



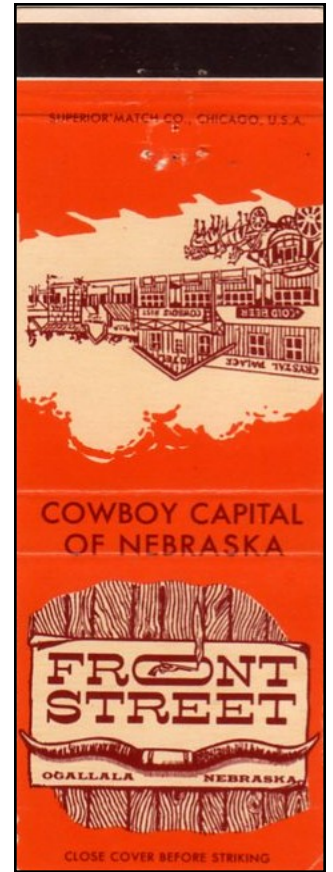
An American Tour: 145



Ogallala's *Front Street*

Front Street is a replica of an old west town located on Highway 30 just north-east of the I-80 interchange, Ogallala, NE. It includes a restaurant, saloon, museum and gift shop behind Old West facades. Its cartoon cowboy sign towers over U.S. Highway 30 across a dusty parking lot from the attraction.

Ogallala was the end of the Western or Texas Trail for cowboys bringing cattle from ranches in western Texas to the Union Pacific Railroad for shipment to Chicago and the Spotted Tail Agency in northwest Nebraska. Approximately seventy-five thousand head of cattle were driven to Ogallala in 1875 and increased to over 100,000 the next year (1876). The 1880 census showed the permanent population of Ogallala to be 114 people. However, from early spring until late fall, the Cowboy Capital hosted a multitude of cowhands, cattle barons, saloon operators, gamblers, dance hall girls, and tradesmen. Ogallala has been labeled as a rough and tumble, wild-west town, perhaps due to the 17 violent deaths recorded during the cattle boom. The Crystal Palace was a real life early saloon.



The Front Street Crystal Palace Revue is in its 56th year, and is the longest running summer stock theater production in Nebraska. An Old West shoot-out and show are performed Thursday through Saturday until July.

