Uncanny good time with The Uncanny Adventures of Okie Cartoonists!

The Uncanny Adventures of Okie Cartoonists!, the Oklahoma History Center’s new exhibit on Oklahoma’s rich cartooning history, opened on the weekend of June 11-12 with a private reception for OHS members and the cartoonists on Friday night and a mini comic book convention for the public on Saturday.

Guests Friday night were given yellow Dick Tracy hats to add to the festive atmosphere as the cartoonists enjoyed seeing their contributions to Oklahoma history and culture honored. OHS staff members dressed as characters from the cartoons written and drawn by Oklahoma cartoonists, making themselves readily available for photo ops.

On Saturday the History Center hosted a comic book convention complete with booths from local comic book shops, like the Speeding Bullet, and local publishers, such as Literati Press. Sterling Gates, who writes for DC Comics on such titles as Supergirl, Superman, and Green Lantern, spoke to visitors, as did Dr. Hall Duncan, creator of the Winner Williams series, and Eisner Award-nominated graphic novelist Rob Vollmar.

The OHS partnered with the Toy and Action Figure Museum in Pauls Valley, the Speeding Bullet in Norman, and the Oklahoman to make The Uncanny Adventures of Okie Cartoonists! possible. The exhibit will run through summer 2011.

Volunteer Services Program now taking applications

Do you think the programs and events at the History Center sound like fun? Want to be more involved? Our volunteer coordinator is now taking applications in anticipation of hosting a new volunteer training class this fall! Any individual interested in volunteering at the Oklahoma History Center as a greeter, gallery host, tour guide, special event worker, or general museum volunteer is encouraged to apply. Download an application at www.okhistorycenter.org, or contact the volunteer office at volunteers@okhistory.org or 405/522-0754.
Directors Column

By Bob L. Blackburn
Executive Director

As I look at the progress the Oklahoma Historical Society has made over the past thirty years, I see the many handprints of the people who have pushed and pulled their part of the organization uphill.

Many of those people are now leaving the OHS family as part of a voluntary buy-out the state legislature funded this past year. Most are retiring with full benefits and a few are going on to new chapters of their lives.

Whit Edwards is retiring and taking on a new task of developing a historic home in Texas. Whit came to us in 1991 to start an educational outreach program with a focus on living history. Today, our living history program is one of the best in the country, with high standards, educational value, and a great reputation.

At his right arm was Kelsey Arnold, who is also taking a voluntary buy-out. As “Miss Tula,” Kelsey always attracted a crowd at our reenactments.

Rodger Harris, one of my longtime friends, also is retiring. Rodger came to us as our oral historian and left a legacy that goes far beyond that program. He provided creative energy to all projects, added his dry sense of humor to meetings, and poured his heart and soul into our folk life programs.

Chester Cowen, the king of photo archives, is retiring after almost twenty years of bringing a professional management approach to our photo collections. When Chester came to us, we had about 60,000 photos with poor organization and only slight control over copyright. Today, largely due to his efforts, we have more than nine million well-organized photographs in the collection.

Rocky Jones and Howard McKiniss, our bulbworks at Honey Springs, are retiring as well. Rocky’s deep reservoir of knowledge and Howard’s gigantic heart will be missed as we build on the foundations they laid at that important historic site.

Behind the scenes, we are losing the creative talents of Bill Siemens, head of the graphic arts team. Bill always seemed to find a way to meet our deadlines when we finally laid our projects at his doorstep.

Another miracle worker retiring is Martha Ray, the director of historic homes and one of the most creative managers I have ever met. Martha can take a ball of string and a needle, recruit a few volunteers, and create a 1907 ball with period dress and line dancing. The Pawnee Bill Wild West Show is part of her legacy.

We are also losing talented veterans who have served our statewide sites. Glen McIntyre at Enid, Kaye Bond at Perry, and Eddie Hillhouse in Oklahoma City represent decades of valued experience. We will miss their expertise and dedication to the OHS.

