Fort Gibson staff conducts archaeological remote sensing project

Locating the original site of the Fort Gibson stockade has been the goal for historians, among them the staff at the Fort Gibson Historic Site, for decades. Sparse and conflicting information from the past does not provide clues for a definitive location. Researchers could only speculate, and they needed more clues. Traditional excavation is too intrusive and labor intensive. Enter modern scientific methods of investigation.

The Fort Gibson Historic Site, which is a designated National Historic Landmark, received a National Park Service Heritage Partnerships Program grant to fund a geophysical survey of areas that were suspected of holding potential clues. On February 17 the Oklahoma Archaeological Survey's Dr. Lee Bement brought an hydraulic coring device to sample various sites. The soil cores pulled from the ground yielded clues to subsurface strata and materials that helped narrow the later geophysical search areas. In June the site's staff laid out rope-defined grids over which four different types of data collection instruments were used. These included resistivity and conductivity meters, a magnetometer, and a ground-penetrating radar unit.

Each instrument electronically probed the subsurface and provided data that downloaded to a computer program. This information is combined to produce overlaying maps depicting what lies beneath the surface.

DeVore will process the information and present his interpretations of the data in a report due this fall. Initial analysis indicates several locations that hold the promise of providing information that may help locate the buried remnants of the fort's original stockade.

The dredge barges are sitting on sand dunes created by removing sand from the wreck (staff photo).

Red River wreck update

The 2006 season for the Red River Wreck Archaeology Project began in June with a one-month field school session. The steamboat Heron had hit a snag and had sunk in the Red River in May 1838, while delivering provisions to the garrison at Fort Towson. The project to recover information about Oklahoma's only nautical archaeological find is being conducted through a collaboration between the Oklahoma Historical Society, the Institute of Nautical Archaeology, and Texas A&M University. Besides INA staff and students, OHS divers John Davis (OHS Field Manager) and Howard McKinnis were assisted topside at various times by staffers Jim Argo, Larry Marcy, William Vandever, and Bob Rea.

Since 2003 a field school has been held for TAMU student archaeologists who have worked under demanding conditions while dredging, retrieving artifacts, and measuring and recording the wreck. Heat, water currents, and very limited visibility provide everyday challenges. Much of the project's success is attributed to their hard work.

Kevin Crisman, INA project director, deemed this June's session a success. Drought conditions in Oklahoma have contributed to lower water levels on the Red River, thus providing for better diving operations. Information and artifacts from the wreck have shed light on early steamboat technology and everyday life on the river. Artifacts retrieved during the session are undergoing conservation treatment at the TAMU/INA lab in Bryan, Texas. One find was the log that punctured the hull. The log was 12 feet long by 2.5 feet in diameter.

Another work session on the river will be held during September and early October to continue to study the steamboat and its contents. A main goal of that session will be to remove the steamboat's unique drive mechanism.
We’re approaching the height of the summer season, and we’ve realized that the Oklahoma Historical Society and its various sites and museums are becoming more and more important as tourist destinations.

It’s truly remarkable that thousands of Oklahomans and visitors from other states are really hungry for the kinds of information that we can provide. And it’s very gratifying for us to be constantly improving our means of educating the public.

From its grand opening in mid-November and through the end of April, more than 100,000 people have visited new Oklahoma History Center—thousands more than had visited our “old” headquarters building on Lincoln Boulevard.

By the end of the school year, more than 41,000 Oklahoma youth had participated in all aspects of the OHS’s educational services. For example, every eighth-grader in the Moore school system (1,600 of them), participated in the Civil War outreach programming.

For those who come to the Oklahoma History Center, the difference between the OHS’s home of a year ago and the one of today is truly like the difference between night and day. The new building is bright, sunlit, and inviting. Its public areas really please the people who enter the building. When they go through the exhibits in the Oklahoma Museum of History, they come out full of enthusiasm for Oklahoma.

If you haven’t taken the opportunity to visit the new History Center and see what your support has made possible, I encourage you to come. I guarantee you won’t be disappointed.

As a reminder, the first commemorative coin in the series featured the façade of the new Oklahoma History Center. The reverse side depicted the Oklahoma Capitol building. A limited number of these coins are still available in bronze, gold, and silver finishes.

As we now approach the Centennial Year of 2007, the OHS will begin offering a variety of commemorative activities.

As for the future, I predict that generations of Oklahomans are going to thank you for helping make all of this possible.

OMH volunteers’ field trip!

The Oklahoma Museum of History Volunteer Services Program is alive and thriving in the Oklahoma History Center. Recently 41 of the 120 OMH volunteers boarded a bus to travel to three museums in Oklahoma: the Chisholm Trail Museum in Kingfisher, the Route 66 Museum in Clinton, and the Thomas P. Stafford Air and Space Museum in Weatherford.

