New Oklahoma National Register listings

The Oklahoma Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office is pleased to announce four new National Register of Historic Places listings. The National Register of Historic Places is our nation’s official list of properties significant in our past.

Breadtown, located in Adair County (address restricted), is associated with the Cherokee Trail of Tears and its immediate aftermath. The site is linked to the arrival and resettlement of the Cherokees in today’s Oklahoma at the end of their Trail of Tears. The site is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Oklahoma’s history as it relates to Ethnic Heritage, specifically Native American.

The Griffin House, at 1402 West Kansas Avenue, is located in northwest Chickasha. Designed in the Queen Anne style and constructed in 1907, the property features the main house and a carriage house on the rear portion of the property. The three-story house exhibits many common elements of the Queen Anne style including multilight windows, elaborate wrap-around porch, and porte cochere.

The Hamilton Cross House, located at 1509 West Ninth in Stillwater, is an excellent example of the Colonial Revival style. Identifying features of Colonial Revival seen on the house include an accentuated front door, symmetrical façade, and double hung windows. The Hamilton Cross House is the only example of the Colonial Revival style in this area of Stillwater.

The McGregor House, located in Tulsa, is significant in the area of Architecture. It is as an intact example of architect Bruce Goff’s early residential designs during his formative years in Tulsa. Designed when Goff was a teenager, the Tulsa residence reflects a synthesis of styles that Goff explored in his early years. The McGregor House is an excellent example of a Prairie-style home, distinguished by its tiered roof with wide box eaves, second-floor penthouse, full-width front porch, and Prairie-style fenestration including six varying styles of windows.

Listing in the National Register is an honorific designation that provides recognition, limited protection, and, in some cases, financial incentives for these important properties. The SHPO identifies, evaluates, and nominates properties for this special designation.

Clockwise from top left: the Griffin House, the McGregor House, Breadtown, and the Hamilton Cross House (photos courtesy of SHPO).
We have a plan. It is called the Heritage Preservation Trust Fund, a grants-in-aid program that would allocate funds to nonprofit organizations, cities, counties, and tribes for the support of museums, historical societies, and genealogical groups. This would not be a funding source for building new facilities. Rather, it would be for operational expenses directly linked to collecting, preserving, and sharing history, such as professional staffing, care of collections, exhibits, and educational programming.

To qualify for a grant, organizations would have to meet minimum standards, from a board of directors and collections policies to regularly scheduled hours and the ability to raise matching funds. The funds would be allocated through a competitive process based on criteria including geographical balance, potential impact, sustaining support, and community involvement.

So what is the next step? This coming legislative session, we will support a bill to create the trust fund and define details such as qualifications, criteria, and administration. We will not seek funds initially. Instead, we will rally support for the program and then look for a creative way to find a stream of revenue in the near future. Through this conversation, we will listen to you, our OHS members, and our partners in the historical community.

Yes, there are a lot of people and organizations who care about collecting, preserving, and sharing Oklahoma history. We have the support. We have the plan. The time for action is now.

By Dr. Bob L. Blackburn
Executive Director

Last spring, the people who suggested the abolition of the Oklahoma Historical Society learned a lesson. There are a lot of people and organizations who care about collecting, preserving, and sharing Oklahoma history, and they approve of the way we have raised standards, gained efficiencies, and earned partners. They spoke up in numbers strong enough to stop the take-over effort before it gained any legs.

The grassroots uprising reinforced something I have observed over the last thirty-five years. Like politics, all history is local, and I believe that history is best preserved at the local level whether it is through families, communities, tribes, organizations, or businesses. That is why we are most effective when we work through partnerships.

There are more than 150 museums, historical societies, and genealogical groups around the state that have the motivation, manpower, and ability to collect, preserve, and share history. If we are to accomplish the greatest good for the greatest number of people at the state level, we need to be a better partner and empower local groups to do more.
Meeting

The Southwestern Oklahoma Historical Society announces its 2014 annual meeting to be held August 12 at 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Tech Center’s Worley Center in Lawton. Entertainment for the event includes award-winning singer and songwriter Kevin Davis, a paper presentation by LeRoy Jones, and music from Straw Berry of Cordell. Back issues of Prairie Lore will be available for purchase. All interested individuals are invited to enjoy refreshments and fellowship at this free-of-charge meeting. For more information, visit the Southwestern Oklahoma Historical Society website at www.swokhs.org.