Yes, as I look back on our recent history, I see the handprints of the many who made that history. They will be missed.

Development News

By Paul F. Lambert

On June 8 we began putting gold stickers on OHS members who tour the Oklahoma History Center. Non-members receive stickers with other colors, depending on the day of the week. This will enable our staff and volunteers easily to identify members and to express our appreciation to them for their support. Members tour the History Center and our other historic sites and museums statewide at no charge, and we hope you will visit often.

We are also preparing a new membership brochure and are revising the member benefits. One new benefit already is in place. All members now are eligible to receive a 20 percent discount at the Winnie Mae Café in the History Center! Previously, members at the $100 level and higher received a 10 percent discount. Now operated by Ned’s Catering, the Winnie Mae Café in the History Center offers a great reputation.

Members make other donations and attend events at the History Center and across the state. Some also volunteer their time and talents to support our work. We are grateful for every member, and we appreciate you sticking with us both when the economy is strong and when it is struggling. Please feel free to contact me at 405/522-5217 or plambert@okhistory.org if I can answer any questions or be of help in some way.
Workshop with special guest lecturers will be taking a Journey of Discovery on the history of the region. www.grandriverhistory.com, that currently has initiated a website.

The Oklahoma Genealogical Society will be holding a seminar titled “Genealogy is a Journey of Discovery: Start it Right and Keep it Right” will tackle topics from starting research to analyzing your findings. Participants in the seminar will learn the importance of timelines, internet resources, and using forms. The cost for the workshop and materials is $20, with an optional sub sandwich, drink, and cookie lunch for $6 more. Mail registration to OGS at P.O. Box 12986 Oklahoma City, OK 73157-2986. Forms can be found on the OGS website at www.okgensoc.org and in the Research Library at the Oklahoma History Center.

The National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, together with the Mustang Heritage Foundation, will be holding a two-day summer camp for students ages 12 to 16, on August 9-10. Participants will learn about the fundamentals of art and the history and characteristics of the mustang. Activities include gallery tours, art projects, games, and a trip to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management wild horse and burro adoption facility in Pauls Valley. Tuition is $25 and enrollment is limited.

“DAR Records & Brick Wall Strategies” will be the topic of discussion at the monthly meeting of the Oklahoma Genealogical Society to be held on August 2 at 6 p.m. at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. Pat McFall will show members how to use the Daughters of the American Revolution’s website to access records and to find your Revolutionary ancestors.

The Cherokee National Historical Society and the Cherokee Nation received a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services through its Native American/Native Hawaiian individuals grant program totaling $48,000 for “In Our Own Words,” a project incorporating the Cherokee language into living history programs at the Ancient Village at the Cherokee Heritage Center in Tahlequah. “In Our Own Words” will include two tours of the Ancient Village daily Monday through Saturday. One tour is designed to give non-speakers an introduction to the language through the interpretation of historic events. The other tour is for Cherokee speakers and is more of an immersion into the language and time period. The Institute of Museum and Library Services works at the national level to support libraries and museums in sustaining heritage, culture, and knowledge. For more information on the Cherokee Heritage Center, call 888/999-6007.

The 15th Annual Cherokee Homecoming Arts Show and Sale is coming August 21-September 26. The deadline for submissions is August 6. Entrants must be eighteen years old and a citizen of a federally-recognized Cherokee Tribe. For a chance of a share of at least $10,000 in prize money, contact Mickel Yantz at mickel-yantz@cherokee.org for a copy of the contest rules.

Booth space is still available for vendors at the 58th Annual Cherokee National Holiday held over Labor Day weekend, September 4-6. For more information, contact the event coordinators at the Cherokee Heritage Center in Tahlequah at 918/456-6007 or becky-adair@cherokee.org.

