership may never have been presented to him.

As a youngster growing up in southeastern Oklahoma, James' greatest motivation for remaining in school was "the peachtree limb or the belt that Momma had in her hand if I didn't want to go, or if I skipped class."

In his leadership of the Chickasaws, James hasn't used a peachtree limb or belt, but has produced outstanding results in the top priority of education for his tribe.

The results in the field of education among the

Chickasaw students during Gov. James' terms in office have been astounding, with the number attending college or post-high school courses increasing by 500 percent since James became Tribal Governor in Oct., 1963.

Gov. James, who personally visits all the high schools in the Chickasaw Nation, stresses the importance of education. He notes that of all studies on Indian problems, both in Oklahoma and the nation, the inevitable conclusion is that education is the key to solving these problems.

"And I'm a firm believer that education will continue to be the key," he adds.

The capable and

dedicated leadership James has provided since he was appointed as the youngest Governor ever to serve the Chickasaw Nation belies his upbringing in a split home and his early life in menial jobs.

James is a son of the Chickasaws, a native of Bromide where he was born in 1925, the second of three children. He graduated from Wapanucka High School in 1942 at the age of 16 and two years later joined the U.S. Navy, where he served for 2½ years in the Seabees.

After completing Navy service, he returned to Oklahoma and entered Southeastern State where he became interested in

teaching and coaching, in semi-pro baseball and in the Wapanucka girl who became his wife. He was graduated in May 1949, and taught school at Ravia the next two years, followed by four years at Caddo and four at Shattuck. He taught social studies, history and civics and coached boys and girls basketball.

He returned to Southeastern to earn a master's degree in 1955. James is presently director of Indian Education for the State of Oklahoma and is active in local and national tribal affairs.

Appointed as the 27th governor of the Chickasaw nation in October, 1963, he was reappointed every two years without contest in

the tribe and then elected when the new law requiring tribal elections became effective.

He serves on the education subcommittee to the National Council on Indian Opportunity, is immediate past president of the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma, has served two years as chairman of the National Indian Education Advisory Committee and is on the legislative committee of the National Association of Housing Redevelopment Officials.

He is president of the Choctaw-Chickasaw Confederation and is a member of the National Indian Graduate Scholarship Program.

Education, Trade Training Called Key To Indian Future

A nationally-recognized rural school administrator believes the best hope for the American Indian lies in education and trade training.

"We need to teach them to be carpenters, electricians and bricklayers, especially the older Indians who have not had the benefit of trade schools," Marvin Stokes, superintendent of schools at Byng, Okla., said.

Byng is a widely-acclaimed rural-area school system six miles north of Ada. Stokes has been there for 35 years and has dealt with the "Indian problem" all of that time.

Stokes said the younger Indians now in school are getting benefits of good trade education, "but the older ones, the ones out of school who have not had the training, are the ones we need to help."

"It is the only solution to the Indian problem that will do any good in the long run," he added.

Stokes said that up until about five years ago when Indians in his area began to get better housing the situation was desperate. With better housing in the

area, brought on by Indian housing authorities, the picture is beginning to change, Stokes added.

Housing may be the key to the entire project, he added, noting that Indians who live in good housing have fewer health problems, more desire to learn trades and become productive members of society.

Stokes said his school conducts trade school classes for adults at night but "they're not enough."

"I feel that we're going to have to put in more vocational trade for adults to get them to the standard now held by the young people in school," he added. "This seems to be the plan of the future."

"The trade schools — if we had them — would be good not only for them but for the state and country," Stokes added.