This volunteer “field trip” was the idea of OMH Volunteer Coordinator Robbin Davis, Davis, hired in July of 2005 to originate the OMH Volunteer Services Program, designed the expedition as a way for the volunteers to not only get to know the museums, but also to get to know each other.

“People volunteer for a variety of reasons,” said Davis. “They are interested in the subject matter, have a desire to ‘give back’ to their community, to make personal and professional connections, and also to socialize and meet new friends. The field trip was an excellent way to do that.”

OMH volunteers give educational tours, act as gallery hosts and greeters at the OHC, and provide support to the OMH collections staff and administrative offices.

There are currently 120 active volunteers, who have served a total of more than 6,000 hours since September of 2005, when the program originated.

The Volunteer Services Program began last fall as a way to provide support staff to the educational programs of the Oklahoma Museum of History. Earlier this year the program received a $5,000 Capacity Building Grant from the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. Through part of the grant funding, Davis recently attended the National Conference on Volunteering and Service in Seattle, Washington. Along with 2,000 other attendees, she participated in a variety of workshops on volunteer programs.

For more information about the OMH Volunteer Services Program, please call Davis at 405/522-0754 or e-mail her at rdavis@okhistory.org.
Events

Boise City’s Cimarron County Historical Society Foundation and the Cimarron Heritage Center Museum has scheduled its major fundraising event for September 16–23. Volunteers will be cooking and serving three meals a day. From midnight to 2 or 3 a.m. they will also have a “Midnight Café,” which will offer hamburgers, toasted cheese sandwiches, and snacks. For information telephone 580/544-3479. (Cimarron County Historical Society Foundation & the Cimarron Heritage Center Museum Newsletter, Summer 2006)

In Chickasha, the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma’s (USAO) Troutt Hall Auditorium is the venue for the world premiere of Te Ata, an off-Broadway play with live music. The theatrical production will run from August 5 through 13. Chickasaw playwright Judy Lee Oliva of Albuquerque brings the life story of Oklahoma-born, Chickasaw storyteller Te Ata Fisher (1895–1995) to the stage. Actress Donna Brooks of New York and Los Angeles–based actress DeLanna Studi portray the older and younger Te Ata, respectively. Seating in the auditorium is in two sections. The Gold Section costs $25 per ticket or $20 each for a group of twenty or more. The Silver Section costs $15 or $10 each for a group of twenty or more. For tickets call the USAO box office at 405/574-1213 or go online to <www.TeAtaWorldPremiere.com>. (Special to ML)

Miami’s historic Coleman Theatre is hosting the Cotton Patch Gospel by the Tulsa Repertory Theatre. Come to the Coleman Theatre and join in the laughter and great music on Saturday, August 26, at 7:30 p.m. For information call 918/242-2452, e-mail <colemantheatre@cable.net>, or go to <www.colemantheatre.org>. (The Encore, Friends of the Coleman Theatre Beautiful Newsletter)

Anadarko fairgrounds will be the venue for the American Indian Exposition on August 7–12. Ceremonial dances, competitions, pageants, a carnival, and parades are planned. Parades will be held at 11 a.m. on the opening and closing days of the exposition. Admission is free. Call 405/247-6651 or go to <www.anadarko.org>. (Special to ML)

Hollis is hosting its Black-eyed Pea Festival on Saturday, August 12, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. A variety of activities are scheduled including a parade, an antique tractor show and pull, an arts and crafts booth, and a performance by the Harmon County Opry. In addition to a black-eyed pea meal and free watermelon, food vendors will offer other treats. Call 580/688-9545 or e-mail <harcomuseum@pldt.net>. Admission is free. (Special to ML)

Rush Springs is hosting its Watermelon Festival on Saturday, August 12, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Visitors will enjoy entertainment, a carnival, and an arts and crafts show. Free watermelon will be served starting at 4 p.m. In conjunction with the festival, a rodeo will take place on Thursday and Friday, August 10–11. For more information contact Renee Hoover-Payton at <mrshooverpayton@hotmail.com>. (Special to ML)

Exhibits

Oklahoma City’s National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum is the venue for an American Indian art exhibit entitled The First 100 Years: Southern Plains Painting and Drawing. On display through October 8, the exhibit has been designated an official Oklahoma Centennial event. Works include paintings by various Kiowa Five artists, works by those within the sphere of Muskogee, Oklahoma’s Bacone College, and works produced by several self-taught Oklahoma Indian painters. Supporting Sponsors are Phillips McFall McCaffrey McVay & Murray P.C. and Standley Systems, with additional support from Museum Partners Devon Energy Corporation, Mustang Fuel Corporation, and Chesapeake Energy Corporation. More information exists online at the museum’s web site, <www.nationalcowboymuseum.org>. (Special to ML)

