



Mistletoe Leaves



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April 2008

Field, Forest & Stream: The History of Oklahomans and the Outdoors exhibit to premier on April 4 at Oklahoma History Center

The Oklahoma Historical Society and the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation are proud to present *Field, Forest & Stream: The History of Oklahomans and the Outdoors*, a special exhibition at the Oklahoma History Center. The new exhibit opens to the public on Friday, April 4, and continues through 2008.

Visitors to the new exhibit will find many interesting things to see and do. Artifacts and manuscripts from collections such as those of aviator and avid outdoorsman Wiley Post, pioneering outdoor television producer Don Wallace, and various Oklahoma-based companies are on display. The beautiful craftsmanship of a Plains Indian bow and quiver, the diverse shapes and colors of Oklahoma-made fishing lures, and the charm of vintage Oklahoma camping equipment are just a few of the artifacts to be discovered.

The three main sections of the exhibit are presented as hiking trails that guests will follow. Trek along the *Water Trail* to learn the history of Oklahoma's streams, rivers, and lakes. A high-definition video aquarium displays real-life Oklahoma game fish species in their natural setting. A hands-on catfish noodling activity allows the visitor to experience what only a brave few have tried. Holes and crevices in a simulated cut bank provide the noodler with different tactile sensations.

Take a stroll down the *Forest Trail* to learn about Oklahoma's national forests, game management areas, wildlife refuges, preserves, and state parks. Beginning in the 1820s the United States' Indian Removal policies forced thousands to settle in the region, after which the populations of game animals began to decline. Since the Territorial Legislature enacted the first hunting laws, it has been a long road to recovery for Oklahoma's wildlife. The *Forest Trail* includes a life-size hunting blind interactive exhibit that gives the visitor a chance to climb into the blind, sit down, and choose between a number of outdoor sport and conservation activities.

A walk down the exhibit's *Camp Trail* will provide an experience in the cultural history of this popular form of outdoor recreation. See examples of vintage camping equipment, traditional camping methods, and Oklahoma recipes from over the years. For those who love to sit by the campfire, the *Camp Trail* will feature camp stories told in an interactive presentation.

Field, Forest & Stream will open to the public on April 4, 2008, in the E. L. and Thelma Gaylord Special Exhibit Gallery in the Oklahoma History Center, 2401 North Laird Ave., Oklahoma City.



Fisherman's pride: An Oklahoma catfish (OHS photo).

May 3 is Red Hat Day at History Center

Mark your calendar for Red Hat Saturday at the Oklahoma History Center. The one-of-a-kind event will take place on May 3 from 1 to 5 p.m.

Activities will include a Make-It, Take-It hat-making workshop, followed by high tea. On the menu are finger sandwiches and petit fours, iced tea and lemonade. After tea, there will be a promenade of the hats made during the workshop.

Cost to attend is \$45 for an OHS member and \$50 for a nonmember. The RSVP date is April 25.

Seating is limited. Reservations are required and may be obtained by calling Robbin Davis at 405/577-0754 or e-mailing her at <rdavis@okhistory.org>.

Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center wins preservation award

The Oklahoma Heritage Association recently selected the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center to receive the 2008 Gaylord Oklahoma Territory Award for Preservation of State and Local History. Two awards are given, one to an organization in former Indian Territory and the other in former Oklahoma Territory. Along with the honor of being chosen, the Heritage Center also received a \$5,000 cash prize. The awards luncheon was held on March 26 at the new Gaylord-Pickens Oklahoma Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City.

The campaign to build and endow the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center has enjoyed tremendous support, with more than \$7.8 million of the \$8 million goal secured in gifts and pledges. The museum is being completely remodeled and doubled in size to a 24,000-square-foot facility. When complete, the Heritage Center will have all-new exhibits, a theater, a traveling exhibit gallery, and a state-of-the-art research center. The grand opening is slated for the spring of 2009.

While construction is under way, the Heritage Center is operating in a space in Oakwood Mall near J. C. Penney. The mall location features an exhibit hall, resources for research on the 1893 land run, information on the capital campaign, and an active programming schedule. For the most current information on the project, please visit <www.regionalheritagecenter.org> or contact the staff at 580/234-8999 or by mail at P.O. Box 5891, Enid, OK 73702.

OHS Annual Meeting in Ardmore on April 16–17–18. See Program on pages 4–5.



Director's Column

By **Bob L. Blackburn**
Executive Director

Cyrus Avery was a smart man.

In this case, I am not referring to his impact on the economic development of Tulsa, his leadership in creating the modern Oklahoma Highway Department, or his legacy as the "Father of Route 66."

I am talking about his philosophy of life.

When asked his opinion of what it took to be happy, Avery replied, "Someone to love, something to do, and something to look forward to."

I like that.

For me, the first part has come true in so many ways, thanks to my wife, my son, my family, and my friends.

For the second part of his formula for happiness, I have the Oklahoma Historical Society to thank.

The OHS has given me plenty to do, starting with consulting work in historic preservation while I was still in graduate school and continuing with a decade of work on *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, the best postdoctorate a historian could want.

Then came the reorganization of the agency in the 1990s, a long list of projects, from the Route 66 Museum to the Honey Springs Battlefield, and of course, the new Oklahoma History Center. In terms of things to do, I have been blessed.

For the third part of Avery's formula for happiness, I once again lean on what the Oklahoma Historical Society does for me. We have so much to look forward to.

In the short term, we are turning the corner on the digital revolution, scanning hundreds of documents, maps, and photos every day, posting more and more information on the web for access to collections, and providing new research opportunities for family historians.

We also are hot on the trail of new collections. Over the next few weeks, I will have the pleasure of working on three collections, including the archives of a merchant who ran a trading post for the Comanche, Kiowa, and Apache, the collection of a midcentury architectural designer, and a soapbox derby racer that reached the state semifinals in 1955.