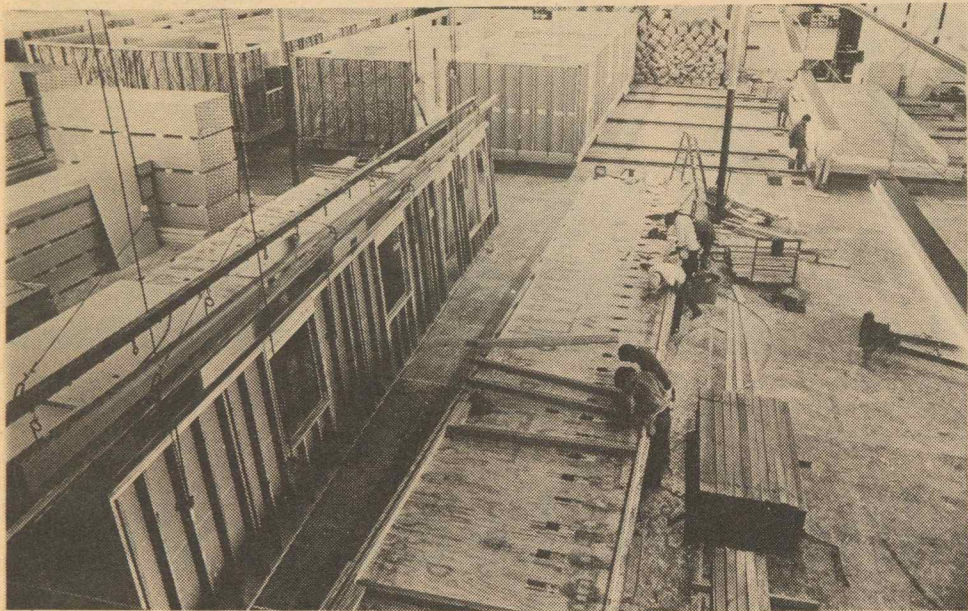
"I think training in a housing factory would be outstanding. These Indians could get into the building program and could help themselves and help others and at the same time have a trade of their own," Stokes added.



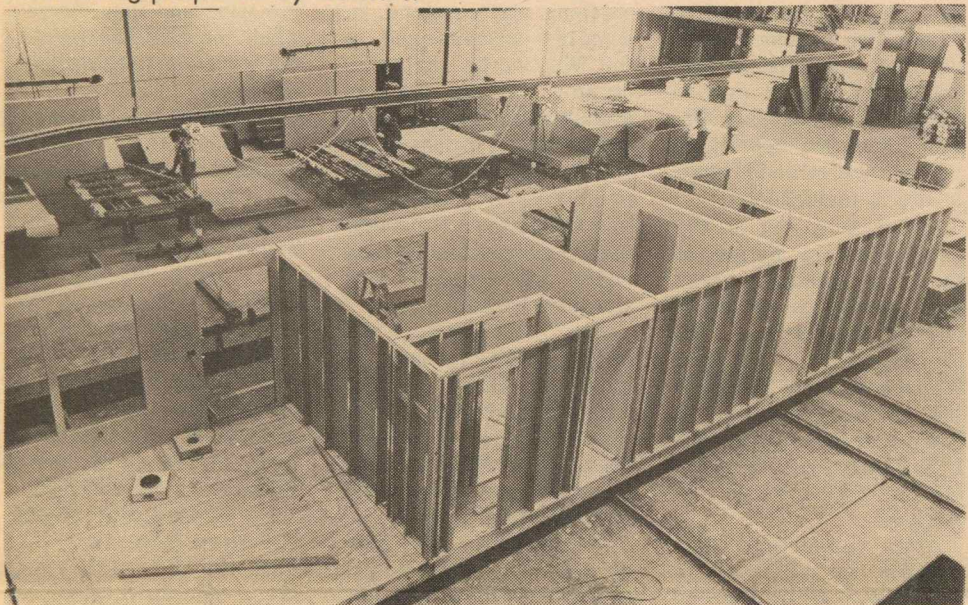
Members of the Chickasaw Housing Authority, who have given their full backing to Gov. Overton James in his efforts to enter into a tribal business relationship with Atkinson Enterprises are shown above with Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Maytubby, top, who received first house from Atkinson factory. From left, Gov. James, Marie Bailey, the late Jonas Imotichey, Lee Keels, executive director; George

Bourland and A.W. Beames. Members believe the proposed joint pilot project will train their people in skills of home building industry and improve the life of the Indian nation. Profits from the venture will be used to create funds for improvement of the health, education and welfare of the Chickasaw Indians.

