

McGregor was not one of the early towns. It is, in a manner, the consolidation of three pre-existing older towns, but is today the largest city in the county outside of the Waco metroplex

Comanche Springs was a community center located about two miles west of McGregor, Eagle Springs was four or five miles to the south in Coryell County. The Santa Fe railroad did not go to either community, but in 1880 it established a town called Banks about two miles south of McGregor on Sheep Creek. Marshall Tyson built a store there. Thomas H. Baker was named postmaster, but in 1882 the Cotton Belt, then a narrow gauge railroad, crossed the Santa Fe at the present crossing site. The railroad people soon realized that this junction was a better site for a town and that two towns could hardly succeed so close together. Dr. C. C. McGregor lived in Waco, but he owned considerable land along Harris Creek including a tract with a number of small springs just north and west of the present intersection of Highway 84 and Highway 317. The railroad bought the land from Dr. McGregor and called the location McGregor's Springs. Here they established a new town which was called McGregor Springs. To avoid a conflict they agreed to exchange property with the settlers who had bought lots at Banks, and Tyson moved his store building to the new town. Very soon most of the businesses in Comanche Springs had moved to McGregor, as well as several establishments from Eagle Springs, including the first Baptist Church of McGregor, which was organized at Onion Creek (near Eagle Springs) on November 6, 1858 - twenty-four years before McGregor was established. In 1882 the post office at Banks was closed and a new office with the same postmaster, Thomas H. Baker, was established in McGregor

In 1883, McGregor had a newspaper - *The McGregor Plain Dealer*, published by J.T. Rust. It did not last very long, but since that time McGregor has had four newspapers. All of them were finally absorbed into the *McGregor Herald*, long published by Mr. and Mrs. Chalres B. Hall, and now published by their daughter and her husband, Thomas Mooney.

By 1883 the town had a water well and had dropped the word "Springs" from its name. Previously residents had secured water from the "springs" or from Harris Creek at twenty-five cents per barrel. From that time forward progress was rapid.

Cavitt-Lee Co. , now known as Lee Hardware and operated for the last fifty years by G.W. Lee, Jr. is probably now the oldest business in McGregor.

Across the street Lothar (Poor Ole) Krause has operated the Krause's Drugstore for more than forty years.

Other notes:

ca 188 - Sam Amsler's merchantile store opens

1888 - First National Bank (AJ Sewell president)

McGregor Academy (1883) was first school

had been a grain market since its inception. The McGregor Roller Mills were locate in McGregor in 1889 by R.J. Kirkpatrick asn W.J. Johnson.

Central Texas Grain Co founded 1907 (the two merged later in the year)

McGregor is still an Amtrak station (the only one in the county)