



The Oklahoma Century Chest

OKLAHOMA HISTORY CENTER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

In 1913, members of the First Lutheran Church of Oklahoma City raised funds for the church by selling space in a **time capsule**. They called this capsule “The Century Chest” and buried it in the basement of the church for 100 years, to be opened in April of 2013. The idea of leaving messages and items behind for **future** generations inspired church members and people across Oklahoma City and the state of Oklahoma. Space in the chest was purchased at \$3.00 per inch by individuals, organizations, businesses, tribal governments, and even schools, so we today might know what life was like for our **ancestors** over 100 years ago.

So join us as we examine not only what was inside the chest, but what life was like in Oklahoma, the United States, and the world in 1913. How has life changed in 100 years? How is it the same? What did the people of 1913 think of their lives and times? What do you think of the 1913 we can see with the help of these objects and documents?



The unearthing of the Century Chest, April 22, 2013
(OHS collections).

What is a Time Capsule?

A time capsule is a container of goods or information preserved for people in the future. Time capsules are usually chests or tubes filled with items that are important to the creator and buried or stored in some way so that it does not get damaged. They usually have a description explaining who created the capsule and why, along with the date it was created and when it should be opened. Time capsules can be left for future family members, members of a community, or be left for future historians to explore!

1913 Burial of the Oklahoma Century Chest

On April 22, 1913, a capacity crowd witnessed an extraordinary burial ceremony at the First English Lutheran Church (now the First Lutheran Church of Oklahoma City) at 1300 North Robinson in downtown Oklahoma City. The Oklahoma Century Chest was sealed into the basement floor of the church, not to be opened for 100 years. The contents of the chest were chosen not only to tell the story of 1913 Oklahoma, but to speak directly to the unborn **generations** who were to follow in the footsteps of the pioneers who settled the land known as Oklahoma. The concept for the Century Chest was the idea of Mrs. Virginia Bland Tucker Sohlberg and was originally planned as a fundraiser by the church's Ladies Aid Society to pay for a new church organ. As excitement grew about the Century Chest, the idea evolved first into a city-wide affair to mark the 24th anniversary of the 1889 Land Run, and then it blossomed into a state-wide event.



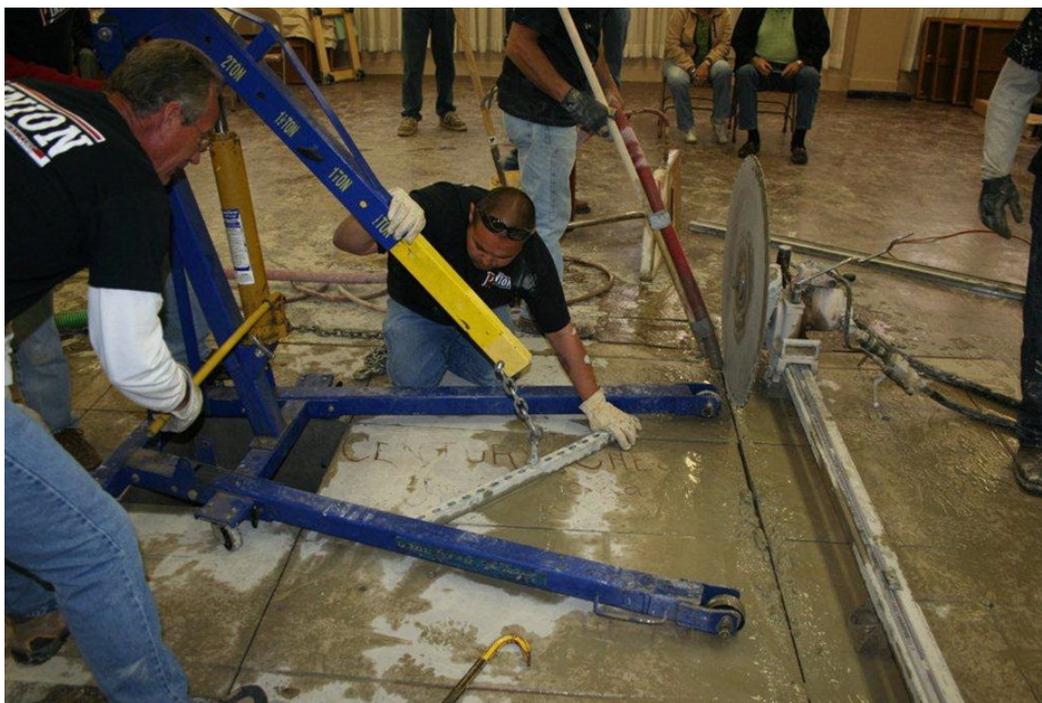
Opening of the chest
(image courtesy of *The Oklahoman*).



Photo of Virginia Bland Tucker Sohlberg, who came up with the idea for a time capsule or “Century Chest.” She died a few months after the chest was buried. Her photo and book of poems are currently on display at the Oklahoma History Center (OHS collections).

2013 Excavation of the Oklahoma Century Chest

On April 1, 2013, the Oklahoma Century Chest was excavated from the basement of the church. The excavation began with the help of the Oklahoma Archeological Survey who used state-of-the-art ground penetrating radar to help locate the position of the underground vault. Next, holes were drilled and a miniature digital camera mapped out more detail of the burial chamber and, finally, after more than eight hours of work the Pinion Design and Contracting Company of Oklahoma City removed the 100-year-old time capsule from its resting place.



Excavation of the Century Chest (image courtesy of *The Oklahoman*).

2013 Opening of the Oklahoma Century Chest

On Monday, April 22, 2013, at 10 a.m., the First Lutheran Church of Oklahoma City opened the Oklahoma Century Chest which generations of its members have been dutifully protecting and remembering since that long ago day in April of 1913. In the same sanctuary in which the 1913 ceremony took place, the Century Chest was opened, the same organ played tuneful notes, and the spirits of 1913 Oklahoma awoke just the way the pioneers of Oklahoma had planned it a century ago. Visitors at the church stood over and examined the double-cement walls which protected the burial vault. The concrete vault was said to be water-proof, germ-proof, and ghoulish-proof. E. O. Parsons Cement Company of Oklahoma City constructed the vault and outer cement walls to specifications of the church to guard against destruction from fire or tornado. Inside the cement burial vault resting on a specially-built inner chamber was the copper Century Chest. Just as planned, the chest stood the test of time and just as planned protected the treasure trove of Oklahoma history for a new generation to enjoy. Outside of the church a large tent was erected to accommodate the overflowing crowd. OETA Public Television streamed the event live on its website so Oklahoma schoolchildren and anyone around the world could take part in this once-in-a-lifetime event.

[Watch a video about the century chest](#)

Then and Now

America has changed dramatically over the last 100 years. Let's look at the world then and now.

Sports

In 1913, sports were starting to become a national obsession in the United States. Most teams only played locally. Unless they attended the games personally, people heard about their favorite teams' victories and losses by word-of-mouth or the **newspapers**, as there were no televisions or broadcast radio stations. Uniforms were very different, and players wore little safety equipment.

Basketball



Bennie Owen (image courtesy of the *Tulsa World*).

In 1913, there was not a National Basketball Association and, of course, no Oklahoma City Thunder. The University of Oklahoma (OU) and the Oklahoma A&M basketball teams did not belong to any conferences, but OU went 7-1 and Oklahoma A&M went 3-6 in 1913. Bennie Owen coached the OU basketball, baseball, and football teams between 1905 and 1926.

Baseball



Jim Thorpe (image courtesy of the Library of Congress).