Chandler’s Lincoln County Historical Society Museum of Pioneer History is offering entertainment and learning through its exhibit and demonstrations of marionettes. The museum is featuring fifty-five historical, half-century-old marionettes on loan through August from the Kansas City Puppetry Arts Center. Tom Ferenbaugh and friends are presenting live marionette demonstrations at 2 p.m. on Tuesdays through Fridays. A video demonstration for making stick puppets and the story of Miss Fay’s Historical Marionette Theater by Joann McMillan is available for viewing during museum hours of 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays through Fridays and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays. Admission is free. Information may be obtained by e-mailing <lincolncountyhis@sbcglobal.net>. To request reservations for large groups, please call 405/258-2425. This summer’s event is sponsored by the Children’s Committee of the Lincoln County Historical Society with assistance from the Oklahoma Arts Council and the National Foundation for the Arts. The Lincoln County Historical Society Museum of Pioneer History and Children’s Resource Center is located in Chandler at 717–721 Manvel Avenue, Chandler. (Special to ML)

Writings

Arcadia Publishing is offering a new pictorial history entitled Oklahoma City Zoo: 1902–1959 written by Oklahoma City Zoo historian and author Amy Dee Stephens. The 128-page, soft-cover publication has more than two hundred vintage images and tells the zoo’s history from its simple beginning of one deer donated to a neighborhood park. The price of the book is $19.99. If the book is purchased at the zoo, two dollars of the proceeds will go toward the rehabilitation of buildings on the zoo grounds. These will house a future zoo historical museum. Oklahoma City Zoo can also be purchased at area bookstores. It is also available from Arcadia Publishing by calling 888/313-2665 or at the web site <www.arcadiapublishing.com>. (Special to ML)

The Pawnee County Historical Society Museum, located at 513 Sixth Street in Pawnee, is asking Pawnee County residents for copies of old and current photographs of county residents, places, and events. If you do not want to donate your images or if you do not have them scanned on a CD, the museum staff will scan them for you so that your originals can be returned to you. They are also requesting that individuals donate a copy of their family histories and memoirs to be placed in the museum’s archives. Everyone is welcome to attend the Pawnee County Historical Society’s meetings, which are held on the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the museum. For information call 918/762-4681. (Pawnee County Historical Society Newsletter, June 2006).

In Oklahoma City, nominations are being accepted for the Oklahoma 2006 Governor’s Arts Awards. Sponsored by the Oklahoma Arts Council and the Governor’s Arts Awards Committee, these honors are bestowed on individuals and organizations to recognize their outstanding support for the arts. Contact Ann Dee Lee of the Arts Council, 405/521-2931 or e-mail her at <amnde@arts.ok.gov>. Nominees must be current residents of Oklahoma and living here full time or be organizations that work in and for the benefit of Oklahoma. Nomination forms must be submitted to the Council no later than August 15, 2006. (Special to ML)
Hidden Collections . . .

The John Ross Papers

By Larry O’Dell

A collection of letters written and received by John Ross (1797–1866), principal chief of the Cherokee Nation from 1828 until his death in 1866, are a significant keystone of the Oklahoma Historical Society’s archives [82.01, 1 document box, .3 cu. ft.]. This correspondence dates from 1829 until 1865, or from preremoval through the Civil War. Many of the letters, but not all, have been transcribed in The Papers of Chief John Ross, compiled by Gary E. Moulton. Moulton’s multivolume work is also available for viewing at the Research Library.

Several nationally and locally well-known men and women were writers or recipients of these missives, including George Lowrey, Joseph Coodey, Richard Fields, Evan Jones, Winfield Scott, John Bushyhead, Roman Nose, John Quincy Adams, Roley McIntosh, and Mary Stapler Ross. An example of the many subjects discussed by the correspondents is the December 27, 1832, letter to Ross from B. B. Wisner of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (not in the Moulton books). Wisner urges Ross to accept the treaty terms offered by the U.S. government to the Cherokees to leave their homeland for another country west of the Mississippi River.

These letters exchange both personal and business information, framing nearly fifty years of Indian Territory development. By combining these with the other letters contained in Moulton’s two volumes, a researcher can cultivate a better understanding of Cherokee politics and of the social and political atmosphere of nineteenth-century eastern Oklahoma. Copies of the letters held by OHS can be viewed in the reading room, with the originals remaining safely in collections storage.

OHS Faces . . .

Mike Adkins, Education Director, Oklahoma Museum of History

If you see museum educator Mike Adkins at work outside the “office environment,” you probably won’t recognize him. He will be portraying one of dozens of historical character types, and a hundred or so children will be sitting in front of him, mesmerized.

Adkins, a Tulsa native, attended Oklahoma State University and received a BA in political science in 1972 and an MS in secondary education (history emphasis) in 1974. He has taught a wide range of subjects, including ancient, Oklahoma, and American history, sociology, psychology, and government. After beginning his career in 1974 in Oklahoma City at Central Junior High, he went on to teach at Moore High School. He spent the last twelve years of his teaching career at Westmoore High School.