The Harvey House in Waynoka was recently listed in USA Today’s “10 Great Places...” series in its Travel section. The article, “10 Great Places to Follow Fred Harvey’s Old West Tracks” by Larry Bleiberg, featured recommendations from Appetite for America by Stephen Fried. Waynoka’s Harvey House was listed with landmarks like the La Fonda in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Grand Canyon National Park.

The Museum of Pioneer History in Chandler will be hosting ten performances of the play The Last Land Run: Opening of Kickapoo Territory weekday afternoons in September and October at Miss Fay’s Mariette Theater. The play is offered free to all ages thanks to funding assistance by the Oklahoma Arts Council. For open dates, times, and reservations for individuals or groups of twenty to eighty, please contact puppeteer Joann McMillan at 918/707-3000 or joannmcmillan@hotmail.com.

The Friends of the Coleman Theater in Miami will hold its annual Last One Standing party on Friday, August 13. For the $35 price of admission your name goes into a drawing, and as the night progresses, names are drawn and taken down from a leader board. The object is to be the last name on the leader board to win a portion of the ticket sales. Call 918/540-2425 for more information or to reserve your ticket.
Pawnee Bill Ranch

Home of former Wild West Show entertainer Gordon W. “Pawnee Bill” Lillie (1860–1942), the Pawnee Bill Ranch awaits and welcomes the year-round traveler. Situated on Blue Hawk Peak about one-half mile west of Pawnee on U.S. Highway 64, the five hundred-acre grounds includes a fourteen-room mansion completed in 1910, a 1903 log cabin, the original blacksmith shop, and a barn built in 1926. The home is constructed of buff-colored stone quarried from Blue Hawk Peak, and red mortar and red tile add color to the edifice. Rare hardwoods were used in the interior, which is replete with original Lillie furnishings, photographs, memorabilia, and art work. Also, a museum offers exhibits relating to Pawnee Bill, the Wild West shows, and the Pawnee. Residing at the ranch are a herd of bison, longhorn, and draft horses that can be seen grazing in the drive-through exhibit pasture. Annually on the last three Saturdays of June, Pawnee Bill’s Original Wild West Show is recreated at this site. In 1975 the ranch was added to the National Register of Historic Places (NR 75001571).

Lillie was born on Valentine’s Day 1860 in Bloomington, Illinois. His family relocated to Wellington, Kansas, and Lillie eventually came to Indian Territory, working at various jobs such as trapper, cowboy, and waiter waiting tables. He served as teacher, interpreter, and secretary at the Pawnee Agency. While traveling with Buffalo Bill Cody’s Wild West Show, Lillie met May Manning, whom he married in 1886. She became part of the shows, billed as secretary at the Pawnee Agency. While traveling with Buffalo Bill Cody’s Wild West Show, Lillie met May Manning, whom he married in 1886. She became part of the shows, billed as "Champion Girl Horseback Shot of the West.”

Centennial Farms and Ranches added

During the first six months of 2010, the Oklahoma Historical Society, in partnership with the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, added twenty-two farms and three ranches to the Centennial Farm and Ranch Program. Since the inception of the program in 1989, a total of 1,288 families have qualified for recognition.

To qualify for a Farm or Ranch Award, the property must be a minimum of forty acres; must be grossing annual sales of at least $1,000; and a family member must have owned, operated, and occupied the property for at least 100 continuous years. Leased-out property qualifies if the owner is more than sixty-five years of age.

For further information, contact Glen R. Roberson at 405/521-6387 or groberson@okhistory.org

Hidden Collections . . .

The Donna Shirley Collection

By Larry O’Dell

Oklahoma and Oklahomans have had a long relationship with aviation in general and NASA in particular. One new, exemplary collection that the Oklahoma Historical Society is proud to house is the Donna Shirley Collection (2010.62). In May 2010 Shirley donated more than forty-eight cubic feet of material related to her career and life. OHS intern Mallory Newell from the University of Central Oklahoma has done an excellent job processing the collection, making it ready to be researched.