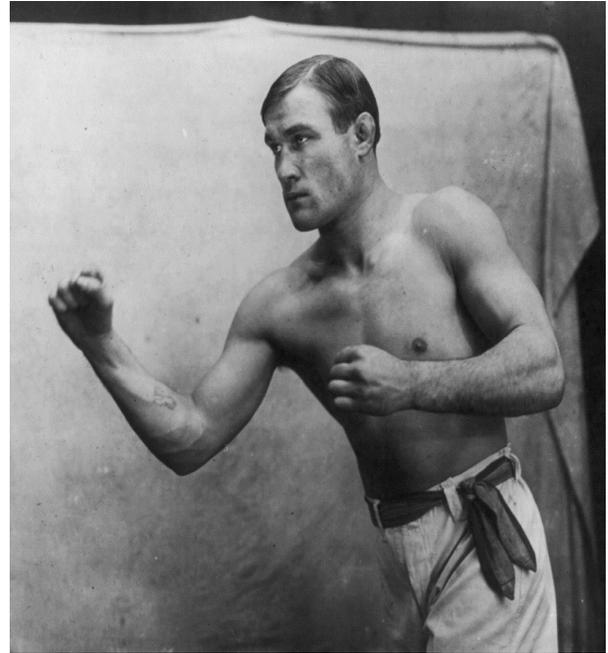
In 1913 Major League Baseball had only sixteen teams in eight states. The Brooklyn Dodgers played in Ebbets Field for the first time. The Philadelphia Athletics beat the New York Giants in the 1913 World Series, four games to one. Jim Thorpe joined the New York Giants as an outfielder and played with them for three years.

Football



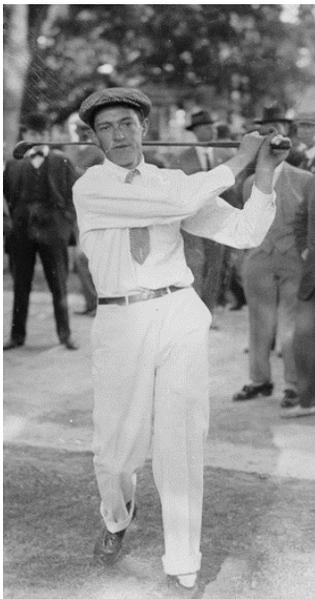
In 1913 there was no National Football League, and it was the first year that the forward pass was used effectively in a game. Notre Dame's Knute Rockne used it to defeat the Army Black Knights. This game increased the popularity of the forward pass, which is now essential to an effective football strategy. The College National Champion of 1913 was the Harvard Crimson. The University of Oklahoma's team went 6-2, beating Oklahoma A&M 7-0 in the fourth Bedlam game. The Oklahoma A&M Aggies went 4-3. This picture, from the 1915 Texas v. OU game, shows how football players dressed back then, with little padding and optional leather helmets (image from the University of Oklahoma's 1916 Sooner Yearbook).

Boxing



Frank Klaus. In 1913 a German-American boxer named Frank Klaus won the first Middleweight world title granted since 1910. Today, American boxers hold eight of seventeen world boxing titles (image courtesy of the Library of Congress).

Golf



Francis Ouimet became the first amateur to win the US Open in 1913 (image courtesy of the Library of Congress).

Soccer



On April 5, 1913, the United States Football (today, soccer) Association formed as the first member organization of the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), from North and Central America. Brooklyn Celtic was one of the first FIFA sanctioned teams in the United States. This is their team from the 1912-13 season (image courtesy of the International Soccer Archives).

Hockey



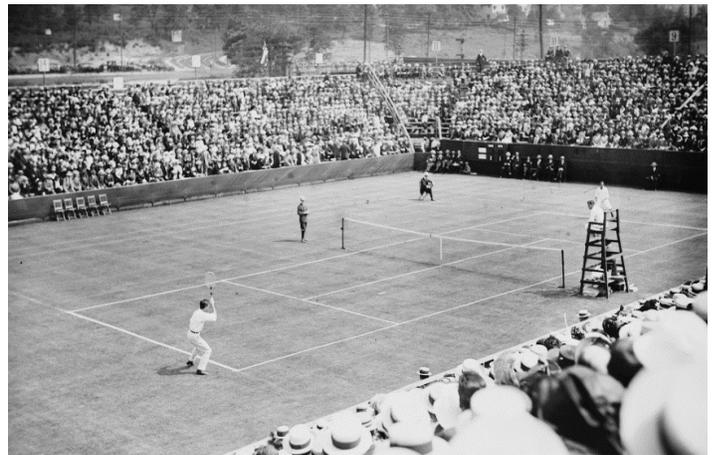
The Quebec Bulldogs won the second Stanley Cup in 1913. They also won the first Stanley Cup the year before. This was prior to the National Hockey League, and the Stanley Cup was awarded in a contest between three teams: the Montreal Wanderers, the Montreal Canadians, and the Quebec Bulldogs (image courtesy of the Hockey Hall of Fame).

Racing



In 1913 the Indy 500 was only three years old. Number 16, a Frenchman named Jules Goux, won the race in a Peugeot L76. There was no NASCAR, and a national NASCAR cup was not awarded until 1949 (image courtesy of *The Old Motor*).

Tennis



The US Tennis Team won the Davis Cup in 1913 defeating Great Britain three matches to two (image courtesy of the Library of Congress).



1912 was the year of the First Annual Road Race of the Oklahoma City Motorcycle Club. Participants raced their bikes for four laps around Grand Avenue, which equaled a total distance of 113 miles. This photograph was found in the Century Chest (Oklahoma Century Chest Collection, OHS).

School

More Americans go to school today than in 1913. Back then, only about half of all children in America were enrolled in school, while today almost all children are enrolled. This is partly because of the expansion of access to public school past the 8th grade and the passage of child labor laws. Today, jobs require much more education and technical knowledge. A college education is also more affordable today than it was in 1913. This means that about nine out of ten Americans in 2013 had a high school diploma, and almost three out of ten had a **bachelor's degree** or higher.

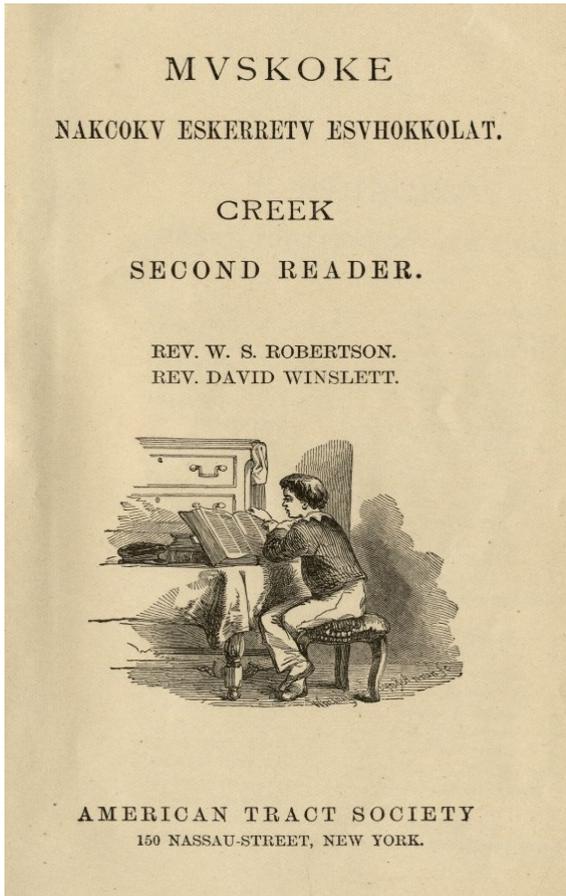
Aside from how few people were getting an education, school in 1913 looked very different from school today. At that time, most children in Oklahoma attended small rural schools, some even in one-room schoolhouses. In the one-room schoolhouse, children of all ages were in the same classroom and the older students helped the teacher in educating the younger students. These schools were small and local, meaning the schools generally had few students from the nearest towns. Starting in 1919, many of the small rural schools consolidated into larger schools that served a larger number of students.