Events

The Tulsa County Free Fair runs July 31-August 1 and features 4-H and community exhibits, learning events, and competitions. The fair will include ice cream, live entertainment, inflatables for children, and food vendors. On Friday evening the Tulsa County 4-H will hold the Festival of Fun with entertainment for the entire family. The fair is held at the Exchange Center of the Tulsa Fairgrounds located at 4116 East Fifteenth Street. Call 918-746-3709 for more information.

The twenty-ninth annual Seiling Open Rodeo, held at the Flying W Arena, runs three days from July 31-August 2. This TCRA sanctioned rodeo features bull riding, barrel racing, roping, and steer wrestling. Friday and Saturday evenings include a boot-scooting town dance with live music, and Saturday morning features a free hot dog feed following the parade. Contact the Flying W Arena at 580-922-4460 or visit www.seilingchamber.com for more information.

Go back in time and visit downtown Pawnee for a classic auto show. All are invited to display their restored vehicles and sample the food from a barbecue cookoff. There will be live music and games for the kids beginning at 6 p.m. Call 918-762-2108 for more information or just head down to Harrison Street in Pawnee on August 2.

The Konawa Gospel Music Festival, a tradition since 1964, will be held August 2 at the Konawa Veterans Memorial Park. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy the music of up and coming local musicians in the shade. Vendor booths feature local businesses and the Konawa Lion’s Club offers hamburgers and hot dogs. Electrical RV hookups and booth space are available but limited. Call 580-332-0902 or 800-557-8815 for more information.

Come to Waynoka for the Cimarron River Stampede Days and Rodeo, a week-long celebration that runs August 5-9. Fun for the entire family includes kids and family games, princess and queen contests, an outdoor flea market, and dancing with live music. Rodeo events include bareback riding, calf roping, saddle bronc riding, team roping, bull riding, breakaway roping, steer wrestling, and barrel racing. Visit www.cimarronriverstamped.com for more information.

The Powwow of Champions, hosted by the Intertribal Indian Club of Tulsa, will be held August 8-10 and features dance, drum music, and song from tribal nations across the country. More than three hundred dancers will participate in competitions, ceremonies, and intertribal dances. Booths containing an excellent selection of American Indian traditional and contemporary arts and crafts will be on hand, along with tempting traditional foods. Contact the Oral Roberts University Mabee Center at 918-378-4494 or visit www.icot.org for more information.

Go to Crystal Beach Park in Woodward August 8-9 to sample some of the best barbecue in the country and support CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates for children), Sanctioned by the Kansas City Barbecue Society, this event invites the public to sample and judge the food prepared by expert pit masters. Taste the homemade ice cream on Friday and enjoy the meats on Saturday. Visit www.grabrootandgrowl.com for more information.

Held each second Saturday in August since 1948, the Rush Springs Watermelon Festival celebrates the local crop on August 9 this year. There is something for everyone featuring watermelon themed activities, a 5K run, arts and craft fair, classic car show, and carnival rides. This festival draws twenty thousand visitors each year and offers fifty thousand pounds of different varieties of watermelon to the attendees. Head to Jeff Davis Park and enjoy the fun! Call 580-721-9618 for more information on the 5K run or visit www.rushspringwatermelonfestival.com.

The thirty-ninth annual Wichita Tribal Dance is scheduled for August 14-17 at Wichita Tribal Park in Anadarko. This is a free event featuring American Indian dance competitions, free meals on designated nights, and food and vendor booths. Call 405-247-2425 for more information.

The annual Ames Day celebration event to be held August 15-16 at Town Park in Ames celebrates the founding of Ames and raises funds for the volunteer fire department. It features bingo, a poker run on riding lawn mowers, horseshoes, pie and ice cream making contests, lawn mower pull, a turtle race, and a fireworks display on Saturday. Do not miss the Abilene Museum that features the Ames oil producing crater. Call 580-554-5540 or 580-554-5120 for more information.