In the long term, we have a mounting stack of opportunities that drives me forward. There is work to do on projects like the Haozous-Houser family film and exhibit, a rock 'n' roll exhibit, and a new partnership with the Tulsa Historical Society that will result in a new exhibit on the International Oil Exposition.

We have the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth, which will empower us to draw attention to Lincoln's legacy in Oklahoma, from land grant colleges and the Homestead Act to the Civil War and the epic story "from slavery to freedom." Then will come the sesquicentennial of the first oil discovery in Oklahoma, the Civil War sesquicentennial, and a project with the Reynolds Foundation and Mount Vernon to share the legacy of George Washington with students.

The list of opportunities goes on. Yes, Cyrus Avery was a smart man. And I am a happy historian.



Development News

By Tim Zwink

It's springtime once again, and that means it's time for our OHS Annual Meeting. I invite you to join us on April 16, 17, and 18 in Ardmore, a town with a rich and varied history, located on the edge of the Arbuckle Mountains. The Annual Meeting Committee, chaired by Ken Rainbolt, has planned an exciting program that offers OHS members and guests fun, fellowship, and a great educational experience.

The committee has organized many activities, including a special reception to honor the OHS Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame members or representatives, ten paper sessions on a variety of topics mostly related to the Annual Meeting theme, "Boundaries, Bridges, and Borderlands: The Red River in Oklahoma History," and a trip to Fort Washita Historic Site for an evening of food, fun, and education. Our luncheon speaker, Galen Culver, noted photojournalist from KFOR television, is scheduled to provide an address on "Life along the Red River." His presentation promises to be entertaining and enlightening.

We will top off our Annual Meeting with the Annual Awards Luncheon on Friday, April 18, at noon. It is always exciting to recognize and honor the year's recipients of the prestigious OHS awards and to induct a new class into the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame. Nearly all of our activities will be in the beautiful, 45,700-square-foot Ardmore Convention Center. Our hotel accommodations for the meeting are conveniently located within minutes of the Ardmore Convention Center. If you haven't made room reservations, I recommend you do so soon because rooms at the conference rate are limited. As you can see, the Annual Meeting Committee has planned a great lineup of activities for this year's gathering. You can find a detailed schedule of the Annual Meeting elsewhere in this issue of *Mistletoe Leaves*. See you in Ardmore!

New Members, February 2008

*Indicates renewed memberships in a higher category

Director's Circle

*Jack and Sue Massey, Oklahoma City

Associate

Bruzy Westheimer, Ardmore

Friend

Mark and Linda Brewer, Glen Ellen, CA

Linda Carpenter, Oklahoma City

Jim and Carolyn Clark, Oklahoma City

James Cook, Midwest City

Freda Deskin, Oklahoma City

*Thalia Eddleman, Oklahoma City

George and Rita Foster, Parkhill

John and Linda Gibbs, Holdenville

Dorothy M. Gibson, Oklahoma City

Bill and Sherry Gossett, Duncan

Jono and Jenny Helmerich, Tulsa

*Donna Henry, Tulsa

Melissa Higgins, Tulsa

Laura McConnell-Corbyn, Oklahoma City

*Clark and Kay Musser, Oklahoma City

*Gary Nichols, Checotah

Ronald and Alyce Page, Oklahoma City

Dr. John A. Robinson, Shawnee

Edmund and Mary Root, Oklahoma City

Charles Sherman, Purcell

Family

Mary Lou Adams, Oklahoma City

Ruth Ann Atkinson & Raymond L. Messenger, Choctaw

Daniel Brown, Oklahoma City

William and Bennye Cason, Oklahoma City

Roger and Jodie Cole, Oklahoma City

Keith and Rosie Crall, Del City

Richard and Helen Dickson, Oklahoma City

Irma Elliott, Oklahoma City

Jean Harbison, Lawton

Dr. Lisa Henning, Oklahoma City

Stuart Howard, Oklahoma City

Jean Hubinger, Oklahoma City

*Daniel G. Keating, Tulsa

Gary King, Oklahoma City

Helon La Gree, Altus

Justice and Mrs. Robert E. Lavender, Oklahoma City

Bob and Kay Lewis, Oklahoma City

Carolyn Martin, Oklahoma City

Greg Price, Oklahoma City

Pamela Rhodes, Oklahoma City

John and Sue Robertson, Shawnee

Jackie C. Robinson, Edmond

Dr. and Mrs. James Ronda, Tulsa

*J. D. Stevens, Tahlequah

Bret Unterschuetz, Tulsa

Lee and Mary Ann West, Edmond

Kay Williams, Claremore

James Winters, Oklahoma City

Leon and Margaret Wood, Stillwater

Bill R. Baker, Boerne, TX

James R. Bulmer, Tulsa

Patsy Correa, Visalia, CA

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Mistletoe Leaves is published for the members and friends of the Oklahoma Historical Society in partial fulfillment of the Society's purpose to "preserve and perpetuate the history of Oklahoma and its people, to stimulate popular interest in historical study and research, and to promote and disseminate historical knowledge."

The public and OHS members are encouraged to submit heritage-related items for publication. Students and teachers are invited to share studies and programs and to duplicate contents as desired. Editors are welcome to reprint materials with credit.

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Meetings

In **Oklahoma City** the Oklahoma Genealogical Society will host their annual Spring seminar on Saturday, April 5, 2008, in the Chesapeake Event Center at the Oklahoma History Center, 2401 North Laird Ave. Craig Scott, professional genealogist, historical researcher, and author, will present workshop topics such as how to do basic military research, how to research your Revolutionary War ancestor, pension research, and how the Department of Treasury records can solve research problems. Seminar registration starts at 9 a.m. The program begins at 9:30 a.m. and ends at 4:30 p.m. The First Families of the Twin Territories banquet will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Devon Energy Center at the OHC. Find the registration forms on the website at <www.okgensoc.org>. If you have questions, e-mail <OkGenSoc@aol.com> or call Jan Fendley at 405/364-5374 or Billie Fogarty at 405/286-1190. (Special to ML)

The **Oklahoma Genealogical Society's** monthly meeting at the Oklahoma History Center features "Unlocking the Treasures in the National Archives," a mini-workshop by Billie Stone Fogarty. The meeting will happen April 7 at 6:30. The OHS Research Center will be staffed and remain open until 7:45 p.m. This mini-workshop will help the genealogical researcher discover what is available and how to access it, and navigating the archive's website. (Special to ML)

New Members, cont'd.