Shirley, a Wynnewood native, attended the University of Oklahoma attaining a bachelor’s degree in engineering. She then completed a master’s degree at the University of Southern California in aerospace engineering. In 1966 she joined NASA as the only woman engineer in the agency. After several projects, she became the first woman to head a program when NASA selected her to oversee the Mars Exploration Program in 1994. Shirley has been inducted into the Women in Technology International Hall of Fame and the Oklahoma Aviation Hall of Fame. She has also received NASA’s Outstanding Leadership Medal and the National Space Society’s Wernher Von Braun Memorial Award. In 1998 Donna Shirley retired from NASA. She then took a position at the University of Oklahoma.

The collection contains her personal papers and material about her family and her childhood, as well as her work for NASA. Highlights include scrapbooks that she kept throughout her life, flight logs, project log books, memos, and published papers. There is also personal and business correspondence. The Donna Shirley Collection can be perused in the Research Division’s online catalogue on the Oklahoma Historical Society’s website: www.okhistory.org. It can also be accessed at the Oklahoma History Center in the John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick Research Center.

Genealogy Book Sale on August 7

On August 7 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. the Research Center will hold a Genealogy Book Sale. Genealogists will want to shop for family history books and related materials. For other history buffs, there will be reproductions of historic maps and photos from the OHS collections for purchase. Come early and stay late. This sale is for one day only.

OSU Library adds to digital collections

The OSU-Stillwater Library is adding a historic Oklahoma magazine to its digital collections online. Sturm’s Oklahoma Magazine was a “booster” magazine published in Tulsa and Oklahoma City from 1905 to 1911, but very few print copies still exist.

Thanks to a grant from Amigos Library Systems, Sturm’s will be available on the OSU Library website at the Digital Collections page, http://digital.library.okstate.edu. Also featured on this page are the McCasland collection of early Oklahoma maps and the online version of the OHS’s Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture.

The project investigators have also created a directory of libraries that have reported holding early Oklahoma magazines. For further information, contact Robin Leech at robin.leech@okstate.edu or Helen Clements at helen.clements@okstate.edu.
This month's Lunch and Learn lecture to be held on August 25 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. is on the topic “Finding the Girls.”

Persons researching their families for any length of time have encountered problems with researching females. Their names change with marriage. And in the past, females could not own property or enter into contracts, which makes locating them in legal records even more difficult. This lecture will provide information on how to consider the times and how to employ some techniques for researching females in your family. Dr. Debra Spindle, Research Division librarian, will be the presenter.

The program will take place in the History Center classrooms. Registration costs $10, and lunch is included. Pre-registration is required. To register, call 405/522-5225.

Theodore Roosevelt visit a smashing success

Theodore Roosevelt’s visit to the Oklahoma History Center on July 8 was judged a smashing success. During the morning, President Roosevelt, played by reenactor Gib Young, entertained and educated students with his stories and then remained to offer his autograph to the youngsters and to answer questions.

During the evening, an energetic President Roosevelt spoke to a captivated audience of more than 300 who packed the Devon Great Hall. Saying he was having a “bully of a time,” the president noted how delighted he was to be back in Oklahoma. He told of an earlier trip when he met the legendary Captain Jack Abernathy and witnessed him catching wolves barehanded. He also explained that one of his major accomplishments was reintroducing buffalo to the Wichita Mountain area, resulting in him being nicknamed the “buffalo president” by the Comanche. He asked if any of his Oklahoma Rough Riders happened to be in the audience and noted how fond he was of them. Following his talk, President Roosevelt held a short question and answer session. Afterward, he fielded further questions from interested audience members.

The day with Theodore Roosevelt was sponsored, in part, by the Oklahoma Humanities Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Inasmuch Foundation.

OHS staff named Hometown Heroes

Jeff Moore and Larry O’Dell were honored as Hometown Heroes by the Oklahoma City Convention and Visitors Bureau for their work on Another Hot Oklahoma Night: A Rock and Roll Exhibit. The Hometown Heroes award honors their contribution to tourism in Oklahoma City.