The F&P Rodeo Finals and Stephens County Free Fair will be held August 20-23 at the Stephens County Fair and Expo Center in Duncan. Fun for the entire family includes a carnival, livestock show, rodeo, tractor driving contest, talent contest, car show, food, and entertainment. Visit www.duncanchamber.com for rodeo ticket information and schedule of events.

Oktoberfest in Choctaw is a great festival for families and begins August 29 and runs through September 6. The festival features live entertainment, German dance groups, homemade German food, German beers and wine, and crafts and activities for children. Visit www.oldgermany.com for more information.

Do you want your organization’s meeting, event, or exhibit included in the “Around Oklahoma” section of the Mistletoe Leaves? The “Around Oklahoma” section features Oklahoma history and heritage-related activities or programs sponsored by entities other than the Oklahoma Historical Society. To submit news items, please contact Elizabeth Bass, editor, by email at ebass@okhistory.org or by mail at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73105, during the first week of the month before you wish a news item to appear. For example, if you wish an item to appear in the September issue, you must submit by the first week of August.
“Oklahoma Women Forging Ahead” presentation at Pioneer Woman Museum

Visit the Pioneer Woman Museum in Ponca City on August 2 at 11 a.m. for “Oklahoma Women Forging Ahead,” a presentation given by Tanya Finchum and Juliana Nykolaiszyn of the Oklahoma State University Library. Women have indeed made their mark on Oklahoma, but not much information about them can be found in Oklahoma’s documented history. Since 2007 the Oklahoma Oral History Research Program at the Oklahoma State University Library has been working to change this by conducting oral history interviews with women, from the ordinary to the extraordinary. After a brief introduction to oral history, Finchum and Nykolaiszyn will feature several women who have left their marks on Oklahoma. We invite you to come “listen” to their stories and learn about their courage and creativity.

Finchum and Nykolaiszyn are faculty members in the Oklahoma Oral History Research Program at the OSU Library. They have conducted oral histories with women in various walks of life, from legislators to housewives, farmers to circus owners, and judges to school teachers.

The Pioneer Woman Museum is located at 701 Monument Road in Ponca City. Admission is $4 for adults, $3 for seniors, $1 for children ages six to eighteen, and children under six are free.

Back to school with the Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture

Grab a copy of the Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture as a back-to-school gift for the student in your life. The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture is a two-volume work consisting of 2,455 entries by noted historians highlighting major events, historical figures, and geographic features that have shaped the history and culture of Oklahoma. To order, contact the OHC Museum Store at 405-522-5214 or giftshop@okhistory.org.

Hidden Collections . . .

By Amy Hildebrand

The OHS would like to thank Bob and Trina Fredregill of Pueblo, Colorado, for their recent donation of a 1910 signature quilt from Carnegie, Oklahoma. George Washington Fredregill, Bob’s great-grandfather, made the 1893 Cherokee Outlet Land Run. By the early 1900s the family had opened a hardware store in Carnegie. The quilt was created as a fundraiser, as was common at the time. A woman paid to put her family’s names on the quilt, or to contribute a whole block. What makes these quilts so unique, despite their prevalence in the early twentieth century, are the names. While probably not all of Carnegie’s residents from 1910 are embroidered onto this quilt, there are at least a couple of hundred. Further money was raised through the raffling of the quilt, at 25¢ per ticket. Bob’s grandfather, S. I. (Strauder Isaac) Fredregill, won the raffle. The quilt has remained in the family ever since, and was obviously used and cherished. Now it will make a great addition to OHS collections, representing the history of Carnegie, the Fredregill family, and the dozens of individuals whose names were carefully stitched into its fabric.

OKC Fox 25 tours History Center

Jessi Stone, field reporter for Oklahoma City’s KOKH Fox 25 News, stepped into the Oklahoma History Center and stepped back into Oklahoma history on July 2. The live broadcast included a personal tour of five exhibits currently on display.

