



This is what I'm talking about...being proud of your hometown. This tongue lashing came about from a letter I never even read, but I do know a tongue lashing when I read one.

To the editor:

I must respond to a letter writer in one of last week's issues regarding the growth of Pratt vs. "becoming a ghost town like Cullison, Haviland and Mullinville." I'm all for the growth of Pratt's businesses and population, but I do take issue with the description of "ghost town" in regard to Haviland.

Ma'am, how many decades has it been since you drove up Haviland's Main Street? The view from Highway 54 doesn't even begin to tell the story! You will see Haviland's Farmers' Co-op, Haviland Volunteer Fire Department, Haviland Telephone Company, City Hall and Community Room, RJ's Cafe, the Haviland Branch of the Kiowa County Library, the Laundromat, a very impressive and active convenience store, the nursing home, Haviland State Bank, Senior Citizen housing, an assisted-living facility named "Home Again", two churches, The Kiowa County Hospital Branch Clinic (much needed after the tornado), Barclay College, the Barber Shop (formerly located in Greensburg), and USD #474. Granted the High School enrollment has caused problems with State funding, but that has been resolved for the time being—as it should be—because the school complex, the faculty, the staff and the technology available are exemplary and outstanding. Four generations of my family have graduated from the classrooms in the existing building, starting in 1925.

I'm sure I've failed to list some things because there are so many that I take some of them for granted—like the citizens! When the tornado demolished Greensburg in 2007, every able-bodied citizen of Haviland and Mullinville stepped up to the plate to help in any and every way possible and continued with that assistance for months afterward.

Please drive over there someday and check out each one of these businesses and institutions and I believe you will not see any ghosts there!

Norma E. Jones  
Former Haviland resident