

The Community of Herbert

Contributed by Gerald Keith

Herbert was a small community located on the Cotton Belt Rail line, northwest of the White City area. It was a refueling station for all locomotives. There was a water tower and three large, 55,000 barrel capacity, oil storage tanks. The station had a telegraph office, since all trains communicated by wire.

Mr. Oscar Allen lived in Herbert. He was in charge of the refueling station and handled the servicing of all the trains. He had a family with several children. Some of the children were Clyde, Alice Marie, and James (Bo) Allen, and possibly others. Mr. Clay Hale worked, occasionally at night in the station's telegraph office and possibly assisted Mr. Allen with the trains, for he later become quite involved with the restoration of trains and steam engines.

The Dumas family also lived in Herbert and there was a rental house located there.