Mistletoe Leaves asked Adkins how he decided to be a costumed historical interpreter: “I started interpretive living history in 1979 at Central and continued with the two high schools. I started because I had a summer job at Frontier City doing the gunfights and began bringing them into the classroom. My first attempts were fur trapper, cowboy, Civil War soldier, and Indian Wars cavalryman.”

Mistletoe Leaves asked Adkins when and how he switched from just “looking like” an historical personage to actually “acting like one” and “getting into character”: “I started doing ‘third person’ [‘he’ or ‘they’] but soon changed to the ‘first person’ format [‘I’ or ‘we’].” He began using the language and terminology of the day and describing activities as if he had just done them. “My first attempt was even before I worked at Frontier City. In 1978, when I portrayed John Wilkes Booth, I ‘shot’ President Lincoln during a school-wide Civil War festival.”

Named Oklahoma’s State Teacher of the Year for 1988–89, Adkins has also received Teacher of the Year Awards from the DAR, Oklahoma Jaycees, State PTA, Daughters of the Colonial Wars, and the Oklahoma Council for Social Studies.

Six years ago OHS hired him to be Director of Education for the Oklahoma Museum of History. In addition, he volunteers for OHS-sponsored battle reenactments and other such events and, with Ralph Jones, has written a National Park Service curriculum on the Battle of Honey Springs.

Mistletoe Leaves asked Adkins to describe the favorite aspect of his job: “This last question is easy! I love to get students excited about Oklahoma history. I love to make the history come alive for them and for them to want to know more about our state.”

The museum’s education staff served more than 41,000 persons in all aspects of Educational Services from the beginning of the 2005–2006 school year and by July of 2006.
**1931 Ford Victoria donated to Chisholm Trail Museum**

A few months ago Wesley Estill of Albuquerque, New Mexico, was in Kingfisher at the Chisholm Trail Museum to conduct research on his family. He mentioned that he owns a 1931 Ford Victoria and wanted to find just the right home for it. He decided to give it to the Chisholm Trail Museum. Because the car had traveled the roads across America and because the museum in Kingfisher stands for a time when travel through Oklahoma was significant in the lives of so many people, he wanted “Vicki” to be in Kingfisher, where his family had settled. On July 4, 2006, Victoria represented the museum in the annual Fourth of July parade down Kingfisher’s Main Street.

After the parade, the car was delivered to the museum, with the friends group waiting to maneuver her into her new home, which they accomplished very well.

Estill summed up his feelings for the car and what it represents to him:

“It is my great honor to bring this classic automobile, a piece of 20th-century American history, to a new home at the Chisholm Trail Museum in Kingfisher, Oklahoma. This original 1931 Ford Model A Victoria was born 75 years ago and would have traveled across Route 66 through Oklahoma during the Depression and the Dust Bowl on route to California. Like the pioneer families of Oklahoma (including my ancestors, the Lehenbauers and the Estills), it survived the hardship of extreme weather conditions and a struggling economy.

“I have owned the car for 15 years and have always considered myself a caretaker of this wonderful piece of Americana. I found Victoria in a dusty garage in northern California and purchased her. I knew she was special because she was all there, her parts were all original, and she just needed a little TLC to bring her back to life. I brought her first to New Mexico and now back home to Oklahoma.

“It is fitting that Victoria be driven in the Fourth of July parade to commemorate our country’s birthday. She has been photographed by thousands and even saluted by some of our veterans on Memorial Day. “Treat her like a lady; Vicki’s not fast, but she’s grand at 75 years old. Besides, people want to see her, so give them a chance.”

The staff plans to do just that.

**OHS Places . . .**

**Fort Gibson**

P.O. Box 457  
907 North Garrison, State Highway 80  
Fort Gibson, OK 74434-0457  
Phone: 918/478-4088  
Hours: Summer (April 15–Sept.14); Tues.–Sun., 10 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Winter (Sept.15–April 14); Thurs.–Sun., 10 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Admission: Adults $3; Seniors (age 65+) $2.50; Students (ages 6–18) $1; Children (5 and under) free.

Fort Gibson was the first U.S. military post established in the area that became Oklahoma. In 1824 Col. Matthew Arbuckle, commander of the Seventh Infantry at Fort Smith, Arkansas, established Cantonment Gibson on the Grand River, near its confluence with the Arkansas River. Originally intended to keep peace on the frontier, the fort also served as a destination point when the Five Civilized Tribes were removed from the southeastern United States to Indian Territory during the 1820s and 1830s. In 1832 the cantonment was renamed Fort Gibson, and it became a staging area for military expeditions such as the Dodge-Leavenworth Expedition of 1834. During the Civil War (1861–65), the fort was first occupied by Confederate troops until Fort Davis was established across the Arkansas River. Union troops then occupied Fort Gibson and temporarily renamed it Fort Blunt.