Schools in 1913 focused on classical education in subjects like art as well as the basics. This drawing by Joanna Schaefer and was found in the Century Chest (Oklahoma Century Chest Collection, OHS).



Joanna and Marlene Schaefer, ages eight and seven, were elementary students in 1913. This picture was found in the Century Chest (Oklahoma Century Chest Collection, OHS).



Most basic education focused on reading, writing, and arithmetic, using books like this reader from the Creek Nation Schools to aid in instruction. This book was found in the Century Chest (Oklahoma Century Chest Collection, OHS).



Central High School was Oklahoma City's first high school and was built in 1910. Not many people attended high school 100 years ago, as only 12 percent of Americans had graduated with a diploma in 1913. Most children began working sometime during middle school and many never finished. (OHS collections).



The University of Oklahoma experienced some firsts in 1913 as well. In 1913 these women are the first nurses to work at the University's medical school and hospital. Universities were very expensive, and only 2 percent of US citizens had a bachelor's degree or higher (OHS collections).



Schools were not allowed to use motorized transportation to pick up students in Oklahoma until a bill was passed in 1919. These children are arriving at school in Fillmore, Oklahoma, in 1918 (OHS collections).

Transportation

With the advent of the **automobile**, transportation was beginning to change in America by 1913. Cars were still rare. Henry Ford did not perfect **mass production** until the end of 1913, so cars were still too **expensive** for most families. The United States of 1913 had about eight horses or mules for every person that lives in Oklahoma today. In fact, there were so many horses in America that most cities had employees whose only job was the collection and disposal of horse manure. Most individuals traveled by public transportation, such as **trolley** cars and trains, or they walked as most major cities spread no further from downtown than two miles in any direction. Most goods were transported across the country by rail and then delivered to their destination by horse and wagon.



Freight trucks were not affordable or popular until the 1920s. In fact, most people moved goods over short distances by horse and wagon in 1913. That is why freight truck drivers are still called “teamsters,” even though they no longer drive teams of horses. This man is delivering milk to Tulsa residents (OHS collections).



In 1913, cars were still too expensive for most people to own. If someone had to travel further than they could walk in a day, they usually used the Oklahoma City Interurban Rail. These trolleys connected Oklahoma City to surrounding cities like Yukon, Edmond, or Norman. This trolley is getting ready to leave El Reno for Oklahoma City (OHS collections).



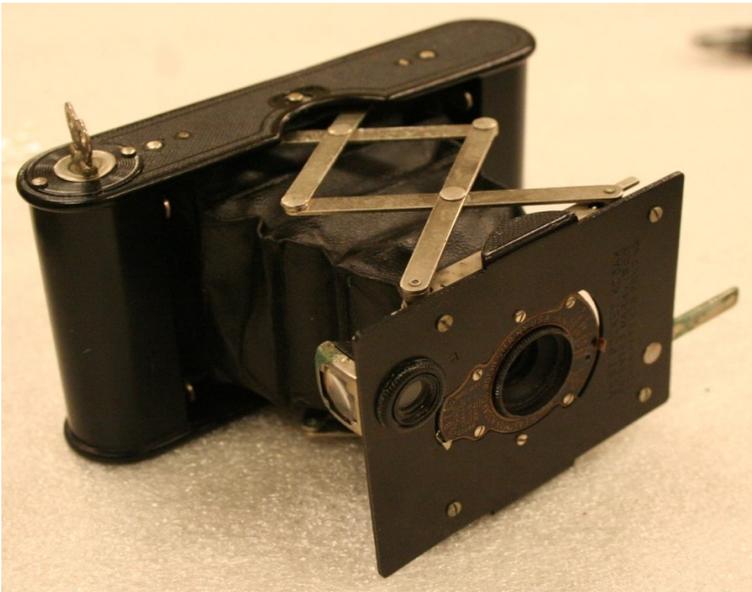
The Ford Model T was the most popular car in America in 1913. The Model T was reliable and cheap, and 180,000 were sold in 1913. In 1915, the cost of a Model T dropped from \$550 to \$440, which meant a Ford factory worker could buy a Model T using four-months-pay. By 1920, the Model T cost only \$260, and by 1927, Ford sold 15 million Model T's, making it the most popular car model in world history (image courtesy of the Henry Ford Museum).

Communication and Entertainment

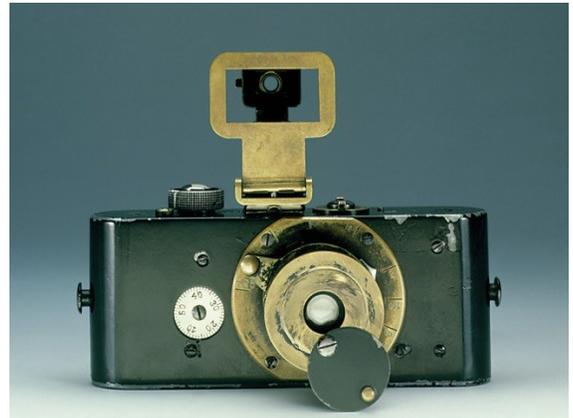
An important part of history over the last 100 years has been the **invention** and use of new and innovative ways to communicate. The ways that Americans communicate with one another have changed greatly since 1913. Cameras, phones, radios, music players, and even letters have all seen advances in technology since 1913.

Cameras

One thing which has not changed in 100 years is how popular **photography** is in America. By 1913, photography was very similar to photography today, and most Americans had access to a camera. The Kodak Company sold two of the most popular cameras in America, the Folding or Vest Pocket Camera and the Brownie Camera. The Brownie camera was an **inexpensive** camera with a body made of cardboard. The Brownie No. 1 cost only \$1.00 in 1913, so even a child could afford to buy one.



The Vest Pocket Camera was **convenient** and allowed you to take photos quickly almost anywhere. This camera was placed in the Century Chest and removed in 2013. It is about the size of a large modern cellular phone. The Vest Pocket Camera was smaller than the Folding Pocket Camera and sold for \$6 (Oklahoma Century Chest Collection, OHS).



Oscar Barnack invented the Ur-Leica, the world's first 35mm camera, in 1913. When World War I began, his work on 35mm cameras was postponed until after the war, so the Leica was not in production until the 1920s. Eventually 35mm **film** became the gold standard in photography and still affects camera design today (image courtesy of the Madison Media Institute).

Telephones

In 1913, the telephone was just starting to become the popular way for people to communicate. Using the telephone included strict rules of etiquette that dictated when it was allowable to interrupt another person's call, and what procedure you had to use to make a call and end a call. All phone calls went through an **operator** and calling across the country meant connecting through several operators.