4
Manufacture Of Homes



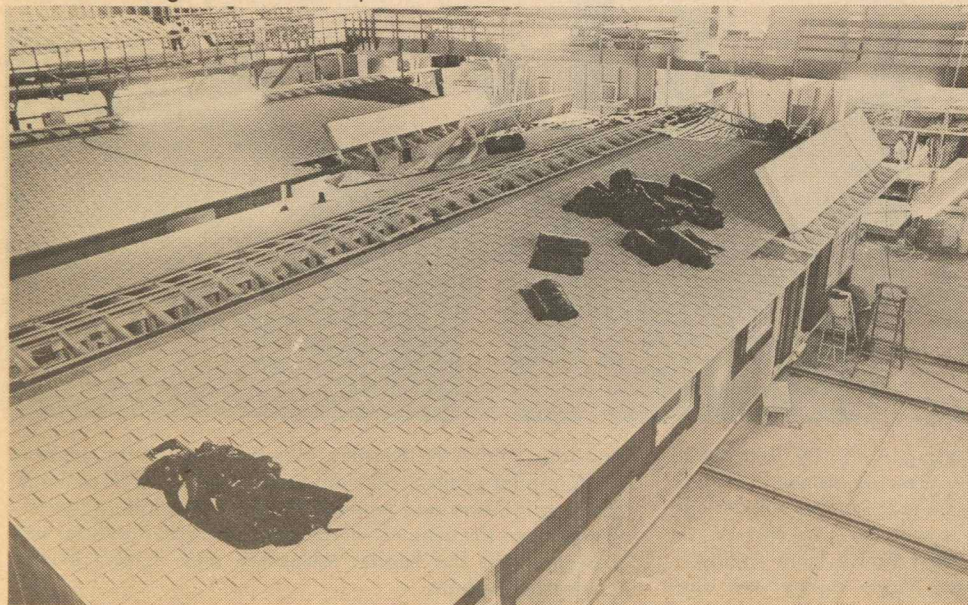
Floor being prepared by workers.



Walls erected on half a home.

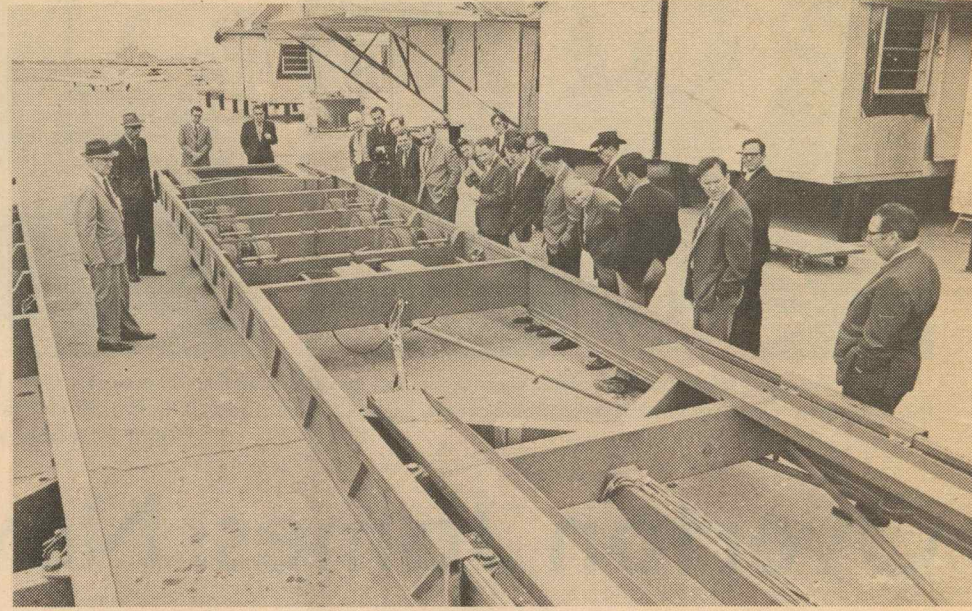


Full house begins to take shape.