Fort Gibson’s former commissary serves as the visitors’ center. Other structures with public access include the barracks, the hospital, the bakery, the stockade, married officers’ quarters, the library, and the mess house. Visitors will see a reconstructed log fort and outbuildings reminiscent of the early 1800s and learn about the fort’s historical significance during its sixty-six years of existence.

In the early 1920s local residents clamored to preserve the fort’s history. During the 1930s the stockade area was reconstructed through the efforts of the Fort Gibson Stockade Commission and through funding from President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal programs. Fort Gibson is operated by the Oklahoma Historical Society and is listed as a National Historic Landmark. In 1966 the fort was listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NR 66006631).

Annual events include a Victorian Valentine Workshop in February, a Public Bake Day in March, Old Fort Days Heritage Festival in April, Mexican War Fall Encampment in October, Ladies’ Camp of Instruction in November, and a Candlelight Tour in December.

**Historic black gymnasium and memorial hall are listed in National Register**

The State Historic Preservation Office is pleased to announce that two Oklahoma properties were recently added to the National Register of Historic Places, the federal government’s official list of properties significant in American history. L’Ouverture Gymnasium in McAlester and the Kingfisher Memorial Hall are now included.

L’Ouverture Gymnasium is a native-stone building constructed in the winter of 1934–35 by laborers employed through the Civil Works Authority, an early New Deal works agency. The school was McAlester’s “Separate” school, and the gym also served the African American population of the city as a social center. Empty and threatened for many years, the gymnasium has recently been leased from the McAlester Schools by the L’Ouverture Alumni Association of Oklahoma City, who are raising funds for needed roof repairs.

Memorial Hall in Kingfisher houses city offices. Its significance lies less in its architecture, although it was designed by Layton, Smith & Forsyth, the same firm that designed the state’s Capitol, but in what it represents. The Memorial Hall was constructed to pay homage to Kingfisher County men who fought and died in the First World War. That war spawned a great wave of memorial building, including the stadia at the universities in Stillwater and Norman, as well as countless statues, plaques, and monuments. Kingfisher’s Memorial Hall, completed in 1921, was the state’s first large-scale memorial project. As such, it rode the crest of a wave of memorial building that touched every corner of Oklahoma.

The State Historic Preservation Office continues to strive to gain recognition for places that are significant in our history. These two disparate properties add to the compendium of the state’s documented history. For information on these or other National Register properties, call SHPO Architectural Historian Jim Gabbert at 405/522-4478 or e-mail him at <jgabbert@okhistory.org>.
New Annual Members
Anderson, Martha, Chocow
Bennett, Tulsa
Brashers, Roy J., Sapulpa
Clark, Whaine C., Lawton
Compton, Sydney, Yukon
Cornish, Richard P., McAlester
Correa, Patsy, Visalia, CA
Cox, Richard, Oklahoma City
Crawford, Reece J., Canadian
Donaldson, Levis, John, Oklahoma City
Douart, Ambronia, Dallas, TX
Droste, Lt. Col. J. C., Jr., Fort Worth, TX
Drummond, Maj. Gen. J.E., Montgomery, AL
Durland, Alan D., Tulsa
Edwards, Delores J., Newkirk
Eriis, David, Oklahoma City
Felly, Octavia, Altus
Fields, Stephenie, McAlester
Frazier, E. R., Muskogee
Gambill, Darrell, Pawnee
Gibbs, Cary, Oklahoma City
Gins, Charles R., Norman
Gordon, Rawnie J., Tulsa
Gossett, Beulah P., Moss Beach, CA
Greene, William N., Irvine, CA
Harris, Jan Owen, Gainesville, FL
Heilige, Pat, Claremore
Hendon, Bill, Ph.D., Boudette, MN
Hilton, June, Stroud
Johnson, Paul H., Tulsa
Johnston, Ruthie, Vinita
Jones, Brenda, Oklahoma City
Jones, Brian, Oklahoma City
Jones, Judith A., Grove
Kirk, Sharon K., Sacramento, CA
McCloy, Stephen, Oklahoma City
Miller, Shaw, Wellington
Mosman, Brad W., Shawnee
Mull-Anthony, Dr. Chyanina, Tulsa
Nall, Edwin P., Oklahoma City
Nelson, Jay, Tulsa
Oberst, Ludwig, Koblenz, Germany
Park, Andrew, Oklahoma City
Pirx, Babbara C., Naples, FL
Poyner, Shirley D., Collinsville
Quaid, Tom, Oklahoma City
Ransay, Charles, Bartlesville
Roberts, Charles E., Sacramento, CA
Robinson, Teresa L., Blanchard
Roper, Joanna, Clinton
Rossi, Paul A., Rogers, AR
Rutin, Katherine, Oklahoma City
Samuel, Janetta, Oklahoma City
Steiger, Ralph J., Baltimore, MD
Thomas, Koehler, Norman
Veigos, Neal, Tulsa
Vetter, Robert, Eastport, NY
Warriner, Juantia C., Tishomingo
Wehiasa, Steven, Oklahoma City
Williams, Mary Lou, Vancouver, WA
Youngblood, Julia K., Bartlett, TN