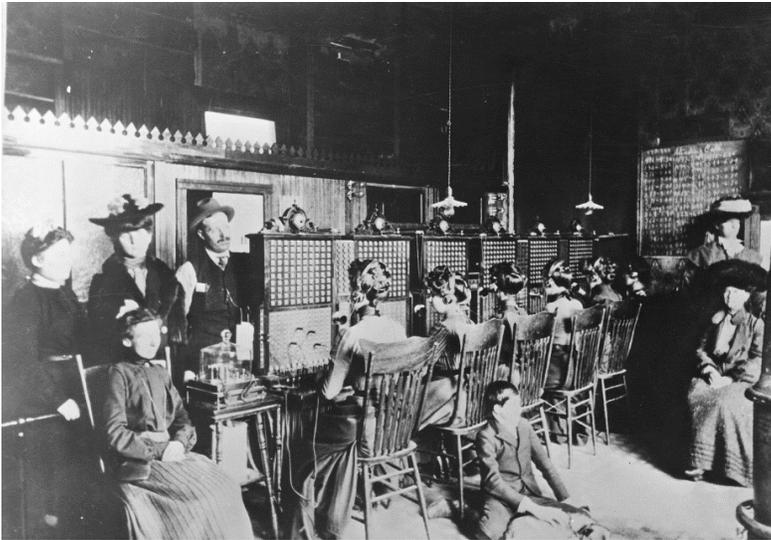
There are many homes today which also do not have a landline phone, like in 1913, but that is because many people today only use cellular phones. While the telephone of 1913 was more of a **luxury** than a **necessity**, there are now more cellular phones in the United States than there are people. People can make direct phone calls on private lines to locations all around the world without going through operators. The technology used to route phone calls to the right phone is automated and no longer relies on **switchboard** operators.



This is the Pioneer Telephone and Telegraph Company building in Oklahoma City, ca. 1907. Eventually, Pioneer and three other companies in Oklahoma joined together to become Southwestern Bell. The Pioneer Building, as it's called, is still on the corner of NW 3rd and Broadway in downtown Oklahoma City (OHS collections).



This panoramic photograph of downtown Oklahoma City was found in the Century Chest. The photograph was taken from the roof of the Pioneer Telegraph and Telephone company building, looking south, at the intersection of NW 3rd and Broadway, in 1913 (Oklahoma Century Chest Collection, OHS).



In 1913, phones did not connect calls automatically. You had to call the switchboard operator, who would then connect you to the person you wanted to call. If you were calling long distance, like from Oklahoma City to Tulsa, then the operator would have to connect you to the Tulsa operator, who then connected your call. Switchboard operators were generally women, and states had many different switchboards. By 1913, Oklahoma had over 800 different switchboard exchanges (OHS collections).



This telephone, which was in the Century Chest, is a desk phone from 1913. It has no dialer, so you clicked the receiver hook a set number of times to notify the operator that you wished to make a phone call. When you were done, you clicked the same hook in a similar pattern and then hung up (Oklahoma Century Chest Collection, OHS).



This is a wall-mounted phone, similar to the desk phone. This type of phone was an older model and more affordable. Many people in 1913 still couldn't afford a phone, and when they got a phone many people used a party line to save money. A party line is a phone line shared by you and your neighbors. This means that when your neighbors are on the phone, you can't make a call. It also means that sneaky people can listen in on your phone calls without you knowing. Party lines were much cheaper than private lines though, so many people had party lines into the late 1960s (image courtesy of the Pioneer Heritage Townsite Center).

RATES FOR THREE MINUTES CONVERSATION			
Proportional Charge for Each Additional Minute or Fractional Part Thereof			
3-Minute Rate	3-Minute Rate	3-Minute Rate	3-Minute Rate
Stratford35	Tipton65	Wagoner75	Wetstone25
Streeter45	Tishomingo60	Wainwright60	Westheimer &55
Stringtown70	Togo60	Walmart60	White Ranch50
Stroud35	Tonkawa55	Wakita60	Westville30
Stuart55	Tribby30	Walling35	Wetumka50
Sugden60	Trosdale35	Wallville35	Wewoka40
Sulphur45	Troy50	Walter45	Wheatland15
Sumner40	Tryon30	Wanette35	Wheeler40
Swan45	Tulahasse65	Wann15	White Oak25
Swink55	Tulsa60	Wasanucka60	Whitehead25
	Tupelo50	Warner15	Wilburton75
	Tuskala65	Warren60	Williams45
	Tuttle20	Washington25	Williams'40
	Twitchell75	Washita40	Ranch80
Tabler30		Waterloo20	Willow75
Taft55		Watonga40	Wister95
Talequah85		Watova75	Witteville35
Talala75	Union25	Wauhillau85	Womack25
Talibina55	Utica75	Wauhillau85	Woodford50
Tamaha30		Club House85	Woodville70
Tanahala50		Waukomis45	Woodward75
Tangier75		Waurika55	Wyandotte95
Tate45		Wayne30	Wybark70
Tatums45	Valliant95	Waynoka70	Wynnewood40
Taylor60	VanFleet85	Weatherford40	Wynona85
Tecumseh30	VanOss35	Webber Falls80	
Temple60	Vera65	Webster's35	
Terken50	Verden35	Crush45	Yahola85
Terral60	Verdigris70	Yale45	Yale40
Texmo50	Vian80	Wecharly50	Yarnaby15
Texola75	Vici55	Welch95	Yeager45
Thackerville65	Vinita85	Weleetka85	
Thomas45	Vinson80	Welling85	

This is part of the 1913 Oklahoma City **phone book** found in the Century Chest. It lists how much a long distance phone call would cost to various cities from a home in Oklahoma City. For example, a three minute phone call to Tulsa cost \$0.60. At this time when the average wage for an unskilled worker in America was around \$0.15/hour, so a person would have to work four hours to pay for a three-minute call to Tulsa in 1913 (Oklahoma Century Chest Collection, OHS).

Letters

In 1913, it was common for people to write letters back and forth with family, friends, and acquaintances. In fact, due to the unreliability and expense of phone calls, most people made all of their long distance communications by letter. For example, a three-minute phone call from Oklahoma City to Tulsa cost \$0.60 while a letter cost \$0.02, and when the average worker earned \$0.15 an hour, a letter was a much better option. People wrote letters about daily activities, special events, sometimes even what the weather was like the last week.



1913 was the first year the Post Office offered “**parcel post**,” or the shipping of packages. It cost \$0.15 for parcels under 50 pounds. For a few people, this led to some ingenious ways for children to visit family. Between 1913 and 1915, seven children were mailed to relatives; one girl was mailed from Pensacola, Florida, to Christainburg, Virginia. The Inspector General began an investigation in 1915, and that was the end of “child-mailing.” Many people found the idea humorous and took pictures like this one with their child and local mail carrier (image courtesy of the Smithsonian Institution).



Frank P. Johnson was a banker in Oklahoma City in 1913. His contribution to the Century Chest was a letter drafted to the current president of the American National Bank. In the letter he predicts the end of traditional mail: “**correspondence** will be conducted instantaneously by electrical means” (OHS collections).

Now for my prophecies! Where I am wrong indulge in a friendly laugh, and where I am right tell the cashier that your predecessor was some guesser. You know all bank presidents even in your time are guessers and he who guesses best holds his job the longest.

This letter will not interrupt the opening of your morning mail for the very good reason that you will have no morning mail, or not much. Your distant correspondence will be conducted instantaneously by electrical means all through business hours and only letters with document enclosures will come to you by the slower-moving mails.

An excerpt from Mr. Johnson’s letter, taken from the Century Chest, where he predicts the rise of electronic mail (Oklahoma Century Chest Collection, OHS).

Music

While musical styles have changed in 100 years, people loved music no less in 1913 than they do today. The most popular song of 1913 was “When Irish Eyes Are Smiling,” as recorded by Mr. Chauncey Olcott. The biggest difference between today and 1913 is that **records** and live performances were the only means of listening to music in 1913. Today, people listen to music on radios, computers, phones, tablets, personal mp3 players, and CD players. Some people still listen to music on records, cassette tapes, and even 8-track tapes, but this is rare.



Chauncey Olcott, the most popular recording artist of 1913 (image courtesy of the Library of Congress).