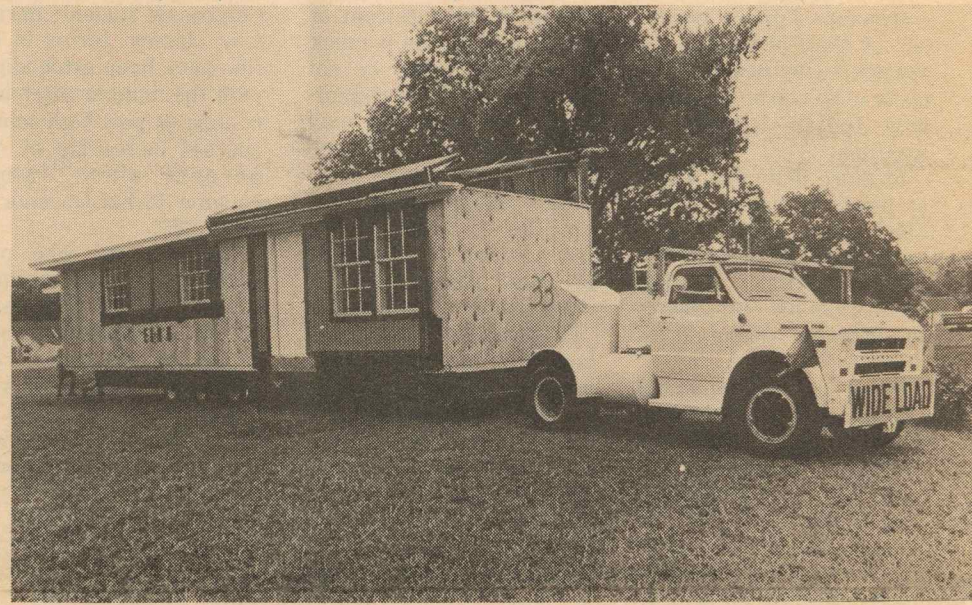


Roof placed, house is ready to move out.

Transportation Of Homes



Officials inspect pneumatic carrier.



Half a home ready to roll to site.

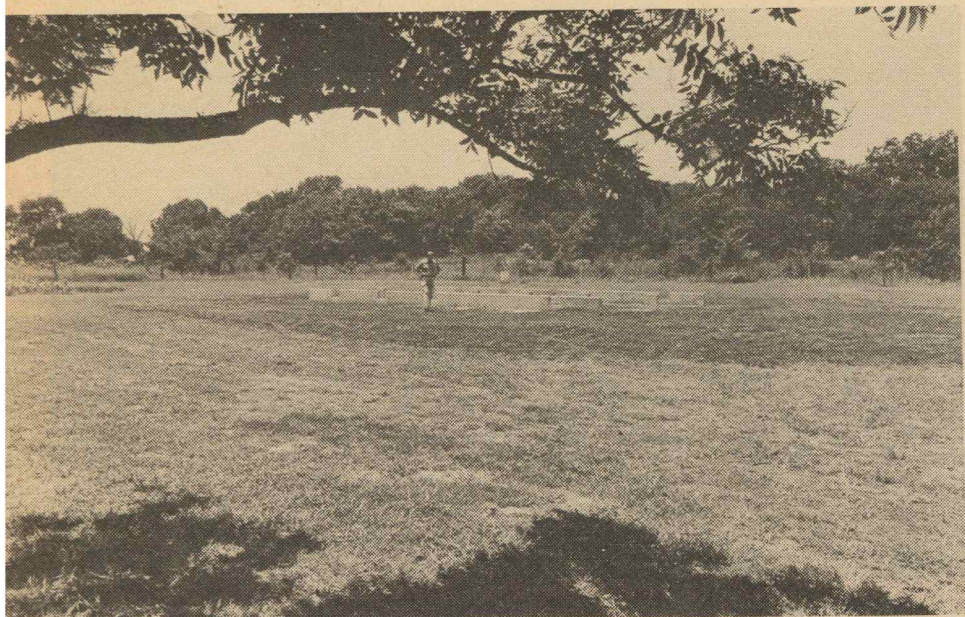


Sections moved toward waiting foundations.



Protective coating pulled from half house.

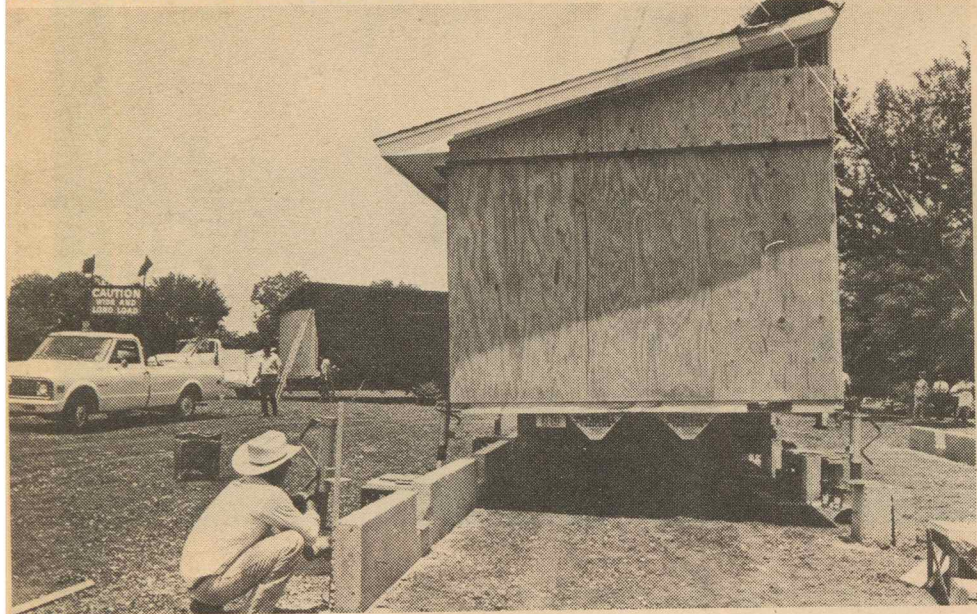
Site Erection Of Homes



Foundation site prepared for new home.