Museum Director Dan Provo initiated the tour by introducing Stone to the Born to Freedom: Allan Houser Centennial exhibit. Director of Research Chad Williams walked Stone through “On Behalf of the Pioneers: The Oklahoma Century Chest, 1913-2013 exhibit, then Director of Exhibits David Davis directed her through the Steamboat Heroin exhibit. Stone was introduced to prairie living by Curator of Education Rachel Kellum, with Assistant Curator of Education Sarah Dumas giving a vivid description of customs and everyday life for American Indians in Indian Territory. Director of Education Jason Harris concluded the tour with a living history demonstration of the cowboy chuck wagon. “I’ve lived here all my life and never realized what was here,” said Stone.

To see the interviews, visit http://www.okcfox.com/video?clipId=10325432&autoStart=true.

Sarah Dumas, right, describes the ONEOK American Indian Gallery to OKC Fox 25’s Jessi Stone, left.

Born to Freedom gallery walk

Join the staff at the Oklahoma History Center for a gallery walk through Born to Freedom: Allan Houser Centennial, an exhibit examining the life and art of Allan Houser on Saturday, August 30, at 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Staff will lead families and groups through the exhibit, offering special insight on the impact and legacy of this American Indian artist. The family walk at 2 p.m. will include special activities for children. There is no age limit and registration is not required. This event is free with museum admission. For more information contact the OHC Education Department at education@okhistory.org or 405-522-3602.
Murrell Home to host ALHFAM conference

The Mountain Plains Region of the Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums (ALHFAM) will be holding its annual conference in Tahlequah from October 9-11, 2014. The George M. Murrell Home will be the host site for the event, and participants will also visit other OHS sites including Fort Gibson and the Pawnee Bill Ranch. The theme for the conference is “Interpreting Our Multicultural Past.” Registration packets will be posted soon on the ALHFAM website at alhfam.org. For more information, call the Murrell Home at 918-456-2751.

The Murrell Home is located at 19479 E. Murrell Home Road in Park Hill and is open Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Left to right: Oklahoma City Thunder Vice President and Assistant General Manager Troy Weaver, Josh Huestis, Mitch McGary, Thunder Executive Vice President and General Manager Sam Presti.

New Thunder players introduced at History Center

Just twenty-four hours after their names were called in the 2014 NBA Draft, Oklahoma City Thunder fans got the opportunity to see the Thunder’s two new players, Mitch McGary and Josh Huestis, at the Oklahoma History Center. University of Michigan alumnus McGary and Huestis, a Stanford University graduate, both expressed their gratitude for having been chosen by the Thunder and received text messages from teammate and NBA Most Valuable Player Kevin Durant.

Dr. Bob Blackburn, executive director of the Oklahoma Historical Society, gave the players a taste of the rich heritage of their new home by offering a personally guided tour of the Oklahoma History Center. Accompanying them were invited students from Douglass Mid-High School in Oklahoma City. It was hard to tell whether the students or the new draftees were having more fun on the tour. Wide smiles and looks of amazement came from both as they sat in desks from territorial schools, wore World War I helmets, viewed a sod house, and stood in a model of a covered wagon. As an added attraction to the tour, members of the Oklahoma History Center Education Department dressed in turn-of-the-century wardrobe and assisted in offering descriptions of the exhibits and life in early Oklahoma.

Museum Store News

By Morgan Myers

The Oklahoma History Center Museum Store celebrates the Oklahoma pioneer spirit every day. We are proud to announce two new products featuring a story that starts in the open prairie and leads to the depths of space. Oklahomans have taken their pioneer spirit on to every phase of the space program. The Oklahomans and Space book and DVD series brilliantly show just how involved Oklahomans have been in every aspect of the space program.

Oklahomans and Space: Chronicles of the Amazing Contributions of Oklahomans in the Aerospace Industry by Bill Moore is a wonderful hardback book that tells the story of Oklahoma’s contribution to the space program. With the help of more than three hundred color photographs, the story of Oklahoma astronauts, scientists, engineers, and other contributors to the space program is told. The book is priced at $39.95 and available to OHS members for $33.96.