This is an Edison Record Player found in the Oklahoma Century Chest. The first records made were on hollow, wax cylinders. The record needle rides the ridges on the cylinder and, as it goes up and down, bumps against a thin fabric. The frequency of the bumps creates different sounds and makes music. Your ear works this same way, except with tiny bones and membranes rather than needles and fabric. Also, all speakers today work in much the same way, except with magnets and fabric rather than needles (Oklahoma Century Chest Collection, OHS).

For many people in 1913, buying music records was expensive but attending live performances were cheap. Many workers around the world enjoyed operas and concerts for entertainment. In 1913, Igor Stravinsky premiered a new ballet, *The Rite of Spring*. This ballet is considered one of the first pieces of modern music, and was so different that it caused a riot to break out at its first performance. Today, *The Rite of Spring* is one of the most influential musical compositions from the twentieth century.



The 'knock-kneed' Lolitas of the original *The Rite of Spring* (image courtesy of the *The Guardian*).



Igor Stravinsky, ca. 1910 (image courtesy of the Library of Congress).

Clothing

Clothing has changed a lot in the last 100 years. For example, the belt was not common in 1913, so most pants had no belt loops, and men used **bracers** or suspenders to hold up their pants. Clothes were just beginning to be sold “**ready-to-wear,**” which meant you could buy a dress or jacket and wear it out of the store with little or no tailoring. The best clothes were still handmade. Most people owned few sets of clothes, maybe only two to three sets of pants, vests, and jackets, but had many plain shirts to change throughout hot days. This is part of the reason many old homes built in the 1910s have very little closet space.



Le Costume Royal was a **fashion** magazine printed in New York City. It showed the latest fashions that a movie star or socialite might wear. Unlike fashion magazines today, though, this magazine was full of patterns for seamstresses and dressmakers to use and not just pictures of the finished product. These dresses still follow the cultural norms of the day; long skirts and a hat were required, as well as long sleeves. This image is from a copy of the magazine found in the Century Chest (Oklahoma Century Chest Collection, OHS).



This outfit, found in the Century Chest, is an example of popular Spring fashion from 1913 (Oklahoma Century Chest Collection, OHS).

THE WELL DRESSED MAN

A Brief Autumn Visit to the Country



Soft colored flannel shirt and collar

SOME few days ago I accepted an invitation to spend the week end with a friend at his half year home which rests in a lovely land within two hours by motor from New York. I have concluded to take him, together with the men who were his guests, and what they wore at this time of the year, in the country, as the text of my paper.

By rail I reached the village of R— and was met at the station by my friend. It is a theory of mine that in small details and when they are off guard, that men show their real selves. As I observed my friend's clothes this thought came forcibly to me. Everything he had on was quite right from the soft hat of dark brown fuzzy felt to the heavy soled soft leg boots. The blue linen, slightly starched stock was tied correctly and held by a platinum safety pin. The great coat made double-breasted was of material that was light in weight, yet warm. It was a country coat, hanging full with wide collar, and cuffs that could be buttoned down tight around the wrists. It was a rational coat for motoring in these days which have the first cool touch of autumn. The *tout ensemble* showed the hand of a well trained servant and a master who is careful and knows.

A MILE or more through a pearl gray mist which hung in trees of a thousand colors and as the sun said good-night we drew up in front of the house. Within were many whom I knew, others whom I had never seen before.

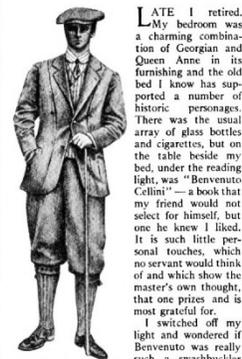


A country coat that hangs full, with wide collar and cuffs that may be used

The great room with its linen paneling, the screen, the high mantel framing the burning logs, and the comfortable placing of everything, brought back pictures of autumns in a far away land.

Over Scotch and soda we talked a bit before crossing for dinner. I could not help thinking how well groomed these men looked. They had been there through the day; they were costumed for the country and for sport. The dinner I shall not dwell on. A man's party is a stupid affair at best, and I shall hope for applause from the ladies in the gallery. The men were in evening clothes, jacket suits, double and single breasted. The waist-coats were white or

black exposing much of the stiff-bosomed shirts. I saw no double collars worn with these clothes for the evening. There was either the plain, standing collar which lapped or was broken in front, or the bold winged collar—all worn with the black tie. I saw only plain, black silk socks above the low shoes or pumps. The jewelry was simple; in one or two instances perhaps, very beautiful in its simplicity.



A plated jacket and knickerbockers of brown India homespun; soft wool waist-coat and stockings

IT WAS a hasty bath and a hasty dressing, and I was shortly in the breakfast room, ready for a long breakfast. The day offered everything. Outside I could hear, "Take an ace," then "Fifteen-love,"—evidently men were already at tennis, men in white flannels, men in gray flannels, with heavy, wool socks, and white shoes on the feet, and I saw men playing in soft, fleecy sweaters of brilliant colors. Even with the renewed zest for this game I find no waning in the number of golf enthusiasts. The links adjacent to our house proved this by the numerous devotees already out and by those waiting.

I noticed, too, the creeping in of customs and fashions in the apparel for this sport that were lightly spoken of last year, but which today are quite common. A year ago, even at this season, one would not have seen many men wearing jackets while golfing; to-day the etiquette on this point is observed here

and one finds but few men on any links of prominence without the jacket while in play.

KNICKERBOCKERS have come back, and the tassel on the end of the garter which is exposed below the turn-down of the stocking is no longer a source of amusement. I should say the best looking golf suits I saw were of India homespun in various shades of brown, and Shetland homespun which showed bold weaves in black and white, and brown and white. There were jackets of these stuffs which had plaits in front holding perpendicular pockets, and great side pockets below. Across the back only, at the natural waistline, was a strap which held the fulness at the waist in small plaits. I saw many in the full knickerbockers or bags that strap below the knee wearing plain, sacque jackets, but even if these jackets were the ordinary sacque or of the Norfolk type, they were made properly. They did not have the roomy effect that some men seem to feel is necessary, but fitted close up under the arm so that they would stay in place with any movement of the body. The coarse wool stockings in game-feather mixtures reflected the colors of the stuffs in darker shades. The stout shoes in black and in brown in many cases had the full brogan finish and hanging-over slashed tongues.

THERE in the Country Club were men in smart looking tweed sacques and ditto breeches with the buttons placed to the inside of the knee bone, and soft legged boots; others in homespun, the India homespun I have mentioned, with buttoned cloth leggings and laced boots. I saw others too, wearing Jodhpore trousers. These trousers for the saddle seem to be having a great popularity. They look well if cut properly (this means so they do not twist or crawl up), when worn with a smart jacket, and by the right man.

With the colored shirts were worn colored collars and this seems appropriate for country use. My host's neck dress had the usual exactness—white shirt with black stripes, the low turned down collar showing the stripes around as on the single cuff and across the plaited bosom of the shirt. He wore a solid black scarf and the same safety-pin he had used in his stock the day before. With the flannel and silk shirts that had soft collars of the same stuff, held with bar pins.



Colored linen shirt with low turned down collar attached



Fall brogue shoe with overhanging slashed tongue



Two button saddle jacket, Jodhpore trousers and Blucher boots



This boy's suit from 1913 was found in the Century Chest. Notice how the trousers have no belt loops; they have buttons for braces instead (Oklahoma Century Chest Collection, OHS).

Men's clothing in 1913 required a nice shirt, tie, vest, and hat. A man could wear trousers or **knickers** (short pants tucked into socks). Even school-aged boys dressed in similar styles, though work clothes would also be appropriate in rural areas. Men were required to wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts all year long. No person went outdoors without a hat as well (image courtesy of Hathi Trust Digital Library).