New Family Members
Arganbright, Jim & Ann, Tuttle
Atwood, Crystal, Oklahoma City
Baer, Henry, Oklahoma City
Boult, John W. & Evelyn F., Oklahoma City
Cheatham, Charles & Nita, Oklahoma City
Cline, Kenda, Marjane, Tulsa
Dobson, Page & Nancy, Oklahoma City
Downing, Debbie & Carl, Oklahoma City
Edness, Bill & Carolyn, Oklahoma City
Howard, Richard, Ardmore
Howarth, William H. & Luella M., Bartlesville
Jackson, Donald & Kay, Ardmore
McPherson, Charles L. & Joan, Sapulpa
Parker, Richard H. & Carolyn, Oklahoma City
Phelps, Douglas & Vickie J., McAlester
Pierson, W. Devier, Chevy Chase, MD
Pulse, Robert O. & Diane B., Canadian
Roberts, Jay, Tulsa
Roberts, Eugene C. & Beth J., Richardson, TX
Robinson, Jackie C., Edmond
Sorenson, Frank & Helme E., Stillwater
Trumbly, Joe & Arlena, Pawhuska
Turner, Dan & Ann Kennedy, Oklahoma City
Vaughn, Steve & Merrie, Goldsby
Waits, Kathleen & Martin Belsky, Tulsa
Weaver, Mr. & Mrs. Warren, Duncan

In April the OHS Board of Directors approved a new membership structure. It expands your choices for contribution level, and it adds a wide variety of new benefits that you will receive as your membership contribution level rises.

The basic benefits remain the same—free admission to all OHS museums and sites for the member, voting rights in the Annual Board Election, a discount in the Gift Shop at the Oklahoma Museum of History, a one-year subscription to The Chronicles of Oklahoma (published quarterly), and a one-year subscription to Mistletoe Leaves monthly newsletter.

The slate of new benefits will be under discussion during the July quarterly OHS Board meeting, and a full description of each category’s exciting new offerings will be presented to the membership in the September issue of Mistletoe Leaves. The new categories and contribution levels will be effective September 1, 2006.

For further information call Dr. Tim Zwink, Director of Development, at 405-522-5217 or e-mail tzownik@okhistory.org.

Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame selects nine for 2006 induction

Nine Oklahoma educators have been selected for induction into the 2006 Higher Education Hall of Fame, according to John Parrish, president of the Oklahoma Higher Education Heritage Society. The induction ceremony will be held on October 3 in Oklahoma City.

Those selected include Marshall Allen, Don and Joy Beaver, Charles Butler, Donald Levy, Audrey Oaks, James Plaxico, Janice Ronda, and Robert Todd (deceased).

Marshall Allen, widely known as a visionary leader in technological applications to higher learning, Allen pioneered such early innovations as “Talkback Television” and “Candit Campus” and has been instrumental in the development of OneNet. The telecommunications center at OSU, which he launched, has served as a model for the nation. He is currently director of The Institute for Learning and Excellence.

Don and Joy Beaver have set deep roots in Southern Nazarene University; they met and fell in love in the pews of the chapel in 1942. Little did they know that they would live lives in service to that institution for a combined 82 years. Joy, a frequent speaker and school consultant, has been instrumental as founding director of the “lab school,” which services students in pre-kindergarten through the sixth grade. In his half-century of service Don held a variety of administrative positions, including vice president, and in retirement continues to play a vital role in the development of the many university projects.

Charles Butler served, between 1966 and 1970, as associate director of the Consultative Committee for Equal Education Opportunity, credited for successful desegregation of Oklahoma public schools. The first African American tenure-track faculty member in the College of Education at OU, Butler taught for 31 years. He is currently director of OU’s African and African American Studies Program, where he established a degree program in 1992.

David Levy, the official historian for the University of Oklahoma, is known as one of the finest classroom teachers ever to serve on their faculty. In addition to his publication of Volume I of The University of Oklahoma: A Centennial History, he is a David Ross Boyd Professor, a Sam K. Viersen Presidential Professor, and an Irene and Julian Rothbaum Professor of History. Now retired, Levy serves on the Norman City Planning Commission.

Audrey Oaks served as professor of art education from 1964 to 1990 at the University of Oklahoma. Her writings and program development helped shape art education in Oklahoma. In 2003 she received national recognition by being named the National Retired Art Educator of the Year. She is a 2004 inductee into the OSU College of Education Hall of Fame. Her work is exhibited in galleries throughout the state.