Oklahomans and Space is a seven-part documentary series featured on OETA that presents the history of the space program through the stories of the Oklahomans who participated in it. With the help of NASA footage, photographs, and recently discovered film astronauts, engineers, scientists, and many more recall those exciting days of adventure and discovery. The DVD is priced at $49.95 and available to OHS members for $42.46.

Stop by and visit us for these and many other unique products. OHS members always receive a discount of 15 percent on Museum Store purchases. Please contact us at 405-522-5214 with any questions about these or any other of our great items.

Third Saturday Living History program at Murrell Home

On Saturday, August 16, from 1-4 p.m. the George M. Murrell Home Historic Site in Park Hill is offering its monthly living history program. The 1845 Cherokee plantation home will host a different historical demonstration or activity every third Saturday of the month.

Guests can expect to see a variety of demonstrations and talk to historians while participating in hands-on activities. Topics will cover all aspects of Cherokee plantation life from traditional crafts, cooking, and gardening to animal demonstrations, building trades, and cultural activities.

The living history program is for families and visitors of all ages. Admission to the program is free, and no reservations are needed.

The Murrell Home is located three miles south of Tahlequah at 19479 East Murrell Road in Park Hill. For more information on specific activities each month, like the Murrell Home on Facebook at www.facebook.com/murrellhome or follow the Murrell Home on Twitter @murrellhome.
Spotlight on a Site
No Man’s Land Museum

207 West Sewell Street
Goodwell, OK 73939
580-349-2670
Summer hours: Tuesday-Saturday,
10 a.m.-4 p.m., closed 12-1 p.m.
Off-season hours: Tuesday-Saturday,
10 a.m.-3 p.m., closed 12-1 p.m.
Closed: Sundays, Mondays, and holidays
Admission free; donations accepted.

Situated in the Oklahoma Panhandle and ten miles southwest of Guymon, the No Man’s Land Museum is located at 207 West Sewell Street in Goodwell, home of Oklahoma Panhandle State University. Established in 1934, the museum is an affiliate of the Oklahoma Historical Society and is operated by the No Man’s Land Historical Society.

The facility offers eight exhibit rooms comprised of ten thousand square feet. Visitors will find among the collections American Indian artifacts, stone tools, grinding stones, pottery, beadwork, a doll collection, a barbed wire display, and items used by early Oklahoma settlers.

Unique among its items are the desks used by the two Panhandle delegates to the 1906 Oklahoma Constitutional Convention, a Catlinite peace pipe presented in 1923 to a Hooker resident by Blackfoot Chief Two Guns White Calf, and one of the first printing presses (a Franklin—an early flatbed press for hand printing) to cross the Mississippi River.

In addition to historical artifacts the museum exhibits offer information about the region’s geology and paleontology. Children and many adults tend to remember the two-headed calf and ask about it on return trips.

The Oklahoma Panhandle was known as No Man’s Land because it was not attached to any state or territory between 1850 and 1890. When the Organic Act passed on May 2, 1890, the Panhandle became part of Oklahoma Territory. Once a part of the area claimed by Spain, it has witnessed the travels of Plains Indians, cattle drives, cattlemen who grazed their livestock in the region, and squatters before the arrival of permanent settlers.

“Death and the Hereafter” Summer Sizzler genealogy workshop

The OHS and the Oklahoma Genealogical Society will host a Summer Sizzler genealogy workshop entitled “Death and the Hereafter” at the Oklahoma History Center August 8-9. The schedule of events is as follows:

**Friday, August 8**

10:00 a.m. Doors open, registration
10:30-11:30 a.m. Lisa Windle-Westbrook, “Cemetery Restoration”
11:30-11:45 a.m. Break
11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Melvena Heisch, “Identifying, Researching, and Designating Cemeteries as Historic Sites”
12:30-1:45 p.m. Lunch
1:45-2:45 p.m. Sue Bordeaux, “Death Certificates”
2:45-3:00 p.m. Break
3:00-4:00 p.m. Debra Spindle, “Alternatives to Missing Vital Statistics”