Biographies

Jim Thorpe



Jim Thorpe at the 1912 Olympics (image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons).

Jim Thorpe, born on May 28, 1888, near the town of Prague, Indian Territory, is arguably the greatest of the twentieth century. Born to Hiram Thorpe and Charlotte Vieux Thorpe, Jim had a twin brother named Charles who died when he was eight. He spent his childhood at various schools: the Sac and Fox Indian Agency School, the Haskell Institute, and finally at the Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania.

At Carlisle, Thorpe played football and ran track, both under the famous coach Glenn S. “Pop” Warner. He also met his first wife, Iva Miller, at Carlisle, and they married in 1913. During the summers of 1909 and 1910, Thorpe played baseball in a semiprofessional league in North Carolina. He returned to Carlisle and became a first-team All-American selection in 1911 and 1912. Many sportswriters consider him the best football player of this era.

In 1912, Jim Thorpe competed at the fifth modern Olympic Games. He competed in the high jump and long jump, and won gold medals in the pentathlon and decathlon. His performance at the 1912 Olympics was beyond excellent. He won four events and placed in the top ten in two others, a feat that no athlete has since equaled. Controversy followed Thorpe home, though. In January of 1913, a news story broke detailing his participation in semiprofessional baseball during 1909 and 1910. According to the Olympic rules of the day, this disqualified him from amateur

status and participation in the Olympics. The International Olympic Committee stripped Thorpe of his medals and struck his record-setting performance from the books.

Jim Thorpe did not let this stop him. In 1913 he joined the New York Giants as an outfielder and played Major League Baseball until 1919. At the same time, from 1915 to 1928, Thorpe played football; first, for the Canton Bulldogs, and then for teams in Cleveland, Rock Island, and New York. In 1920, he became the first president of the National Football League. For two years, in 1927 and 1928, there is also evidence that Jim Thorpe played professional basketball on a traveling all-American Indian team.

Jim Thorpe eventually retired from sports and traveled to Hollywood to act in film. He was an actor in at least seventy films, mostly as an extra. By the end of his life, Thorpe had been married three times and had seven children. He was a world-record track star; a professional football, baseball, and basketball player; and a Hollywood actor. Jim Thorpe passed away from heart failure in 1953, but his story doesn’t end there. In 1982, the International Olympic Committee reinstated Thorpe’s medals, though they did not do the same for his records from those events, so he is listed as co-champion of the decathlon in 1912 despite having scored 688 more points than the silver medalist. In 1999 and 2000, ESPN and ABC World Sports, respectively, named Jim Thorpe the Athlete of the Century for the twentieth century.

Robert L. Owen



Robert L. Owen, 1907 (OHS collections).

Robert Latham Owen was born in Lynchburg, Virginia, in 1856. His father was president of a railroad company, and his mother was Cherokee, originally from Indian Territory. Robert attended school in Virginia and Baltimore, eventually receiving a master's degree from Washington and Lee University in 1877. In 1879, his father died unexpectedly, and Robert and his mother returned to Indian Territory. While there, he became the secretary of the Cherokee Board of Education and studied law.

After passing the bar, officials appointed Robert the head of the Union Agency of the Five Tribes. During this time, Owen practiced law and edited the *Vinita Indian Chieftain*. He argued many of his cases on behalf of the Five Tribes. He argued one of those cases, the "Eastern Cherokee" case, before the US Supreme Court and the decision awarded millions of dollars to members of the Cherokee tribe.

In 1890, Owen established the First National Bank of Muskogee and served as its president until 1900. It was during this time that he witnessed the problems associated with the Panic of 1893, which reinforced his belief in national banking reform. Owen began working with other politicians in Indian Territory on banking reform measures designed to prevent panics in 1896. Owen also worked to create a state for Indian Territory separate from Oklahoma and attended the Sequoyah Convention of 1905 and the Oklahoma Constitutional Convention.

Owen ran for an Oklahoma senate seat after statehood in 1907. He received the most votes out of all the candidates and became one of Oklahoma's first senators as well as one of the nation's first senators of American Indian descent. Senator Owen went on to help create the Senate Banking Committee and served as its first chairperson. Owen also led on issues like child labor reform, women's **suffrage**, prohibition, and the direct election of senators.

In 1913 Owen helped co-sponsor a bill that became the Federal Reserve Act. Owen sponsored the bill in the Senate, while Congressman Glass from Virginia sponsored the bill in the House. Owen led the debate in the Senate, and the bill was passed on December 18, 1913, by a vote of 54-34.

Owen had many other political victories, including the passage of the Child Labor Law of 1916, but retired in 1925. He remained in Washington, DC as a lawyer and lobbyist, voicing his opinions on how to stimulate the economy throughout the Great Depression. Robert L. Owen died of surgical complications on July 19, 1947, at the age of 91. He is remembered as a respected and influential politician on a state and national level.

Myrtle Archer McDougal



Myrtle McDougal, standing on the left, with the leaders of the democratic women's committee in Washington, DC, in 1924 (image courtesy of the Library of Congress).

In 1913, women did not have a constitutional right to vote, but this did not mean they did not participate in politics. Myrtle Archer McDougal, for example, was a nationally known suffragist. McDougal was born in 1866 to Reverend George Washington and Sarah Jane Archer in Marietta Springs, Mississippi. In 1888, she married Daniel Archibald McDougal. In 1904, the McDougals moved to Sapulpa, Indian Territory, with their three daughters.

While in Sapulpa, Myrtle became interested in working for a **constitutional amendment** to grant women the right to vote. She joined the Indian Territory Federation of Women's Clubs and served as its president from 1907 to 1908. After the IFWC joined the Oklahoma Federation of Women's Clubs, she served as its president from 1910-1913. She was primarily concerned with the causes of prohibition, mother's pensions, the living conditions of girls in state custody, and the establishment of scholarships for state university female students.

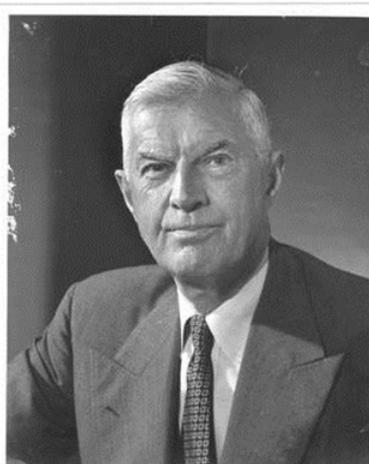
In 1908 McDougal became vice-chair of the Oklahoma **suffrage** campaign. She spoke at many events and wrote open letters to newspapers across the nation. In 1913, Governor Lee Cruce of Oklahoma named her the honorary committee woman of the Oklahoma delegation to the Democratic National Committee. In 1916, she worked on the national women's campaign to re-elect President Woodrow Wilson. She became nationally known as a vocal and well-argued proponent of women's suffrage and was well-liked around the United States.

After the ratification of the nineteenth amendment granted women the right to vote in 1920, McDougal became an officially elected member of the Democratic National Committee and held the position for sixteen years. The University of Oklahoma A&M, now Oklahoma State University, awarded her an honorary doctorate and the Oklahoma National Guard made her an honorary colonel. Myrtle Archer McDougal passed away in 1956, hailed as a "suffragette and crusading leader and organizer whose work in political, literary and women's groups spanned nearly a century."

Monroe Dunaway Anderson (M. D. Anderson Cancer Center) and **William Lockhart Clayton** (The Father of the Marshall Plan in Europe after World War II)



Monroe Dunaway Anderson
(image courtesy of the MD
Anderson Society).



William Lockhart Clayton
(image courtesy of the University of
North Texas Libraries).