Individual

Deanna Dodson, Drumright
 Debra DuFour, Jenks
 Michael D. Earles, Oklahoma City
 Nancy M. Ehrlich, El Dorado, CA
 Dr. James Gatewood, Oklahoma City
 Jim Griffith, Stillwater
 Julietta Harding, Weatherford
 Nelda Hutsell, Edmond
 Robert F. Johnson, Jr., Washington, D.C.
 Richard Meek, Bartlesville
 David Miller, Norman
 Beverly Monnet, Tulsa
 James Myles, Oklahoma City
 Mark Nichols, Altus
 Melba Rhinehart, Oklahoma
 Larry Rodgers, Manhattan, KS
 Rosemary Rogers, Oklahoma City
 Jean Sanders, Muskogee
 James Schlimpert, Stillwater
 Jack Smith, Oklahoma City
 Fran Sorenson, Stillwater
 Ken Wantland, McAllen, TX
 Diana Watson, Marshall, MO

Institutional

Boston Public Library, Boston, MA
 Heartland of America Heritage Foundation, Weatherford

Events

Tahlequah's Northeastern State University is hosting the Symposium of the American Indian on April 16-19. Event hours are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with some evening happenings. Renowned scholars, authors, artists, and Native Language experts will be present. For more information about the lectures, presentations, and exhibitions, contact Dr. Phyllis Fife at 918/444-4350 or visit <cts.nsuok.edu>. (Special to ML)

Colcord's Talbot Library and Museum, 500 South Colcord Ave., is hosting a dedication and open house honoring the completion of the Springtown Schoolhouse Restoration Project on Sunday, April 27, 2008, at 1 p.m. The 1920s schoolhouse was purchased at auction and moved to the library property in 2006. Through state funding and volunteer labor the restoration occurred in 2007. The edifice will be used for museum displays, community functions, and educational programs. Among the guest speakers for the dedication/open house will be Jeanie McCain Edney of the Oklahoma Centennial Commission. Call 918/326-4532, <talbotlibrary@earthlink.net> or go to <www.talbotlibrary.com>. (Special to ML)

Connors State College in **Warner** will be commemorating their centennial on Saturday, April 26, 2008, from 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Planned activities include demonstrations, food vendors, antique tractor show, quilt show, a barbecue dinner, and live music provided by the Red Dirt Rangers and the Spring Street Bluegrass Band. Admission is free except the musical entertainment which costs \$15 in advance or \$18 at the door. For more information and to reserve tickets call the Connors Development Foundation at 918/463-6343 or 918/463-6342. (Special to ML)

On Saturday and Sunday April 19-20 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., attend the Art Under the Oaks Market and Festival at the Five Civilized Tribes Museum in **Muskogee**. The event will feature traditional handmade arts and crafts (pottery, basketry, textiles, and knapping), entertainment, food, and a variety of vendors. Go to website <www.fivetribes.org> or call toll free 877/587-4237 for more info. (Special to ML)

Durant's Roundup Club Arena, located three miles south of Durant on U.S. Highway 68/75, will be the venue for this year's annual bull-riding event. Attendees will be entertained by top cowboys from around the country matched against the best bulls from PBR and

PRCA beginning at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 12. Telephone 580/924-1550 or e-mail <ddow@durantmainstreet.org>.

(Special to ML)

Enjoy food and music in historic downtown **Enid** on Friday, April 11, from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m., and on Saturday, April 12, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Smokin' Red Dirt Cook-Off and Music Festival will include a sanctioned KCBS contest. There may be a fireworks display. Call Lynne Benkendorf at 580/233-6600 or e-mail her at <lbenkendorf@eaglemkt.com>. (Special to ML)

Miami's historic Coleman Theater will showcase Dennis James, world renowned theater organist and silent movie historian, accompanying the film, *The Eagle*, starring Rudolph Valentino. Using original movie scores, James will perform on the fully restored theater Wurlitzer. Show times are Friday, April 4, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 6 at 2:30 p.m. For reserved seats call 918/540-2425. (Special to ML)

For family fun attend the Cimarron Territorial Celebration and Cow Chip Throwing Contest at the **Beaver** County Fairgrounds in Beaver on April 12-20. The 39th Annual World Cow Chip Throwing Contest will be held on Saturday, April 19. Other events such as a chili cook-off, craft show, poker run, car races, rodeo, and children's events will take place in the evenings on Monday through Friday and all day on Saturdays. Check website <www.beavercountychamberofcommerce.com> for further information. (Special to ML)

Bird watchers will enjoy Hackberry Flat Day scheduled for Saturday, May 3, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Attendees can witness the Spring migration of birds through the Hackberry Flat Wetlands, located southwest of **Frederick**. Call 580/335-2126 or go to <www.frederickokchamber.org> for more details. (Special to ML)

Visit **El Reno's** downtown area on Saturday, April 12, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. for one of Oklahoma's many arts festivals. Scheduled for El Reno Heritage and Arts Festival are live entertainment, ethnic and festival foods, hands-on children's activities, and demonstration art. Call 405/262-1188. (Special to ML)

For some South-of-the-Border fare and flair go to Harper County Fairgrounds in **Buffalo** on Saturday, May 3. A mariachi band, Mexican entrees and dances, chicken wing cook-off and eating contest, a poker run, and children's events are planned for the Buffalo Wing Fest and Cinco de Mayo Celebration. Telephone 580/735-6177. (Special to ML)

OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2008 ANNUAL MEETING

Ardmore, Oklahoma

General Information

The OHS 2008 Annual Meeting will be held on April 16, 17, and 18 in Ardmore, Oklahoma, at the Ardmore Convention Center, 2401 North Rockford.