**Saturday, August 9**

10:00-11:15 a.m. Carolyn Lea, “Dying to Get in the News”
11:15-11:30 a.m. Break
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. June Stone, “The Last Judgment: Court Records”
12:30-1:45 p.m. Lunch
1:45-3:00 p.m. La Nell Shores, “Six Feet Under—But Where? Finding Cemetery Records and Using Online Grave Sites”
3:00-3:15 p.m. Break
3:15-4:30 p.m. Billie Stone Fogarty, “Final Regards: Having the Last Word”

The OHS Research Center Book Sale will be in full swing during the workshop. Registration for the workshop is $35 for one day or $50 for both days. Lunch is included in the registration fee. Register online at www.okgensoc.org.

History Center to host Back-to-School Bash

Teachers, school staff members and administrators, education majors, and students are invited to join museums from across the Oklahoma City metro area and beyond to celebrate the beginning of the new school year at the Oklahoma History Center’s first Back-to-School Bash on August 14 from 6-9 p.m. Staff and educators from Oklahoma institutions will be on hand to answer questions about field trips, trunks, teacher resources, professional development, and special events.

In addition, the Oklahoma History Center’s galleries will be open all evening.

Participating museums include:

Chisholm Trail Heritage Center
Discover Hidden Treasures
Edmond Historical Society
Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art
Law Related Education, Oklahoma Bar Association
Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art
Museum of Osteology
National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum
Oklahoma Alliance for Geographic Education
Oklahoma Arts Council
Oklahoma City Contemporary
Oklahoma City Museum of Art
Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum
Oklahoma Territorial Museum
Oklahoma City Zoo and Botanical Gardens
Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History
Science Museum Oklahoma

Door prizes will be awarded throughout the night to teachers. Admission to the event is free, but donations of school supply items such as pencils, paper, pens, glue, or crayons are encouraged. Registration is not required. For more information about the event, please contact the OHC Education Department at education@okhistory.org or 405-522-3602.

Sod House Museum to host quilting workshop

The Sod House Museum in Aline will host a quilting workshop on Saturday, August 9. For more information on the workshop, please contact the Sod House Museum at 580-463-2441 or email sodhouse@okhistory.org. The Sod House Museum is located at 4628 State Highway 8 in Aline.
Storytelling Festival scheduled

The Arts Council of Oklahoma City’s 2014 Oklahoma City Storytelling Festival will take place August 21-23 at the Oklahoma History Center. This must-see festival celebrates the art of storytelling.

For more than thirty years, the Arts Council of Oklahoma City has produced the Oklahoma City Storytelling Festival, which has delighted audiences with nationally-acclaimed storytellers, workshops, and outreach performances. Named one of the best places to hear or tell a tale, the Storytelling Festival offers performances by some of the nation’s best tellers. The Oklahoma City Storytelling Festival continues the tradition with three entertaining evening performances on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, a family matinee on Saturday, and professional workshops on Friday and Saturday. The 2014 featured tellers are Donald Davis, Syd Lieberman, Bil Lepp, and Lynette Ford.

For a full schedule and biographies of the featured tellers, visit www.artscouncilokc.com.

OHS Research Center Book Sale

Don’t miss the Research Center Book Sale August 7-9, 2014. The sale will be open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. This is the biggest sale of the year and includes rare and out-of-print books, records, maps, and photos. Support the OHS Research Center and pick up some records, maps, and photos. Support the OHS Research Center and pick up some records, maps, and photos. Support the OHS Research Center and pick up some records, maps, and photos.

Twenty-year members renew in June

Listed below, with the date they joined the OHS, are people and organizations that, when they renewed their memberships in June, have been members twenty or more years. Their long-term loyalty is most sincerely appreciated!