James Plaxico has served with distinction in the areas of teaching, research, community service, and administration. In 1961 he was named OSU’s College of Agriculture Outstanding Teacher. He served on several distinguished councils, panels, and task forces at state and national levels. Under his leadership as department head of the OSU Agricultural Economics Program, graduate enrollment doubled and faculty received numerous awards. He is currently self-employed as a consulting economist.

James Ronda, an inspirational teacher, has drawn admiration for his histories of the American West. He has supervised major exhibits at the Library of Congress and lectured in its Great Hall. He has served as expert commentator for televised documentaries for PBS, the BBC, OETA, the History Channel, and the Discovery Channel. Ronda currently holds the H. G. Barnard Chair in Western American History at The University of Tulsa.

Robert Todd served in a variety of administrative capacities at Oklahoma City Community College prior to assuming the presidency in 1995. Under his leadership OCCC experienced record-breaking enrollments, the construction of three new buildings, and recruitment, through ORC-Go!, of promising disadvantaged students, setting them on a path to higher learning. Todd will be inducted posthumously.

The Higher Education Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Dinner will be held at 6:30 p.m., October 3 at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum. Information regarding the event and tickets may be obtained by e-mailing <oehes@okhistory.org> or by calling the Society at 405/522-0779.

Mistletoe Leaves
Research Center inaugurates state-of-the-art electronic catalog in July

The future has arrived. OHS members and researchers throughout the nation will soon benefit from a new, state-of-the-art research tool that’s been instituted by the staff of the Research Center. After completing a three-year-long process of planning and testing, an electronic collections management system is now operational. It is accessible on a battery of new computers in the Kirkpatrick Reading Room of the Research Center, and it is also available online at the OHS web site, <okhistory.org>.

Provided through Cuadra Star Collections Management applications software, “Star/Archives” is the name of the program through which researchers may now mine the OHS collections. In technical terms, the Star/Archives Public Access Catalog allows patrons to search across collections using keywords. Searching for a given topic (by keyword) will bring up information on any related documents, photographs, audio and video holdings, and books in the OHS library/archive.

Staff are working diligently to place all of the OHS’s holdings information within the system. Go to the OHS web site, <okhistory.org>, click on “Research,” and then click on “New Online Catalog.” You may select Archives, Library Catalog, or Newspaper Articles. From those screens, you may enter search terms/keywords and follow the links to the information you’re seeking.

Take a look at these three collections: the Arch Dixon Collection (type in “Arch Dixon” at the search screen) provides a look at 145 aviation photos that Dixon accumulated in the first half of the 20th century. Typing in the words “Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce Collection” will send you through various finding aids to discover the contents of that 700-volume holding. Another enormous collection presently being added to the catalog is the political memorabilia and collateral materials recently acquired from collector John Dunning, with funding from Chesapeake Energy. The program will access for you an amazing variety of political buttons, photos, posters, and other political memorabilia.

For all practical purposes, the Star/Archives site is in a public “beta testing” stage, and as it is perfected, it will grow in the number of OHS research collections that are available for public access searching.

Fire! Enid’s tragedies to be subject of Brown Bag Lecture

Enid’s Museum of the Cherokee Strip will host Fire Chief Phil Clover on Wednesday, August 16 from 12 noon to 1 p.m. for the next installment of the Brown Bag Lecture Series. Clover will speak about Enid’s major historical fires and the evolution of the city fire department. A disastrous conflagration occurred on July 12, 1901, wiping out the entire south side of the downtown square and threatening to destroy the entire city. The only “fire protection” was a brigade of volunteer men and boys. They had a two-wheeled hose cart, known as the “Pabst Hook and Ladder Company Wagon,” with 500 feet of hose. The Pabst Brewing Company had donated $425 toward its purchase in 1894. After this fiasco, the City of Enid created a paid fire department. The museum is located at 507 South Fourth St. Call 580/237-1907 for information.

Mark your calendar!

The Friends of the Murrell Home will host a cap-making workshop on September 8 and a Ladies’ Camp of Instruction on September 9.

To register, contact the Murrell Home at 918/456-2751 or e-mail the staff at <murrellhome@okhistory.org>.

SHPO to sponsor historic window workshop in Guthrie on September 7

The Oklahoma Historical Society’s State Historic Preservation Office and Guthrie Museum Complex, the National Park Service Intermountain Regional Office, and Rocky Mountain National Park are cosponsoring an Historic Window Workshop on September 7, 2006, at the State Capital Publishing Company Building (State Capital Publishing Museum), 301 West Harrison, Guthrie, Oklahoma. The one-day workshop will interest architects, contractors, and owners of historic properties, as well as other citizens. Registration is limited to 20 participants on a first-come basis, with a registration fee of $20 per person. The registration deadline is 5 p.m., Friday, August 25.