Classen, Overholser, Braniff, Colcord, and Gaylord are just a few of the iconic Oklahoma surnames found in the Book of the City Builders which was deposited in the Oklahoma Century Chest in 1913. In addition to these well-known Oklahoma pioneers, many others who made their mark in America and around the world began their journey in Oklahoma. Two of these early pioneers were Monroe Anderson and William Clayton. In 1904 William Clayton and Frank Anderson established a partnership to engage in the buying and selling of cotton. They needed more capital and invited their brothers Monroe Anderson and Ben Clayton to become partners in the venture. Thus was established Anderson, Clayton and Company, with its principal office in Oklahoma City. The company prospered for a decade in Oklahoma City and would eventually become the world's largest cotton merchant. In 1916 the company moved its headquarters to Houston to take advantage of the city's recently completed deep-water shipping channel.

By the 1930s Monroe Anderson and William Clayton each owned half of Anderson, Clayton and Company. In 1936 Mr. Anderson created a charitable foundation that bears his name and would receive over 19 million dollars after Monroe's death in 1939. The charter of the MD Anderson Foundation did not specify precisely how its money should be used, but the trustees leaned strongly in the direction of health care. Soon after taking possession of the Anderson estate, the trustees and the Texas Legislature authorized the University of Texas to establish a hospital for cancer research and treatment somewhere in the state. The Anderson Foundation agreed to become the primary funding entity of the hospital if it was built in Houston and named for the trust's benefactor. Thus, the preeminent cancer research hospital in the world was born from a legacy that began in Oklahoma City when Anderson, Clayton and Company began operations.

During World War I and World War II William Clayton served on numerous war industries boards and other high-level positions in the United States government. From December 1944 until October 1947 he was assistant and then undersecretary of state for economic affairs, in which capacity he became the principal architect of the European Recovery Program, known commonly as the Marshall Plan. The goal of the Marshall Plan was to rebuild the destroyed communities of Europe and revitalize the Western European economy based on a capitalist model while at the same time holding back the encroachment of Soviet-style communism from dominating Europe.

In 1904 when William Clayton and his sister's husband, Frank Anderson, formed Anderson, Clayton and Company in Oklahoma City he had already been married to his wife Susan Vaughan Clayton for two years. While living and working in Oklahoma City from 1904-1916 the couple built a home which is still located at 425 Northwest 16th Street in Oklahoma City. No other pioneers of Oklahoma City went further on the national or international stage than the Claytons. Mr. Clayton was a successful businessman, civil servant, and philanthropist. Mrs. Clayton was known for her philanthropic work, support for the Fine Arts Museum, women's suffrage movement, and funding of Susan V. Clayton Homes (a low-cost housing project in Houston). In addition, the couple donated their home in Houston to the city to be utilized as a library. The Clayton Library Center is one of the country's preeminent libraries for genealogical research.

In addition to the signatures of the Andersons and Claytons in the Book of the City Builders, the Oklahoma Century Chest contains a small envelope deposited by Mr. and Mrs. Clayton in 1913.

Glossary

ancestor: Someone in your family from a previous generation, like a grandparent.

assembly line: A process used in factories where each person is assigned a different step in building a product.

automobile: A vehicle with four wheels that travels under its own power; a car.

bachelor's degree: A degree received after completing an undergraduate study at a university or college.

bracers: Straps placed over the shoulder that hold up one's pants, attached by buttons.

concert: A live performance of music.

constitutional amendment: A law that alters or adds to the Constitution of the United States.

convenient: Something that is made easier or more comfortable to use.

correspondence: Communication by written word, often a letter.

entertainment: An activity or performance that people find enjoyable.

expensive: An object or service that costs too much money for most people to afford.

fashion: A common style of dress during a particular time or among a certain group.

film: A roll or strip of thin, flexible, transparent material that is sensitive to light and used in photography.

freight: Goods or cargo carried by train, truck, airplane, or ship.

future: What comes after the present.

generation: A group of individuals living at the same time.

glass plate: A piece of glass treated to be sensitive to light and used in photography.

inexpensive: An object or service that costs little money and is affordable by many.

invention: An original device or process.

knickers: Loose-fitting short pants gathered just below the knee.

luxury: An item or service that is expensive and/or not necessary.

mass production: The process of making one item for sale in large quantities; e.g. Henry Ford's factories that made thousands of black Model T's every week.

modern: Something that is from recent times, as opposed to the distant past.

necessity: Something that is required for living or performing a job.

newspaper: A printed publication containing news, feature articles, advertisements, and correspondence; usually printed daily or weekly.

operators: Those who runs a telephone switchboard, especially for a phone company.

parcel: A package containing goods that is sent through the mail.

phone book: A book that contains the phone numbers of homes and businesses in a set area, like a city.

photography: The art of composing pictures through the use of cameras.

ready-to-wear: Clothing that requires no tailoring to wear after its purchase.

record: A wax or vinyl tube or disc that holds recorded music and can be played on a phonograph or record player.

suffrage: The right to vote in political elections.

switchboard: An installation for the manual control of telephone connections.

time capsule: A container storing a selection of objects chosen as being typical of the present time, buried for discovery in the future

trolley: A passenger vehicle powered by electricity that runs on a set route over rail lines.

Activities

Letter to the Future

One of the most interesting parts of the Century Chest were the letters written for the Oklahomans of today. Take a moment to read one or two of those letters from the collection found at:

okhistory.org/centurychest/listing.php?format=Letter&sort=title

Consider what these people wrote to their audiences. What were they proud of or concerned about? Did they make predictions? If so, what predictions did they make and are they accurate? What did they think was important for the people of today to hear about their lives?

Now, write your own letter to the people of the future. Be careful to think about to whom you are addressing your letter. Are they family or just the people of the future? What do you think is going to change in 100 years? What will stay the same? Why will things stay the same or change? And most of all, what is important for people to understand about your life today?

Time Capsule

The purpose of a time capsule is to leave items that represent life in the present for people to find in the future. To build your own time capsule, first get a small shoebox and decorate it. Make sure to label it as a time capsule with your name and the date you made it so that people in the future can know from what year your items belong. Next, draw a picture and write a description of five items that you think best represent your life today. Make sure to explain why you think these items are important. Place your finished drawings and descriptions in the box and make sure to tell someone all about it! If you don't, then how are people going to know where to look for your time capsule in 100 years?

If you want to make it a more challenging activity, try to make your time capsule out of materials that will protect your descriptions from fire, earthquake, flood, or any other damaging event. Why did you pick the materials you chose? Is your time capsule air and watertight? How can you make a box watertight if it's not? Think about how to answer these questions, plus any others you can think of, and write them down to show a parent or teacher. Maybe they could help you think of other ways to protect your important artifacts.

The Mysterious Marble



Mystery Marble (Oklahoma Century Chest Collection, OHS)

This marble was found in the Century Chest, but there is no record of space for a marble being purchased in the chest. If you remember, all the space in the chest was sold to people who wanted to place an item in the chest for \$3.00 an inch. All of the records showing who bought how much space were saved as well, so we would know if someone bought space for a marble.

Now, this leaves us with a mystery. Whose marble is it? How did it get in the chest? Did other people know about the marble, or was it placed in the chest in secret? Was it lost and never really meant to be in the chest?

Help us answer these questions and more by drawing a picture that goes with a story of how the marble got in the Century Chest. Use your imagination and your detective skills to think about who likes marbles, how people use marbles, and how did that marble get in there? Don't forget to write a story to go along with your picture!