Jacks unloaded to receive house.



Half-house is lowered to foundation.



Full house on site, ready for brickwork.

Precision-Built Homes Of Finest Quality

Built on an assembly line which offers the advantage of work continuing through good weather and bad weather, day or night, which provides the capability of a two-shift operation and total production of 1,000 homes a year.

Here's How Home Built In Factory

Pictures at left show construction, transportation and site placement of homes from Atkinson Industries factory at Shawnee. Assembly begins with half floor section, constructed on a jig large enough to accommodate a floor 12 feet wide and up to 60 feet long.

While workmen are building floor section, others are assembling the partition walls, including those which take plumbing. The finished floor section is moved on specially-designed dollies to the next station where walls are lifted into place. Electricians are then running interior wiring and others are taping and bedding sheetrock interiors, getting them ready for painting and adding insulation.

Other crews install central heat furnaces and molded fiberglass bathtub units. In a sub-assembly section, others are building door and window frames which are dropped into place. Kitchen cabinets are installed at another assembly station. Toward the end of the line, the roof sections go into place.

These roof sections are fabricated in a special jig which enables workmen to install exterior asphalt shingles while other workmen directly under them install ceiling sheet rock and tape and bed joints ready for painting.

At this point, a crane lifts the entire assembly out of the jig, swings it over the main assembly line and lowers it into place on either the "wet" or "dry"

Atkinson Pioneered Homes From Factory

W.P. Bill Atkinson, president of Atkinson Industries, is a pioneer at producing factory homes.



Founder and developer of Midwest City, a bustling city of 50,000 Atkinson was the first builder in the nation to start a sectional housing factory. He built thousands of homes out of this factory in the early days of Midwest City.

"It was during this time that I conceived the idea that one day I would put together the expertise that would come up with a new and revolutionary method of building homes.

side of the house. These terms indicate in which half plumbing fixtures are built. In other words, the "wet" side contains the bath, kitchen, furnace, connections for washers and dryers, while the dry side contains the living room and part of the bedrooms.

All this time, teams are applying paint to interior walls and exterior trim.

At the end of the line, workmen seal the open side of the house section—which is down the center of the house—swivel it into position for loading and raise it on four large hydraulic jacks.

One of the specially designed truck trailers used for transporting the units is backed into position under the half house, the section is lowered into place and it

"My objective was to work out a method that would enable us to use the same or better quality materials that go into conventional stick-built homes with a flexibility and design that we enjoy in conventional building.

"Our goal was to do all of this, yet roll a completed quality home out on the site and be able to brick it and complete flat concrete work, and all within a few days."

This was 25 years ago. The system worked. Techniques learned there have been applied to the Shawnee plant and refined.

Today, the Atkinson Industries can start a home through the factory and have it ready for occupancy in 21 days.

is ready for delivery.