Margaret Meyerman, Enid, September 1, 1972
Russell Neville, Lexington, June 1, 1979
Jim and Burns Argo, Edmond, May 1, 1983
Susie Clinar & Harley Lingerfelt, Shawnee, January 1, 1986
Ardmore Public Library, Ardmore, July 23, 1986
Nowata City-County Library, Nowata, April 17, 1987
Molly Leute Griffis, Norman, June 2, 1987
Alice Coffman, Harrah, April 28, 1988
Nancy Samuelson, Sacramento, CA, May 12, 1989
Daniel Fields, Oklahoma City, January 15, 1991
James Russell, McAlester, April 13, 1992
Lindell & Bonnie Moore, Midwest City, June 30, 1992
Z. Jane Osborn, Miami, January 19, 1993
Cindy Rosenthal, Norman, September 8, 1993
Marvin & Lily Kroeker, Reedley, CA, December 1, 1993
Donald & Virginia Bellows, Tulsa, June 1, 1994

“My Mystery at the Museum” Septemberfest scheduled for September 6

Join the Oklahoma History Center and the Governor’s Mansion for the eighteenth annual Septemberfest on Saturday, September 6, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission to all of the activities and the museum are free for the entire day. The Oklahoma History Center’s theme this year will be “Mystery at the Museum.”

Along the Red River Journey, visitors will enjoy interaction with living historians representing World War II soldiers, cowboys, land run participants, nineteenth-century American Indians, antebellum musicians, and Civil War soldiers and civilians. The past will come to life through learning stations, hands-on activities, and demonstrations. The history adventure continues inside the History Center with live performances, storytelling, and unique exhibits about Oklahoma. Come early, stay late, and celebrate Oklahoma at Septemberfest. This event is free and registration is not required. For more information, please contact the OHC Education Department at education@okhistory.org or 405-522-3602.

Book signing at Pioneer Woman Museum

On Saturday, August 9, at 2 p.m. the Pioneer Woman Museum in Ponca City will host a free book signing of 100 Places in the USA Every Woman Should Go by Sophia Dembling.

Dembling is a Dallas, Texas-based writer and editor. Her books include The Introvert’s Way: Living a Quiet Life in a Noisy World, The Yankee Chick’s Survival Guide to Texas, and The Making of Dr. Phil: The Straight-Talking True Story of Everyone’s Favorite Therapist. She has had articles published in the Wall Street Journal, Dallas Morning News, American Way, World Hum, Delta Sky, Texas Journey, Miami Herald, and Southwest Spirit. Her work has been anthologized in Best Women’s Travel Writing 2006 and 2009, Cat Women: Female Writers on their Feline Friends, and P.S. What I Didn’t Say: Unsent Letter to Our Female Friends.

Drummond Home style show

Support the Fred Drummond Home at a fun-filled, Downton Abbey-themed style show to be held Saturday, August 16, from 2-4 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, located at 205 North Price Avenue in Hominy.

Tickets for the event are $10 and can be purchased at the Drummond Home or sent by mail. Ticket reservations include a seat for the style show, door prize drawings, and delicious refreshments. Seating is limited to fifty guests, so reserve your tickets today.

For more information, please contact the Fred Drummond Home at 918-885-2374. The Drummond Home is located at 305 North Price Avenue in Hominy.

New members, cont’d.

David and Joan Monroe, Oklahoma City
Keith and Kelly Monroe, Oklahoma City
Jerry and Karen Peterson, Oklahoma City
John and Rhonda Pinion, Oklahoma City
*Peter and Linda Plank, Bethany
Betty Ray, Oklahoma City
Roger and Shirley Ray, Edmond
Pat Reeder, Claremore
Tom and Karen Rogers, Oklahoma City
Dan and Pat Rush, Yukon
Tyler Sauerwald, Chouteau
Scott and Baylee Schauer, Oklahoma City
Tony and Melissa Sellers, Oklahoma City
Wilma Simonton, Oklahoma City
Mike and Carole Smith, Oklahoma City
Jim and Cindy Tanner, Claremore
Mr. and Mrs. Dean Vestal, Grapeland, TX
Bryan Wackerly, Andover, KS
Laura Waller and Trent Mitchell, Midwest City
Tim and Melanie Wangerin, Oklahoma City
Brian and Suzie White, Oklahoma City
Ted and Sharon Winnberger, Edmond
Bob and Claudia Wright, Oklahoma City
Anna Lynn Zumwalt, Oklahoma City
Tammy Zumwalt, Moore