Write a Poem

In 1913 poetry was a valuable form of art and entertainment. Verses from writers such as Louise Brooks, Ina Gainer, and Alice Fuller were included in the Century Chest. It was not just adults who wrote poetry, though. Most schools at the time included poetry in their curriculum because of its aid in developing language skills as well as its artistic value. Here is a poem found in the Century Chest written by Marie Joanna Schaefer at age eight:



The Wind and Snow

Oh! how the wind does
blow

To try to get the snow,

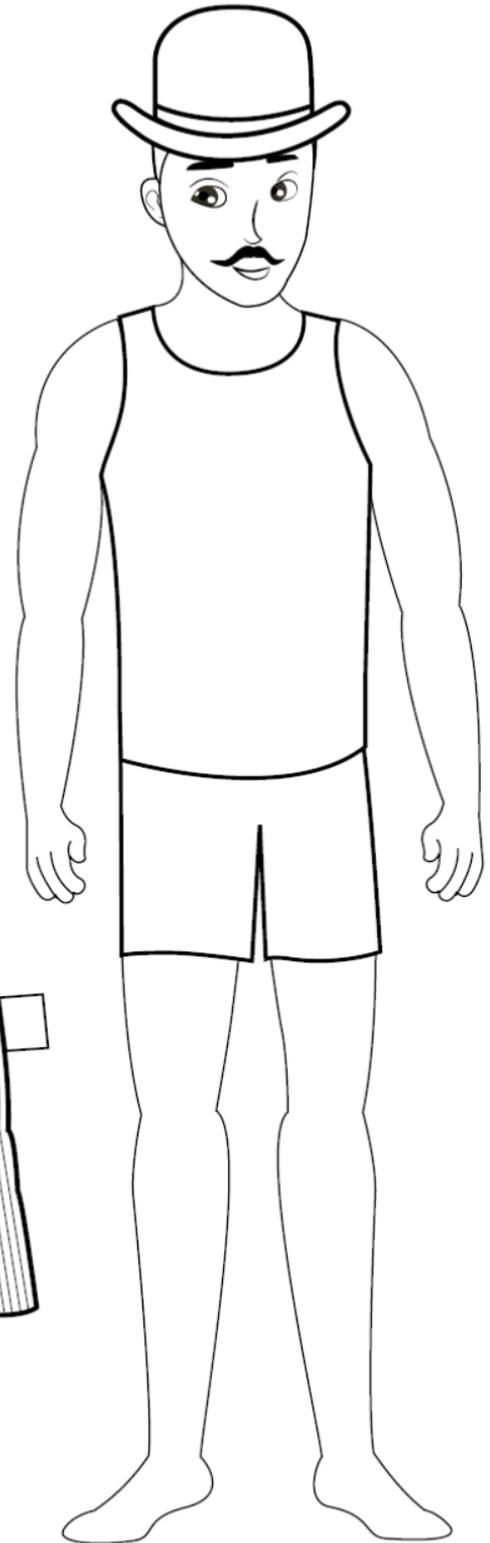
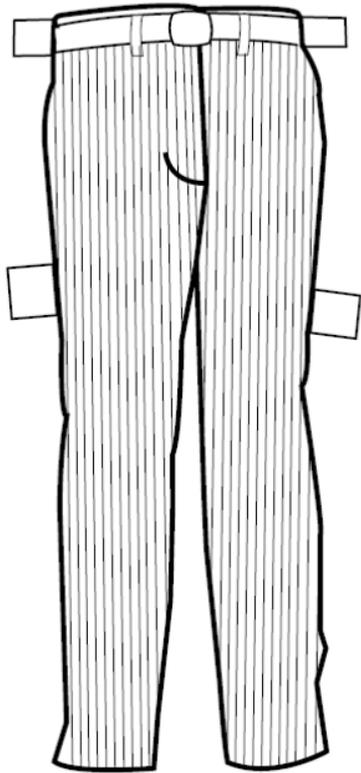
Soon the wind began to
sleep

And how the snow did s
weep!

Think about Marie's poem and what story she is trying to tell. Can you write your own poem about the world around you? What is similar about your poem and Marie's? What is different?

THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN FASHION

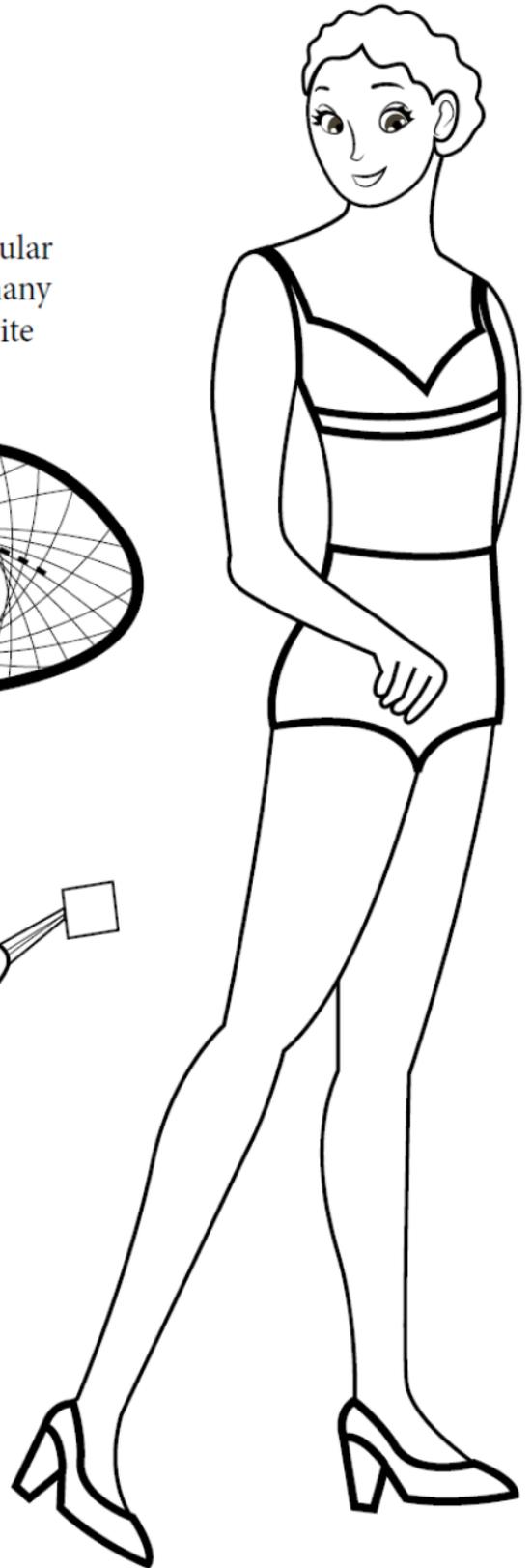
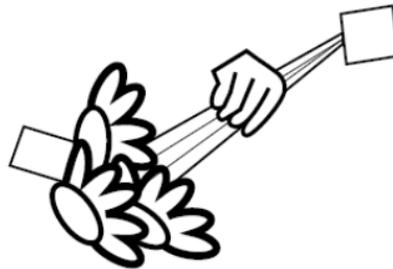
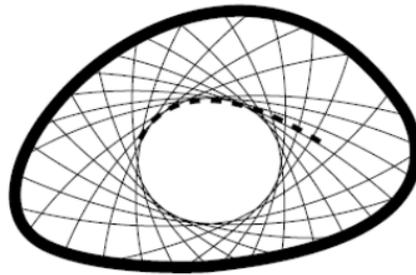
BY THE 1900S, America was an established country. Small towns in the West began to grow into cities.



Works better when printed on thicker paper!

THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN FASHION

IN THE 1910S, the motion picture began to become a popular form of entertainment. The movie star was invented, and many women began dressing in the glamorous style of their favorite actresses.



Works better when printed on thicker paper!

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