Moore and O’Dell were the lead curators for the award-winning Another Hot Oklahoma Night exhibit at the History Center. By sharing the story of Oklahoma musicians and their impact on Rock and Roll music, the pair helped create a unique exhibit experience for visitors. The Oklahoma City Convention and Visitors Bureau recognized the impact of exhibits, events, conferences, and other means of promoting tourism for the benefit of the local economy.
It Takes More Than Money...

...to create collections and exhibits that can achieve the Oklahoma Historical Society's goals of collecting, preserving, and sharing. It takes the donation of an artifact, a book, a document, or a whole collection of those things to help us tell Oklahoma's story. Here are the past quarter's contributors to our research collections:

Research Division Donors, April – June 2010

Jim Argo, Edmond
Bob Beavers, Moore
Sammy Beck, Oklahoma City
Binghamton University – State University of New York, Binghamton, NY
Kenneth A. Beulot, Grand Junction, CO
Joel G. Bradford, Blanchard
Carolyn Cantrell, Oklahoma City
Donna Cheever, Union, KY
Civic Music Association, Oklahoma City
Cindy Cochran, Denton, NE
Fredrea Cook, Wyandotte
Lois Cooprider, Yukon
Joe Crosby, Oklahoma City
Tony Crow, Harrah
Freda Cunningham, Oklahoma City
DAR, Council Grove Chapter, Oklahoma City
Michael Dean, Edmond
Edmond Historical Society, Edmond
Myrtle Edmond, Atlers
Whit Edwards, Oklahoma City
Anthony J. Felder, Jr., Owasso
Loretta Fowler, Chicago, IL
Pamela J. Grammar, Edmond
Johnny E. Gregg, Okemah
Chuck Grimes, Hennessey
Rodger Harris, Oklahoma City
Jon Heavener, Oklahoma City
Dorothy Henson, Oklahoma City
Paula Hudson, Rogers, AR
Mary Jane Johnson, Searcy, AR
Ron Johnson, Oklahoma City
Elizabeth Anne Braly Jones, Sherman, TX

Larson R. Keso, Edmond
John Kinston, Lawton
Nancy Lee Waters Lauer, Ellicott City, MD
Charles H. Lohah, Hominy
Bud and Sue Martin, Alva
Frances Middlesworth, El Reno
Phil L. Moseley, Guthrie
Dr. James L. and Lois L. Mosley, Edmond
Carole S. Muller, Oklahoma City
Oklahoma Department of Corrections, Oklahoma City
Oklahoma Genealogical Society, Oklahoma City
Oklahoma Society Colonial Dames XVII Century
R.J. Pauelsen, Odessa, TX
Mary Payne, Oklahoma City
Donna Baker Rognisli, Morton Grove, IL
Melanie Roth, Natron, CO
Charlotte Schuepbach, San Antonio, TX
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Donna Shively, Tulsa
Janice Siecas, Seymour, IN
Debra O. Spindle, Oklahoma City
Orla Franklin Story, Meeker
Daryl Talbot, Shawnee
Ann Taylor, Oklahoma City
Touchmark of Coffee Creek Retirement Community, Edmond
Rosald D. Triplet, Edmond
Turner Publishing Company, Nashville, TN
AI and Cori Williamson, Endwell, NY
Rev. K. Calvin-Williamson, Bethany
Connie Young, Edmond

SHPO SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT FOR FY 2011 PROGRAM

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will hold a public meeting at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, September 10, 2010, in the Oklahoma History Center classroom, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive (just northeast of the state Capitol), Oklahoma City, to provide information about the statewide preservation program and to receive public input for development of the Fiscal Year 2011 Historic Preservation Fund application. The SHPO expects to receive approximately $800,000 from the U.S. Department of the Interior's FY 2010 Historic Preservation Fund to carry out its programs and operations. Ten percent of the award is reserved for pass-through grants to Certified Local Governments (CLGs).