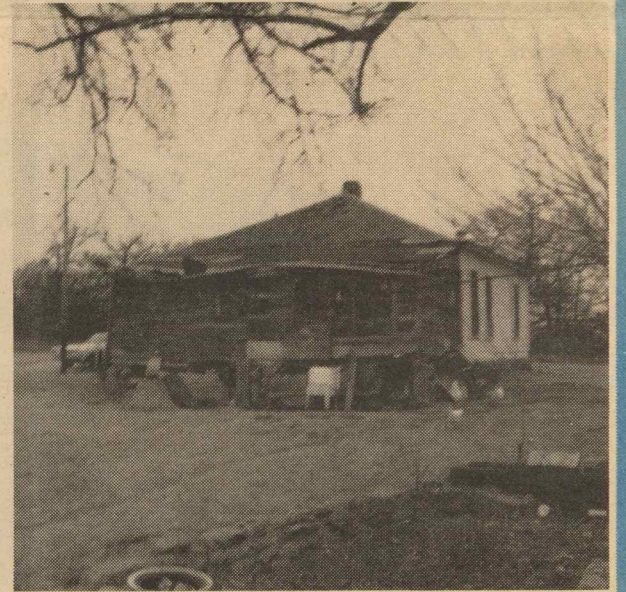
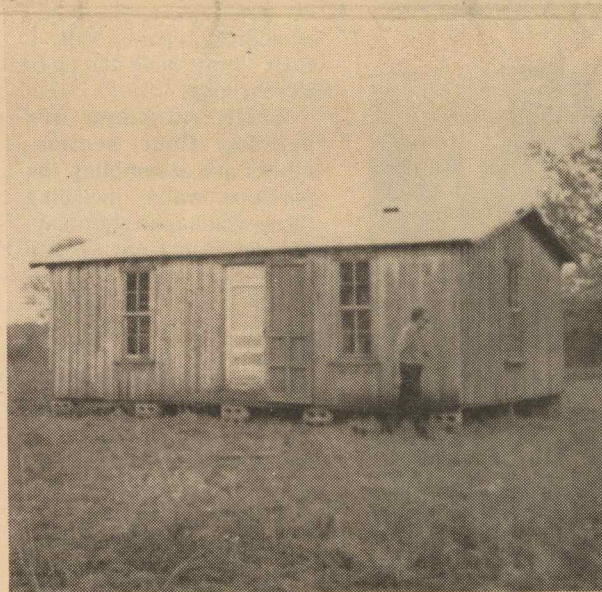
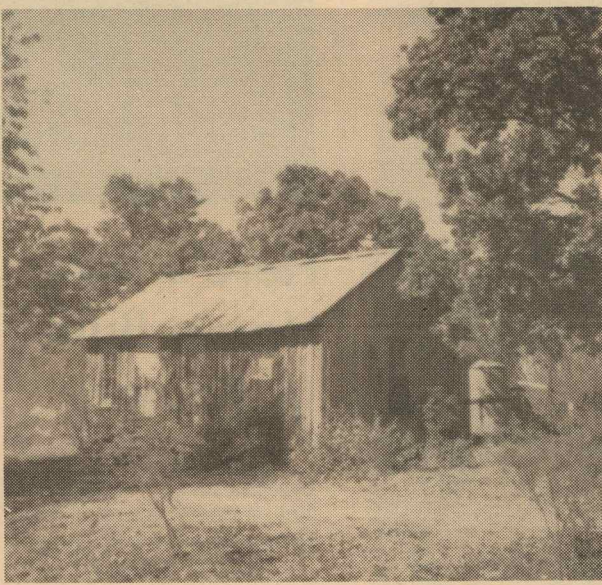
Meanwhile at the site, the foundation has already been prepared. The tractor-trailer drives between the two longer stemwalls of the foundation and by using jacks built into the trailer unit, the housing section is lowered into place and the trailer pulled out from under. The operation is repeated for the other half of the house and both sections are bolted together.

Plumbing is connected, utility services are connected, masons sheathe the house's exterior in brick, a carport is added and the family is ready to move in. A family can move into a house 21 days after it starts through the factory.

From Start To Finish In 21 Days

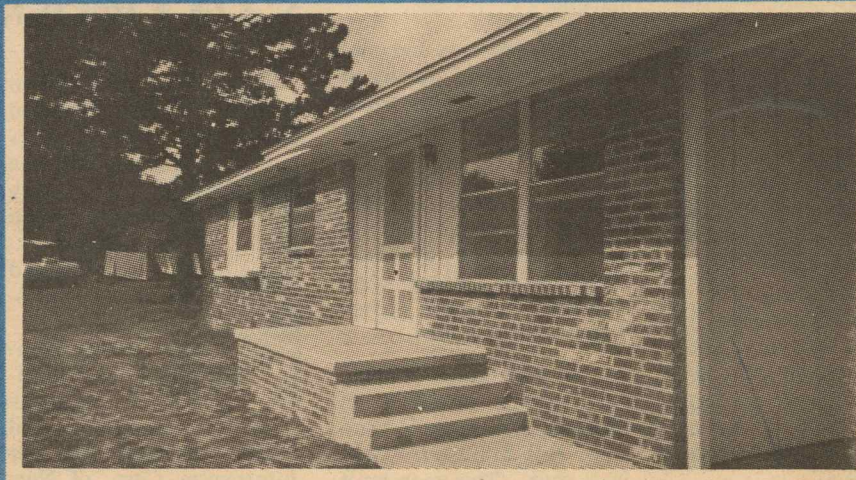
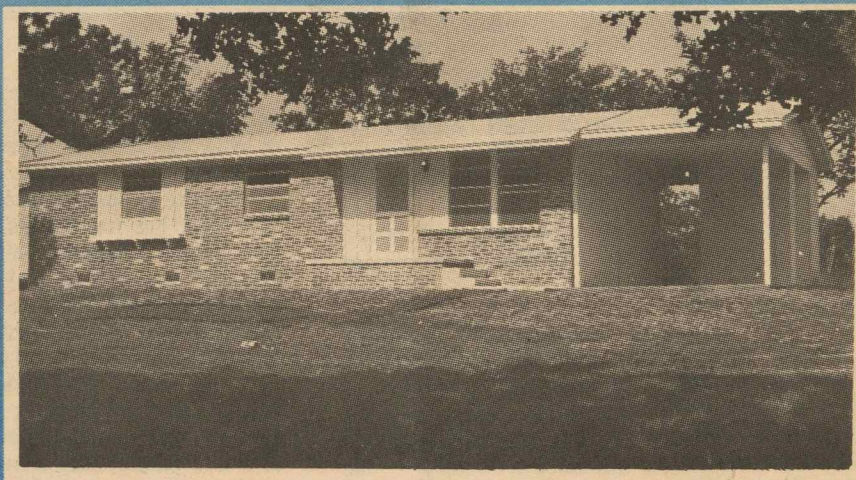
Some Of The Types Of Homes Now Being Occupied By Many OKLAHOMA INDIANS