Arrangements have been made by the OHS Annual Meeting Planning Committee: Board Members Ken Rainbolt (chair), Daniel Lawrence, William Pennington, Lewis Stiles, and Sally Soelle, and OHS staff and volunteers Pat Chaney, Lerene Hall, Gerald Krows, Paul Lambert, Geneva Little, Alma Moore, Bill Siemens, Tim Zwink, and Bob L. Blackburn.

Lodging

The conference hotels for the Annual Meeting are the SpringHill Suites by Marriott, 2501 Centennial Drive, and LaQuinta Inn, 2432 Veterans Boulevard, Ardmore.

Room rates at the SpringHill Suites by Marriott are \$94 plus tax, single or double, and reservations are made by calling 580/226-7100. Room rates at the LaQuinta Inn are \$60 plus tax, single or double, and reservations are made by calling 580/223-7976.

Individuals attending the Annual Meeting are responsible for making their own hotel reservations. Tell the desk clerk you are with the Oklahoma Historical Society to receive the special rate.

Registration

A registration form has been mailed separately to all members of the Society. Please fill it out and return it with your registration payment as soon as possible. Registration packets with tickets and name tags will be available at the OHS registration table on Wednesday, April 16, at the Ardmore Convention Center beginning at 1 p.m. and on Thursday, April 17, and Friday, April 18, at the Ardmore Convention Center beginning at 8 a.m.

Members are encouraged to register early for the meeting. There are a limited number of tickets for admission to special events and meals. The pre-registration deadline is April 9, 2008. A registration fee of \$15 for OHS members and \$20 for non-members is required regardless of the number of events you plan to attend. Because the Annual Meeting is a self-supporting function, the revenue is used to pay expenses. No refunds will be made after April 11, 2008.

Reception

On Wednesday evening, April 16, the OHS will host a special reception at the Ardmore Convention Center. During the reception, the OHS will honor Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame members or their representatives. Join us as we recognize the accomplishments of our Hall of Fame members and for an evening of fellowship. Punch, coffee, cookies, and muffins will be served. The cost for the reception is \$5.

Paper Sessions

Concurrent paper sessions, each with two to four presenters and one moderator, on a wide variety of historical topics will be held on Thursday, April 17, and Friday, April 18, at the Ardmore Convention Center.

Exhibit Area

On Thursday and Friday an Exhibitors' Area will be located in the Valero Hall (main lobby) of the Ardmore Convention Center.

Coffee Breaks

On Thursday and Friday mornings a break area with complimentary beverages will be located in

the Valero Hall (main lobby) of the Ardmore Convention Center.

Luncheon

At 12:15 p.m. on Thursday, April 17, members and guests will gather in Salon C at the Ardmore Convention Center for a luncheon of croissant sandwich (turkey, lettuce, cheese, sweet honey mustard sauce), pasta with vegetables, fresh fruit, assorted cookies and bite-size dessert bars, and beverages. Cost of the meal is \$17. Ticket holders will select their seats on a first-come, first-served basis. The luncheon speaker is Galen Culver. A noted photojournalist, Culver will provide an engaging presentation on "Life along the Red River."

Annual Membership Meeting

After the luncheon, at approximately 2:15 p.m. in Salon C members will attend the OHS Annual Meeting of the Membership. OHS president Leonard Logan will describe the State of the Society; following will be the announcement and swearing-in of new Board members.

Optional Activities

On Thursday afternoon, April 13, participants will have free time to explore attractions in Ardmore, including Central Park, the Eliza Cruce Hall Doll Museum, the Charles B. Goddard Center, the Greater Southwest Historical Museum, the Military Memorial Museum, the historic Ardmore walking and driving tour, and downtown antique shops.

Bus Ride to Fort Washita

On Thursday afternoon, April 17, the OHS will offer a riding bus tour of historic points of interest from Ardmore to Fort Washita. The cost of the bus tour is \$15. A guide will be aboard each bus to provide details about the historic sites along the way. Buses will depart from the Ardmore Convention Center promptly at 5 p.m. and return at approximately 9 p.m. after an evening at Fort Washita.

"An Evening at Fort Washita"

On Thursday evening, members will enjoy an evening of food, fun, fellowship, education, and entertainment at Fort Washita. During the evening we will have time to explore the fort grounds, to visit with period reenactors, and to enjoy other special entertainment. The evening meal will consist of smoked brisket and grilled chicken tenders, potato salad, cole slaw, Western-style beans, bread, fruit cobblers topped with whipped cream, and beverages. Cost of the meal is \$18.

Awards Luncheon

The Annual Awards Luncheon on Friday, April 18, will begin at 12:15 p.m. in Salon C of the Ardmore Convention Center. The meal will consist of grilled Montreal chicken breast, herbed brown rice, garlic-roasted garden vegetables, rolls, German chocolate cake or carrot cake, and beverages. Cost of the meal is \$20. Ticket holders will select seats on a first-come, first served basis.

Following the meal, presentations will include the Muriel H. Wright Award, Joseph B. Thoburn Award, William D. Pennington Memorial Award, and awards for the Best Book on Oklahoma History, Outstanding Thesis on Oklahoma History, Outstanding Local Historical Society/Museum, Outstanding OHS Support Group, and the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame.

Credit Card Registration

To register by credit card (MasterCard or VISA), please call 800/750-4090 (8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST).