Under the National Historic Preservation Act, the SHPO has responsibility for administration of the federal historic preservation program in Oklahoma. In brief, the purpose of the program is to encourage preservation of the state’s archaeological and historic resources for the people’s benefit. Specific activities directed toward this goal include identification of properties important in history, architecture, culture, and archaeology; evaluation and registration of significant properties; formal review of federal and federally-assisted projects that could affect archaeological and historic resources; development and implementation of the statewide historic preservation plan; administration of the SHPO program; administration of the federal and state investment tax credits program for certified historic structures; and public outreach activities.

Tomorrow’s Legacy: Oklahoma’s Statewide Preservation Plan (2010) [available from the SHPO or at www.okhistory.org/shpo/stateplan.htm] sets forth the goals and objectives for historic preservation efforts in the state, including the SHPO's programs listed above. The SHPO's priorities for addressing the State Plan's goals are continuation of the archaeological and historic/architectural resources survey program to document property types underrepresented in the state's inventory and to extend survey coverage to previously unstudied areas, preparation of nominations for the National Register of Historic Places, and provision of public outreach and technical assistance programs. Your comments will help the SHPO determine its specific projects and activities for FY 2011 to address these priorities.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, your written comments and suggestions are welcome. You may complete the SHPO's "Project Suggestion Form" and return it by 5 p.m. Friday, September 10, 2010. Just call the SHPO at 405/521-6249 or send an e-mail message to Betty Harris at bharris@okhistory.org to have the form sent to you. You may also obtain it at www.okhistory.org/shpo/spevents.htm.

“The Sun on Earth” traveling tapestry exhibition at Oklahoma Route 66 Museum

From August 10-31 a traveling tapestry exhibit will be on display at the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum in Clinton. Titled “Sun on Earth,” the exhibit is a huge tapestry exhibition celebrating the natural environment of western Oklahoma. It is sponsored by the Art Department at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford.

The exhibit is inspired by the idea that public art can belong to a large group of artists rather than to any individual. The tapestry is a product of a community effort in the arts, and the project included discussions and planning sessions among groups as large as twenty-five people from western Oklahoma. A smaller group took an active part in constructing the work, and a still smaller group made up the central core of weavers.

The weavers for this exhibit are Carol Goyer, Myra Jennings, E. K. Jeong, Mary Segal, and Cristina Stone. Other prominent participants include Melanie Campbell, Hua Min Wang, Kevin Collins, Linda Hays, and Jeanine Berrong.

This public art tapestry was made possible by the assistance of the Oklahoma Arts Council, the Weatherford Arts Council, the City of Weatherford, Southwestern Oklahoma State University, and the Elizabeth Firestone Graham Foundation.

The exhibit can be viewed at the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Monday through Saturday and from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

For more information about “Sun on Earth,” contact Pat Smith, director of the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum, at 580/323-7866 or rt66mus@okhistory.org or E. K. Jeong, assistant professor in the Art Department, Southwestern Oklahoma State University, at 580/774-3035 or ekjeong@swosu.edu. The museum is located at 2229 West Gay Boulevard in Clinton.

August Quilt Block Class at Pawnee Bill Ranch

On August 10 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Pawnee Bill Ranch will host its Quilt Block of the Month class. The workshop cost is $5.00 and will take place in the museum conference room. These classes are held the second Tuesday of every month through the rest of the year. For more information, contact Anna Davis at 918/762-2513 or pawneebill@okhistory.org.
Hello everyone! It has been a great year so far here in the History Center Gift Shop. We have received many calls from those of you interested in our newest books, especially the new *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*. I hope all of you are doing well and enjoying the summer warmth. Here are some of our newest books. I hope you see something you like.