Organizational

City of Grandfield, Grandfield
Grandfield Public Library, Grandfield

Individual

Aaron Ausher, Sweetwater
Michael Bentley, Owasso
Becky Berryman, Muskogee
Anna Carter, Oklahoma City
Jerry Creek, Duncan
Anthony Daniels, Bixby
Connie Dennis, Okemah
Steve Freeman, Pauls Valley
Tony Ginn, Pt Gibson
Christine Harjo, Henrietta
Robert Holcomb, Stillwater
Cody Howard, Tahlequah
Shannon Hughes, Tahlemonio
Reginald Jones, Tahlequah
Joyce Kelley, Tecumseh
Karín Knight, Tulsa
April Lilly, Tuttle
Thomas Medford, Owasso
Santiago Morales, Fargan
Michael Myers, Anadarko
Jim Nelson, Liberal, KS
Jimmy Overby, Muskogee
Nina Ritchie, Poteau
Eusebi Rodriguez, Fox
Sol Smith, Sand Springs
Ryan Stithwell, Park Hill
Donna Thompson, Chelsea
Tayvia Thompson, Fort Sill
Richard Vaughn, Broken Arrow
Diane Walker, Muskogee
Amanda Wann, Howe
Cynthia Willis, Tulsa

Amanda Wann, Howe
Cynthia Willis, Tulsa

OHS continues effort to build OKPOP Museum

The Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors voted unanimously to continue its pursuit of funding for the OKPOP. Bob Blackburn, executive director of the OHS, said he and his partners will continue collecting stories, artifacts, and archives, as well as political support, to do something during the next legislative session.

Blackburn met country music icon Garth Brooks three years ago when they were testing the waters to see if the OHS could assemble world class collections to match a world class business plan. Not only did Garth agree to contribute collections, but he also sat for a lengthy interview that could be used to promote the project.

“Before Garth left the session, he telephoned Governor Fallin to say he was on board,” said Blackburn. “Garth has reinforced his commitment to the museum in a letter and gave me permission to share his thoughts publicly.”

“We truly are at the crossroads of creativity,” Garth wrote. “It’s in our blood. You and I both know this . . . now it is time the entire world was told.”

Like the hundreds of creative musicians, writers, illustrators, and performers from Oklahoma, Garth understands the potential of the OKPOP.

“Oklahoma,” according to him, “should have a place where the story of our state’s contribution to the performing arts can be told . . . I personally believe that ‘history’ inspires others to dream bigger and go farther than ever before.”

Thousands of artifacts, photographs, documents, films, and audio recordings have been donated to the OKPOP thus far. Significant collections have come from the Bob Wills Estate, Leon Russell, Mary Kay Place, Ron Howard, and Kristin Chenoweth to name a few.

Blackburn said, “The decision to build or not to build is in the hands of legislators. We have more than $7 million pledged already to match state funds and we are confident we can raise another $15 million for collections, exhibits, and educational programming.”

When constructed, the OKPOP will be a 75,000-square-foot, four-story building dedicated to the creative spirit of Oklahoma’s people and the influence of Oklahoma artists on popular culture around the world. For more information please visit www.okpop.org or follow project developments on social media at www.facebook.com/OKPOPMuseum and @oklapop on Twitter.

August events at a glance

2  “Oklahoma Women Forging Ahead,” Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
7-9  OHS Research Division Book Sale, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
8-9  “Death and the Hereafter” Summer Sizzler genealogy workshop, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
9  Quilting workshop, Sod House Museum, Aline
9  100 Places in the USA Every Woman Should Go book signing, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
14  Back-to-School Bash, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
16  Style Show fundraiser, Drummond Home, Hominy
16  Third Saturday Living History program, Murrell Home, Park Hill
20-23  Storytelling Festival, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
29-30  The Rainmaker Gaslight Theater production, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
30  Born to Freedom gallery walks, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
31  Oklahoma Society of Impressionists exhibit closes, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City

Collections from musical superstars Garth Brooks, Bob Wills, and Leon Russell will be featured when the OHS opens the OKPOP Museum in Tulsa.