Pictures From BIA Files



This factory has produced, delivered and completed
at the rate of 500 per year during the last 18 months

Quality Homes For Oklahoma's Indians



Atkinson Heads Management Team For Home Manufacturing

W.P. Bill Atkinson, founder and developer of Midwest City, is president of Atkinson Industries.

He is also president of W.P. Bill Atkinson Enterprises, Inc., the parent company, and founder and publisher of The Oklahoma Journal, a major morning daily newspaper published in Oklahoma City.

Atkinson, a former president of the National Homebuilders Association, is Oklahoma's largest home builder. Last year alone his companies completed more than 1,000 apartment units throughout the state.

Atkinson moved to Oklahoma City in 1928 after graduating with honors from Texas Christian University. In 1935 he accepted an appointment in the journalism department at Oklahoma City University and in 1936 became director of the department, serving for two years.

In 1939 he established his own home building business and by 1942 was Oklahoma City's largest builder. He anticipated the location of Tinker Field and purchased 640 acres of land north of SE 29 where he established Midwest City.

In 1952 Midwest City was awarded the "Blue Ribbon" by the National Home Builders as the best planned city in America of its size. He started a modular home plant during the building of this city.

He was named "Man of the Year" by the national homebuilders in 1956 and served as national president of that organization. He worked in Washington, D.C., for two years directing operations of the builder organization and traveled worldwide studying housing production techniques.

Atkinson has kept his interests varied in industrial, agricultural, political and civic activities designed to build Oklahoma.

He led the drive in Oklahoma County that raised \$1 million for a new Baptist Hospital and brought the famous "Atoms for Peace" exhibit to Oklahoma.

During the administration of Gov. Dewey Bartlett, Atkinson was

named chairman of Oklahoma's "Operation Breakthrough" committee, set up to find new ways of producing quality homes at a rapid rate.

In 1963 he was inducted into Oklahoma's Hall of Fame, a select group of state leaders named for this honor by the Oklahoma Heritage Foundation.

In 1964 he organized and founded The Oklahoma Journal. More than 10,000 Oklahomans own stock in this corporation.

W.P. Bill Atkinson Enterprises, Inc., is now the largest builder in Oklahoma, with interests in shopping centers, land development, housing additions, apartment construction and heavy construction.

Last year the company completed 1,000 apartment units in addition to the production of homes from the modular homes factory at Shawnee.

Atkinson recently announced a huge 900-acre planned development in Northwest Oklahoma City to be known as Quail Springs. The development, with total investment on completion of some \$400 million, will have the largest super regional shopping center in Oklahoma. It will be the size of Penn Square and Shepherd Mall combined. Quail Springs lies adjacent to Quail Creek, one of Oklahoma's most prestigious residential areas.

Atkinson was a pioneer in developing new methods of constructing homes and during the early days of building Midwest City, established a factory — one of the first in the United States — to build sectional housing.

It was a success and concepts pioneered in these early days are now being used in the factory at Shawnee.

He was honored in 1972 by Gov. David Hall and the board of trustees of Oscar Rose Junior College when a student activities center was named for him.