"Boundaries, Bridges, and Borderlands: The Red River in Oklahoma History"

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

Registration

Valero Hall (main lobby),
Ardmore Convention Center

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Reception

Salon 2, Ardmore Convention Center

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 17

Registration

Valero Hall (main lobby),
Ardmore Convention Center

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Session I: Salons D & E (Plenary Session)

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Shipwreck on the Red River, 1838: The Archaeology of the Steamboat Heroine

Moderator: Dan Provo, Director, Oklahoma Museum of History, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City

"Discovery: The Excavations of the Steamboat Heroine," John Davis, Director, Fort Towson Historic Site, Oklahoma Historical Society, Fort Towson

"The History and Architecture of Oklahoma's Red River Steamboat Wreck," Kevin Crisman, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Texas A&M University, and Principal Investigator, Institute of Nautical Archaeology, College Station, Texas

"Shake, Rattle and Roll: Steam Machinery on the Western Rivers," Glenn Grieco, Professional Shipbuilder and Research Associate, Center for Maritime Archaeology and Conservation, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas

"Nails, Boots, Barrels and Bones, . . . Oh My! Conservation of the Heroine's Diverse Artifacts," Helen Dewolf, Research Associate, Center for Maritime Archaeology and Conservation, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas

Break

Valero Hall (main lobby),
Ardmore Convention Center

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Session II: Salon 1

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

The Sage of Tishomingo: William H. "Alfalfa Bill" Murray

Moderator: Paul F. Lambert, Membership Coordinator, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City

"Murray: Madison or Maniac?" Kirk Rodden, Associate Professor of Political Science, Murray State College, Tishomingo

"Alfalfa Bill: An Effective and Significant Governor," Alvin O. Turner, Emeritus Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences and Professor of History, East Central University, Ada

Session III: Salon 2

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Military History in the Red River Region, Part 1

Moderator: Gerald Krows, Nineteenth-Century Historical Reenactor and Oklahoma History Center Volunteer, Moore

"Fort Towson: Then and Now," John Davis, Director, Fort Towson Historic Site, Oklahoma Historical Society, Fort Towson

"Fort Washita," Larry J. Marcy, Director, Fort Washita Historic Site, Oklahoma Historical Society, Durant

"Fort Sill," Towana Spivey, Director/Curator, Fort Sill National Historic Landmark and Museum, Lawton

Session IV: Salon B

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Rivers of History

Moderator: Roger Bromert, Professor of History, Southwestern Oklahoma State University, and Board member, Oklahoma Historical Society, Weatherford

"Arklahoma: International Intrigue and Treaty Making in the Middle Red River Valley, 1810-1830," C. Fred Williams, Professor, Department of History, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Little Rock, Arkansas

"The Origin of the Arkansas Riverbed Case," Richard Green, Chickasaw Nation Tribal Historian, Oklahoma City

Luncheon, Salon C

12:15 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Leonard Logan, President, OHS Board of Directors, presiding.
Address by Galen Culver, photojournalist for KFOR television.

Annual Meeting of the Membership Salon C

2:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Re-Organizational Board Meeting OHS Board of Directors

2:45 p.m.

Bus Ride to Fort Washita

Departs from Ardmore Convention Center

5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

"An Evening at Fort Washita"

Fort Washita Historic Site

6:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 18

Registration

Valero Hall (main lobby),
Ardmore Convention Center

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Session V: Salon 1

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Sports and Community in Southern Oklahoma

Moderator: David Seeley, Sports Editor, *The Daily Ardmoreite*, Ardmore

"Chikashsha ikapochcha'to'i: Chickasaw Stickball," Josh Hinson, Director, Museums and Exhibits, Chickasaw Cultural Center, Ada

"Minor League Baseball in Southern Oklahoma," Royse Parr, Member of Society of American Baseball Research, Baseball Historian, and Author, Tulsa

Session VI: Salon 2

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

The Red River: An Uncertain Boundary

Moderator: Deena Fisher, Dean of the Woodward Campus and Associate Professor of History, Northwestern Oklahoma State University, and Board member, Oklahoma Historical Society, Woodward

"The Red River Boundary Dispute," Glen Roberson, Director, Certified Local Government Programs, State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City

"Establishing the 'Vegetation Line' on the South Bank as the Political Boundary Between Oklahoma and Texas," Dean Couch, General Counsel, Oklahoma Water Resources Board, Oklahoma City

Session VII: Salon B

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Military History in the Red River Region, Part 2

Moderator: Daniel Lawrence, Board member, Oklahoma Historical Society, and Reenactor, Norman

"The Civil War in the Red River Region," Patricia Adkins-Rochette, Historian and Author, Duncan

"Benjamin H. Colbert: Legacy of a Chickasaw Rough Rider," Michelle Cooke, Manager, Libraries, Archives, and Collections, Chickasaw Nation, Ada

Break

Valero Hall (mail lobby)

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Session VIII: Salon 1

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Oklahoma: A Diverse Society

Moderator: Linda Reese, Associate Professor of History, History Department, East Central University, Ada

"A Separate People: The Oklahoma Amish," Marvin Kroeker, Emeritus Professor of History, East Central University, and Board member, Oklahoma Historical Society, Ada

"Efforts to Regulate Itinerant Medicine Vendors in the First Oklahoma Legislature, 1907-1908," Carl Buckner, Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Oklahoma, Norman

Session IX: Salon 2

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

World War II in Southern Oklahoma

Moderator: Rodger Harris, Oral Historian, Research Division, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City

"In South Central and Darkest Oklahoma: The Prisoner of War Camp at Tishomingo," William P. Corbett, Professor of History, History Department, Northeastern State University, and Board member, Oklahoma Historical Society, Tahlequah

"Military Footprints in Southern Oklahoma: Ardmore Army Air Field, 1942-1945," Gary D. Simmons, Retired Director, Agriculture Division, and Vice President, The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Ardmore

Session X: Salon B

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

"We Can Take It!"—The Civilian Conservation Corps at Platt National Park

Moderator: Jack D. Baker, President, National Trail of Tears Association, Member, Cherokee Nation Tribal Council, and Board member, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City

Panel Members:

Bruce Noble, Superintendent, Chickasaw National Recreation Area

Ron Parker, Chief of Interpretation, Chickasaw National Recreation Area

Nancy Binderim, Interpreter, Chickasaw National Recreation Area

Ken Ruhnke, Landscape Architect, Chickasaw National Recreation Area

Andrew Castleberry, Interpreter, Chickasaw National Recreation Area

Annual Awards Luncheon, Salon C

12:15 p.m.