The workshop’s purpose is to increase awareness of the significant role windows play in an historic building and to teach practical and effective ways to restore these windows to their original condition. We will briefly discuss the history of windows over the last 200 years and the role they play in the style and architecture of a historic building. We will also offer hands on demonstrations on the proper techniques for removing, restoring, and installing historic sash. The discussions will include repairing versus replacing, proper techniques for repairs, the proper way to re-glaze a window, replacing sash cords and pulleys, and much more.

In 1999 the Secretary of the Interior designated the heart of Guthrie’s central business district a National Historic Landmark for its role in the opening of the last American frontier to non-Indian settlement and for its outstanding collection of late 1800s and early 1900s commercial architecture. It provides a perfect laboratory in which workshop participants can examine various window types and observe the results of appropriate treatment of historic windows.

Architects can earn continuing education credits for attending the workshop. The SHPO is a registered provider of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Continuing Education System (CES) learning units. The workshop provides Health, Safety, Welfare (HSW) credit to meet state licensing continuing education requirements. Each person submitting a completed Workshop Participation Form (available at the registration site) will receive a certificate of attendance, and AIA members enjoy the benefit of having their workshop participation reported directly to the AIA for continuing education tracking convenience. There are no additional fees for this service. Just register for the workshop. For further information contact Catherine Montgomery, AIA, SHPO Historic Preservation Architect at 405/522-4479 or <catherine@okhistory.org>.

For registration information, contact the SHPO at 405/521-6249, send an e-mail to <sjo@okhistory.org> or visit the web site at <www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpom.htm> and select “Events.”
New SHPO publications available

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is pleased to announce the availability of new editions of two of its publications. Each of them is a basic tool for architects, preservation leaders, government agency officials with cultural resource management responsibilities, and preservation professionals.

*Oklahoma’s National Register Handbook* includes a complete listing of the state’s entries in the register, the criteria for evaluating National Register eligibility, details about what listing means, the rights of private property owners, and much more.

*Tomorrow’s Legacy: Oklahoma’s Statewide Preservation Plan (2005)* discusses the state’s historic resource types and threats to them. Additionally, it includes the goals and objectives for the statewide preservation effort and suggestions for meeting the objectives. The *Statewide Plan* is an easy-to-use guide to preservation-related laws, terminology, and persons to contact with your questions.

To request a copy of either publication, contact the SHPO at 405/521-6249 or e-mail <sjotley@okhistory.org>. Both publications are available on the internet at the SHPO web page of the OHS web site, www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpom.htm.

Frank Phillips Home hosts vintage style show

The Friends of Frank Phillips Home hosted a Men’s and Women’s Vintage Style Show in Bartlesville during the OK Mozart Festival in June. Men, women, and children dressed in early 1900s clothing treated the guests to different fashions ranging from everyday wear to fancy ball gowns.

This year the style show displayed 80 original and reproduction outfits that included hats for men and women, large bows adorning the dresses, and day and evening gloves. Several of the models demonstrated how their clothing looked while dancing the popular dances of the early twentieth century. The models came to Bartlesville from all parts of Oklahoma. Martha Ray, Oklahoma Historical Society Director of Historic Homes, was the show’s emcee.

From the History Center . . .

New Oklahoma Museum of History exhibits

On June 27 the Exhibits Department of the Oklahoma Museum of History installed a new temporary exhibition in the Chesapeake Events Center. The exhibition is entitled *A Lasting Legacy: The Art and Culture of Jerome Tiger*. It features an introductory graphic panel and ten framed lithographs of paintings created by the famous Oklahoma artist Jerome Tiger. Accompanying each piece is an interpretive label discussing the technical aspects of each art work as well as the topics in Creek and Seminole history being portrayed. The exhibition will be available for viewing over the next few months.

The OMH Exhibits Department also recently completed work on a new traveling exhibition based on the permanent American Indian exhibit in the History Center's Oneok Gallery. Entitled *We Are Who We Were*, this exhibit covers many of the permanent gallery’s main topics, including Dwellings, Indian Lives, Languages, Living Ways, Origins, and Spirituality.

Utilizing some of the latest trade-show technology in exhibit design and construction, the *We Are Who We Were* traveling exhibit is as functional as it is informative. It includes thirty vibrant graphics panels on two freestanding islands that can be set up by a single person. In addition, the exhibit includes two video touch-screen interactive kiosks and a forty-two-inch plasma screen.

Although the exhibit has yet to travel, the museum will soon begin scheduling it for touring, bringing the message of the American Indian Gallery to the rest of our state and beyond.

Contact the Oklahoma Museum of History at 405/522-0798 for additional information.

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What is that?

It’s a kingpost assembly that will hold up a very large object. That object is related to the object that was shown in last month’s *Mistletoe Leaves*. Both are part of the new outdoor exhibit being erected on the grounds of the Oklahoma History Center.

(staff photo).