

Claflin, Kansas

A Byway Community



Claflin, Kansas 67525

This small town sits at the geographic center of the state of Kansas. Its geology boasts a legendary vein of limestone, an internationally important wetland for migratory birds, and steadily producing oil fields. Day to day life mixes hard working farmers and hard living oilmen with shoppers who drive long distances to experience Claflin's specialty Main Street, now dedicated to the retail sale of furniture.

Population: 641 (2013 Census)
Website: www.claflinkansas.com

"The roughnecks who drilled the early oil wells around Claflin worked hard and enjoyed a good prank. When local farmers showed up on Sunday afternoons to watch the well, the crew thoughtfully had chairs waiting for them. The electric shock they got was just a bonus!"

- Claflin Storytelling Session
September 2010

Events & Attractions

• Things to See and Do

- Visit WPA Post Rock Bridges - National Historic Register
- Cheer at an Oilers Basketball Game
- Picnic at the City Park – Bailey's Food Bin for Supplies
- Stand at the Geographic Center of Kansas
- Shop for Furniture – Millers of Claflin, Main Street
- Play a Round of Golf – Claflin Gold Club Founded in 1943
- See the 1st Producing Oil Well in Barton County
- Walk the Nature Trails at Camp Aldrich
- Perch on a Pew – Limestone Dubuque Church
- Gaze at the Windows – Odin's Limestone Church

• Notable People

- Volunteer Fire Department and EMS
 - Serving Claflin for over 50 years
- Jackie Stiles - NCAA Division 1 – All Time High Scorer
 - WNBA Rookie of the Year 2001
- Walter J. Hickel - Former Governor of Alaska
 - US Secretary of the Interior
- J.W. Miller - Established Millers of Claflin in 1903

• Local Food

- Lord's Lunch – UMC Church, 1st Sunday of the Month

"Basketball needed places like Claflin during the sport's infancy. It was a country game that was well suited for the wide open spaces of the state. It fit the seasonal routine of farming in the fall and then finding other activities during the harsh winters."

-Kent Babb
The Kansas City Star
03/06/2010

If You Can't Stop, Smile As You Go By!

-Sign on the highway just outside of Claflin

"Cards are played every day except Sunday at Wildcat Pipe & Supply at 6:45 am – prior to everyone's workday."

- claflinkansas.com

In 1920, the Pastime Club was formed by "older men" to play daily pitch and pinochle. The tradition still continues.

"CLAFLIN, Kansas - Rumor has it that oil-field backhoe worker, James Bortz, can pick up a dime in his bucket, or load an egg without breaking it."

- Clara Kilbourn

The Hutchinson News, 02/18/2009

James Bortz celebrates 44 years working the oil fields around Claflin.



Inside the original Millers of Claflin. They carried everything from baby beds to windmills.

Ellinwood/Claflin Chamber of Commerce
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