Meal and Presentation of Awards. Leonard Logan, President, OHS Board of Directors, presiding.



Red River Wreck project crew examine wheel flanges brought to the surface in 2006 (J. Briley photo).

Directions to Ardmore Convention Center

From the north, take I-35 South to Exit 33 in Ardmore. Turn left onto Veterans Boulevard, go under the interstate overpass to the first intersection, Rockford Road, and turn right.

From the south, take I-35 North to Exit 33 in Ardmore. Turn right onto Veterans Boulevard, go one block, and at the first intersection, Rockford Road, turn right.

Bring the family to the Cherokee Strip Rural Heritage Festival April 26

Perry's Cherokee Strip Museum will host its annual Rural Heritage Festival from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 26, on the grounds of the museum. The festivities celebrate community heritage, but this year there will be a dedication of the museum's Centennial Project. This is an official project of the Centennial Commission and is funded in part by a grant made possible by the legislature.

Throughout the day volunteers will conduct living history interpretations and skills-and-lifestyles demonstrations to help people understand what it was like to live in rural communities that were based on agriculture.

Rose Hill School will be in session, and the public is encouraged to take part in the lessons. Students from Morrison will wrap the May Pole. Saltfork Blacksmiths will show their skills. There will also be a settlers' camp, a cowboy camp, and an American Indian tipi. Skills and rural fun will include rope making, square dancing, basket weaving, and soap making. The Lace Guild of Oklahoma will illustrate lace making techniques.

Admission is free, but donations help fund the event in the future.

The Cherokee Strip Museum is located at 2617 W. Fir in Perry. Contact the staff at <csmuseum@okhistory.org> or call them at 580/336-2405.

OHS Places . . .

Healdton Oil Museum

315 East Main St.
Healdton, OK 73438-1836
Phone: 580/497-3929
Hours: Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Admission: Free; donations accepted.

The Healdton Oil Museum, an Oklahoma Historical Society affiliate, is located twenty miles west of Ardmore on U.S. Highway 70, then five miles north at the junction of State Highway 76 and U.S. 70. The museum offers artifacts and photographs that tell the story of the development of the petroleum industry in Carter County and the effects of the rise and fall of the tumultuous oil-boom towns.

The Healdton oil field opened in 1913 and developed into the largest of nine fields in Carter County. Oil was extracted from shallow depths in that area; thus it received the moniker "poor man's" field, because drilling costs were inexpensive. As word spread about the find, an estimated 120 oil companies and well-known Oklahomans such as Lloyd Noble, Wirt Franklin, Robert A. Hefner, Sr., Erle Halliburton, and others helped burgeon the local economy. Like that of other Oklahoma boomtowns, Healdton's oil industry suffered from low prices following World War I and during the Great Depression. During the 1920s and 1930s the field began to be depleted.

Those interested in learning more about the Healdton Field and its effects on Ardmore's economy and the development of transportation for crude oil should consult past issues of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*. For a discussion transport by wagon and oxen over dirt roads, railroads, and pipelines, see Gilbert L. Robinson's "Transportation in Carter County, 1913-1917," *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* 19 (December 1941). Mac McGalliard's "Pioneer Spirit: The Centennial History of Ardmore," published in *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* 65 (Spring 1987), mentions the effects of Healdton's oil boom on Ardmore's population and businesses. The Healdton Field is also mentioned in *Drills Bits, Picks, and Shovels: A History of Mineral Resources in Oklahoma*, ed. John W. Morris (Oklahoma City: OHS, 1982).



SHPO announces May 2008 workshops to be held in Chickasha

The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office is pleased to announce its May workshop series to be held May 7-9 at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma (USAO), Student Union Basement Meeting Room, 1727 West Alabama, Chickasha, Oklahoma. The workshops are free and open to the public. Register by 5 p.m., Wednesday, April 30. To register, contact Shea Otley at 405/521-6249 or <sjotley@okhistory.org>. Registered architects who attend can earn American Institute of Architects Continuing Education System learning unit hours. For more about the workshops, call Deputy SHPO Melvena Heisch at 405/522-4484 or e-mail <mheisch@okhistory.org>.

May 7 (9:30 a.m.-12 noon) The Section 106 Review Process: Introduction and Overview

The half-day workshop provides the basics about Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and how the process works in Oklahoma. Specific topics include who is responsible for Section 106 compliance, when does Section 106 apply, what is the State Historic Preservation Office's role in the process, what other agencies are involved, what is a historic property, and what happens when a project will effect a historic property. The workshop is designed as a stand-alone session and as a companion to Determination of Eligibility under Section 106. Participants should also consider attending Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings.

May 7 (1:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.) Determination of Eligibility under Section 106

The session provides a step-by-step description of how to document standing structures for the State Historic Preservation Office's review. Specific topics include a discussion of the National Register of Historic Places Criteria for Evaluation, how to complete the Historic Preservation Resource Identification Form, photograph requirements, what a determination of eligibility means, how differences of opinion about eligibility are resolved, and when consultants may be helpful to agencies in preparing documentation for the Section 106 process. The session is designed as a stand-alone workshop or as a companion to The Section 106 Review Process: Introduction and Overview. Participants

should also consider attending the session on Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings.