"No man holds a more formidable position in building Oklahoma than W.P. Bill Atkinson," Gov. Hall said. "This man built Midwest City with singular determination, unlimited vision and a force of leadership tempered with

human kindness.

"The reverberations of this man, this leader, have reached far beyond this city and this state, as his influence is nationwide," Gov. Hall said.

He praised Atkinson for fostering "morals, human decency and a sense of

Christian righteousness in our community."

He also praised Atkinson for his "fairness and telling both sides." Gov. Hall noted that they have added to his dimension as an editor and publisher of the truth. He said Atkinson believes in the "virtues of

balance" because "his great newspaper is among the most fair, unbiased and incisive in our nation today."

He praised Atkinson's "deep beliefs, great faith, unswerving courage and abiding love for his fellow man."



W.P. Bill Atkinson



James M. Gregory

Gregory Top Executive

James M. Gregory, executive vice president of W. P. Bill Atkinson Enterprises, Inc., has been associated with Atkinson for 17 years as director of the real estate, construction and land development activities.

Gregory was educated at Oklahoma Baptist University with graduate study in business and finance at American University, Washington, D. C.

For 12 years before joining Atkinson, he was the senior civilian at Tinker Air Force Base as comp-

troller and later deputy for programming.

Gregory received the two highest U. S. Air Force awards for civilian service and was awarded the nation's highest award for civilians, the Arthur S. Fleming Award.

He has been active in civic affairs on state, regional and local levels and has served on the Oklahoma Baptist Foundation board of directors for a number of years.

Wood Is Housing Expert; Jackson Is Plant Manager

B.E. "Jud" Wood, 46, vice president of W.P. Bill Atkinson Industries in charge of all HUD programs, is a veteran housing executive and is considered a leading authority in the field.

Wood, before he came to Atkinson Industries, was executive director of the housing authority of the City of Ada and housing director for the Chickasaw and Seminole Indian Nations of Oklahoma.

"I came to the Atkinson organization because they have been building homes for more than 30 years under the label 'Atkinson Builds Good Homes' and my research has told me they do just that. I'm proud to be part of this organization."

As director of the Chickasaw and Seminole nations' housing programs, Wood was responsible for construction, operation, maintenance and administration of more than 2,000 housing units. At the same time he was executive director of the Ada Housing Authority and is a former city manager.

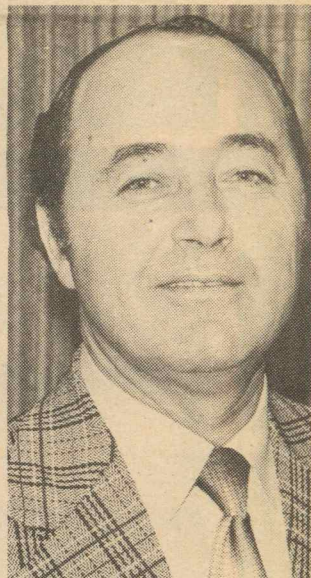
J.R. Jackson, manager of W.P. Bill Atkinson Industries modular home plant at Shawnee, has wide experience in marketing, data management, production and sales.

Before coming to the Atkinson organization in 1972, Jackson was sales manager of the First Data Management Corp. where he was responsible for development of training classes, market research, budget and campaign presentation.

He has also served as assistant manager for planning and control of the Oklahoma City Aero Commander plant, a division of Rockwell Corp.

In this position, he was project administrator on major aircraft production, which included scheduling of all manufacturing operations through a master scheduling group. He also prepared the master operating budgets for the manufacturing division of Aero.

He also served this company as senior systems analyst, general superintendent of material and marketing coordinator. He served in the U.S. Army as a maintenance expert for helicopters before starting his civilian work.



B.E. "Jud" Wood

Cox Heads Production

J.R. Cox, production specialist in the Atkinson Industries factory, is a native of Shawnee who has wide experience in production control and data processing.



Before coming to Atkinson, he was manager and plant manager for the Interceptor Corp. of Norman. In this work, he had total responsibility for all plant operations, including purchasing, production,

planning, scheduling, warehousing and spare parts operation.

Cox is also a former Aero Commander production specialist where he served for five years as manager of production control.

Before this he worked for various aircraft companies including Volaircraft, Inc., of Pennsylvania, Piper of Vero Beach, Fla., Mooney of Kerrville, Tex., and Howard Aero, Inc., of San Antonio, Tex.

In each of these jobs, he was responsible for production and planning.



J.R. Jackson