**OKLAHOMA CITY MUSIC: Deep Deuce and Beyond** by Anita G. Arnold. Details the birth and growth of music in Oklahoma City's African American community from the 1920s until the late 1990s. Also explores how the seeds of music so deeply planted in the early days continue to produce great musicians. Includes over 100 photographs. 128 pages. Paperback. $21.99

**WHO’S YOUR DADDY: A Guide to Genealogy from Start to Finish** by Carolyn B. Leonard. Teaches the basics of genealogical research in a fun, readable way with lots of interesting anecdotes and examples. Signed by the author. 239 pages. Paperback. $17.95

**LET’S GO TO THE TACKLE STORE AND FONDLE THE PLUGS** by Joann Phillips with illustrations by Michael D. Kirchhoff. Provides the reader with a witty, absorbing, and totally fantastic recounting of a family’s lifetime of happiness and fun built around fishing trips and all that goes into them. 174 pages. Paperback. $8.95

**MARLAND TRAGEDY: The Turbulent Story of a Forgotten Oklahoma Icon** by Kim Brumley. Recounts the controversial, true-life story of E.W. Marland and his family, business, and political career. Explores the unanswered questions surrounding his personal life, including his first wife’s death, his second marriage to adopted daughter Lydie, the construction of his estate, and Lydie’s plunge into isolation after his death. 180 pages. Paperback. $12.99

**JOHN STEINBECK WAS WRONG ABOUT OKLAHOMA** by Bob Burke. John Steinbeck’s portrayal of Oklahomans in his 1939 novel, *The Grapes of Wrath*, stereotyped America’s view of “Okies” for generations. Bob Burke tells the real story of Oklahoma through the people of Oklahoma who changed the direction of science, business, entertainment, and sports with their ideas and performances. 31 pages. Hardcover. $9.95

To order please use the order form included here, or you can call us at 405/522-5214. Please make checks payable to the Oklahoma Historical Society. To facilitate orders paid by check we ask that, if possible, you call or email first to check for product availability. If this is not possible, don’t worry. We will do our best to fill any part of your order that we can. Overseas members must email us for a shipping quote before submitting an order. For questions and suggestions you can call us or email us at giftshop@okhistory.org. Thanks once again for your patronage, and we look forward to hearing from each and every one of you!
The History Center begins construction of a Chuck Wagon

While the cattle drive era only lasted a few years, it still remains one of the most popular periods of American history. Each year the History Center provides countless living history programs based on the life of everyday cowboys. Beginning in the fall of 2010 a new program will expand this story for groups of all ages.

Earlier this summer the Oklahoma History Center acquired a period wagon to convert into a working chuck wagon. With the help of several volunteers, construction of the piece is well under way. Dutch ovens, bedrolls, saddles, and more will help students of all ages see just what life was like for working drovers. The program is designed to take on the road for schools and community festivals as well as being available for events at the History Center. If you would like more information on the program, please contact Jason Harris at the Oklahoma History Center at jharris@okhistory.org or call 405/522-0785.

Inasmuch and Oklahoma History Center Team Up for Education

One of the greatest joys of a museum educator is a building filled with students. But with the pending budget cuts announced in late 2009, many schools across the state began cutting field trips. For the first time the Oklahoma History Center implemented student admission fees beginning January 1, 2010. Between the new fees and the school budget cuts, the museum estimated student participation would drop by 35 percent.

Through the generous support of the Inasmuch Foundation, the Oklahoma History Center found a way to cover the cost of student field trips. In the last six months more than 6,600 students and their teachers received free admission to the museum as a result of the Inasmuch Foundation grant. In all, 139 schools visited from thirty-six of Oklahoma’s seventy-seven counties.

Soon students across the state will make their way back into the classrooms. It is with great pleasure that we announce that once again the Inasmuch Foundation has generously agreed to provide a grant to offset student fees. For 2010-2011 the Inasmuch Foundation is providing $35,000 to cover student admissions. The grant money is available on a first come basis. For more information please contact the education department or visit www.okhistorycenter.org.