May 8 (9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.) Working with the National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places is the foundation of the SHPO's programs, and a basic understanding of the Register is essential for those involved in historic preservation at all levels of government and in the private sector. The workshop provides detailed information about the National Register criteria, what listing means, the rights of property owners in the nomination process, tips for preparing successful nominations, and much more.

May 9 (9:30 a.m.- 12 noon) Federal and State Tax Incentives for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings

In this half-day workshop participants will learn about the federal and state investment tax credits for certified rehabilitation of a certified historic structure. A detailed discussion of the Historic Preservation Certification Application, Parts 1, 2, and 3 will guide owners and developers in successfully preparing the information needed for the State Historic Preservation Office to review the project and for the National Park Service to certify it. This session is designed as a stand-alone workshop or as a companion to Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings.

May 9 (1:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.) Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings

The half-day workshop features a thorough discussion of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitation. Generally referred to as the Standards, these common-sense principles are widely used in the historic preservation field. Whether you are involved in a rehabilitation project for the 20% federal and 20% state tax credits, planning a rehabilitation project funded with federal assistance, serving on a local historic preservation commission, or just wanting to know the best approach to rehabilitating your historic private home, you will find this session invaluable. It is designed as a stand-alone workshop and as a companion to Federal and State Tax Incentives for Rehabilitation.

Hidden Collections . . .

The Muriel H. Wright Collection

By Larry O'Dell

An important personality in the development of the Oklahoma Historical Society, Muriel Wright helped educate generations of the state's students. Her papers (83.18), held in the OHS Research Division, concern not just her term as editor of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, but her personal affiliations with many clubs and organizations and her personal research, including genealogical material. Her OHS materials are integral to understanding the importance of *The Chronicles* to the formation, the process, and the kind of Oklahoma history that was introduced to the "historical record."

Born at Lehigh in 1889 to a missionary mother, Ida Belle Richards, and a Choctaw father, Dr. Eliphalet Nott Wright, Muriel proudly promoted her biracial ancestry. She avidly researched her heritage and held many offices in the Choctaw Nation. Educated in a seminary in Massachusetts and completing her degree at East Central Normal School, later East Central University, she taught at several educational institutions in Oklahoma. She later attended Barnard College in New York City.

Beginning in the early 1920s Wright actively published Oklahoma history through articles and books, including the four vol-



ume *Oklahoma: A History of the State*, with Joseph Thoburn. In 1943 Wright took over the editorial duties for *The Chronicles*, but she did not receive the official title of editor until 1955. During her time at OHS she initiated several other projects, influencing the society's direction before her retirement in 1973.

She earned numerous accolades, including induction into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame (1940), the University of Oklahoma's Distinguished Service Award (1950), and an honorary doctorate from Oklahoma City University (1964). In 1993 she posthu-

mously became one of the first-year inductees into the Oklahoma Historical Society's Historians Hall of Fame. Muriel Wright died in 1975.

The voluminous collection, containing twenty-six boxes, spans Wright's lifetime of collecting and work. She corresponded with a "who's who" of historians and makers of Oklahoma history, including Joseph Thoburn, Emmet Starr, Patrick Hurley, Gov. Robert L. Williams, Grant Foreman, George Shirk, Gov. Johnston Murray, B. B. Chapman, W. S. Campbell, E. E. Dale, Charles Gould, Todd Downing, Genevieve Seger, and several others. The Wright material includes articles and items concerning *The Chronicles* as well as other OHS-related items, including meeting minutes, annual reports, and publications. Tolders relating to Wright's club work contain the same types of papers, including correspondence and published items. There are also genealogical materials and a number of photographs. OHS volunteer Jim Cloud began the monumental task of processing Miss Wright's collection, and Oklahoma University intern Ezmeralda Lopez has labored to complete the archival work and enter the data in the Research Division's online catalog.

As with all OHS research materials, the Muriel Wright Collection can be accessed in the John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick Research Center.

Meet a Mountain Man at the Fort Washita Rendezvous

Trappers and traders will descend upon the scenic beauty of Fort Washita in early April 2008. From April 2 through 6 the rendezvous will be open to the public.

Fur trading in the Oklahoma region flourished for nearly a half century. Trading posts were first located on the Arkansas and Red Rivers as early as 1779 and outfitted mountain men by trading them the items they needed in return for furs that they brought to the post.

During this year's Fort Washita Rendezvous mountain men will compete against each

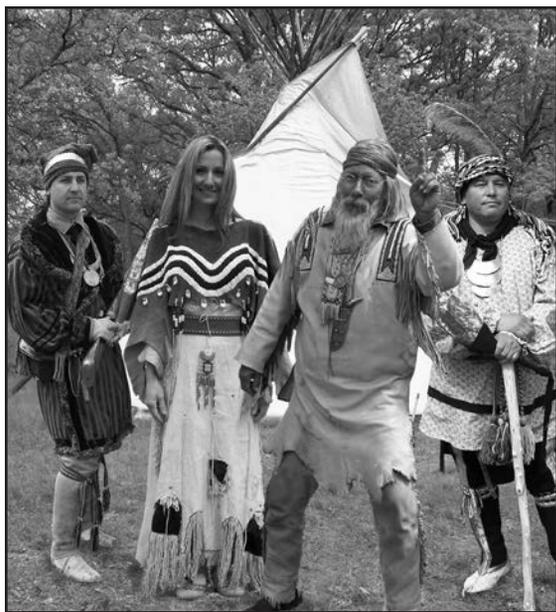
other in the use of weapons—rifles, pistols, tomahawks, knives, and bows and arrows—as well as in proficiency in various skills such as fire starting.

Visitors will be able to observe the clothing, camping methods, and artifacts from that time period. Vendors will offer various authentically designed items from the period.

School days, Thursday, April 3, and Friday, April 4, will provide local students with an opportunity to learn about trapping, trading, mountain man survival skills, and early-day commerce in Oklahoma. On Saturday, April 5, short educational programs will be presented to the public on the half hour at the Council Circle.

Events open at 9 a.m. and continue to 5 p.m. each day except Sunday, for which the hours are 9 to 3. Admission is \$5 per vehicle per day. Fort Washita is situated on State Highway 199 between Durant and Madill.

For more information call 580/924-6502.



Fort Gibson Heritage Days set for April 18-19

Heritage Days will be presented at Fort Gibson Historic Site on Friday, April 18, and Saturday, April 19, according to Chris Morgan, site attendant. Visitors to the free event will see many new presentations as well as several old favorites. The 2008 offerings will include mounted reenactors such as the 1840s U.S. Dragoons and the Civil War cavalry as well as American Indian and African American portrayals. Visitors on Education Day, April 18, will see a concentration of living history demonstrations presented especially for local school children.

Saturday's event will offer a "Day in the Life" presentation inside the log fort, where an 1830s garrison will carry on the daily routine of the frontier bastion in its heyday.

This year's event will also include demonstrations of soap making and candle making. A historic weapons demonstration and military music presentation will occur on Saturday afternoon.

Historical crafts and vendors, as well as historical foods and bread from the post bake oven will be available, as will a "modern" food area with burgers, barbecue, etc.

The gates open at 10 a.m. and affairs continue through 5 p.m. each day.

Fort Gibson Historic Site, operated by the OHS, is located on State Highway 80 in Fort Gibson. For information call the staff at 918/478-4088.

Gift Shop News

By Russ Haynes

Hello from the Gift Shop! I hope everyone is having a great 2008. The OHS Annual Meeting is this month, and I look forward to seeing many of you in Ardmore. We will bring a selection of books and merchandise, but if there is anything you would like to include, please call or e-mail the store. Here are a few of the newer books we have for sale.

BOOKS ON TRIAL: *Red Scare in the Heartland*, by Shirley and Wayne Wiegand. Tells the story of the police raid on the Progressive Bookstore in Oklahoma City in 1940. Provides sobering insight into how innocent people can be swept up in the hysteria of their times and how their civil liberties can be abused. 286 pages. Hardback. \$24.95

WOMEN WHO PIONEERED OKLAHOMA: *Stories From the WPA Narratives*, edited by Terri Baker and Connie Henshaw. In this stirring collection of interviews, the women who settled what would become Oklahoma tell their own stories in their own words. Includes interviews of women from a wide range of socioeconomic groups, ethnic backgrounds, and geographical locations to relate the pioneer experience as it was really lived. 226 pages. Hardback. \$29.95

TAMING THE SOONER STATE: *The War Between Lawmen and Outlaws in Oklahoma and Indian Territory, 1875-941*, by R. D. Morgan. Provides examples of the history of lawmen and outlaws in Oklahoma. Includes many rare photographs as well as biographical sketches of lawmen and outlaws in a chronological format. 208 pages. Paperback. \$25.95

AL SNIPES: *Fighter, Founder, and Father*, by Marshall Snipes and Bob Burke. Tells the remarkable story of a man with the passion, vision, tenacity, and energy to make a lasting impact on his community and state. 326 pages. Hardback. \$4.95

To order please call at 405/522-5214. Make checks payable to the Oklahoma Historical Society. To facilitate orders paid for by check, please try to call or e-mail first to check for product availability. If this is not possible, staff will try to fill any part of your order that we may not presently have in stock.

Overseas members must e-mail for a shipping quote before submitting an order.

For questions and suggestions call or e-mail <giftshop@okhistory.org>. Thanks once again for your patronage.

Oklahoma Historical Society
2401 N. Laird Avenue
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7914

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New photography exhibit at Perry's Cherokee Strip Museum

Photography: Images of Our Past is the newest exhibit at the Cherokee Strip Museum. The exhibit, on view now and continuing through 2008, displays an array of the photography equipment once owned by Anton Shultz, amateur photographer and early-day farmer who lived near Red Rock, Oklahoma. Photography had become a popular hobby during the early part of the twentieth century. Photographic equipment and supplies were easily purchased from mail-order catalogs such as a 1908 reproduction Sears, Roebuck and Co. catalog, which is on display.

The exhibit also showcases studio portraits of children taken by professional photographers in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. While some of the images have identifications, many of the children remained unidentified when the photographs were donated by local families to the museum. The staff invites visitors to enjoy an opportunity to see Paul Cress or Thelma Knox as a small child. Staff would welcome an identification of some of the unknown children.

During the coming year the museum plans to change the photographic images on exhibit to highlight the extensive photographic collection housed at the Cherokee Strip Museum. To view additional local-interest images, visit the museum's website at <www.cherokee-strip-museum.org>.

Museum hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday (closed Sundays, Mondays, and all legal holidays). There is no admission fee, but donations are always accepted.

Contact the museum at 580/336-2405.



Jo Johnson views the new photography exhibit (Staff photo).

April events at Enid's Cherokee Strip Heritage Center Outreach Space

On April 9, Wednesday, at noon Glen McIntyre, education director, will lecture on the Civil War in Indian Territory. Although the Civil War in Oklahoma did not have large battles, the Battle of Honey Springs was a serious encounter between North and South. The long-term consequences for Indian Territory were very severe, as the tribes themselves were split between followers of the Union and the Confederacy.

On April 16, Wednesday, at noon, Bruce Fisher of OHS will present a First Person Impression of Inman Page, the first president of Langston University.

On April 19, Saturday, at 1 p.m. Susan Woods of the Garfield County Genealogy Society will present a genealogy workshop.

All of these programs will be offered in the Outreach Space of the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid, Oklahoma. The Outreach Space is in the far eastern end of Oakwood Mall, next to J. C. Penney, on West Garriott Avenue. For more information call Glen McIntyre at 580/237-1907.