



OHS to absorb budget cut

On June 15 the OHS Board of Directors met in special session to deal with a record-breaking budget cut that includes an 11.65 percent decrease in appropriations and a \$112,000 decline in sales tax revenue.

"This cut of more than a million dollars will force us to vacate twenty staff positions and shift cost-sharing to support groups across the state," said Dr. Bob Blackburn, executive director of the OHS. "The impact is especially painful because the OHS has absorbed a series of cuts since 2008 that had already reduced the staff by thirty-eight and depleted operational accounts."

The cut, according to Blackburn, could have been worse due to an accounting error made in the closing days of the legislative session. "By mistake, the 11.65 percent cut was applied to funds set aside to make bond payments for the Oklahoma History Center," said Blackburn. "Fortunately for the state's credit rating and our operational budget, legislative leaders, OMES Director Preston Doerflinger, and the governor's office found a way to relieve the cash flow crunch and cover the inadvertent \$248,000 cut until a supplemental appropriation can be considered in February."

The plan approved by the OHS Board of Directors is structured to absorb the cuts without halting the progress made in recent decades. Every operating division is affected, with 58 percent of the cut assigned to the Oklahoma History Center and 42 percent shared by satellite operations across the state.

Of the twenty positions lost to the cuts, seven were already vacant due to the recent revenue shortfalls and thirteen will be vacated through voluntary buy-outs. The cuts will affect the operations of the Oklahoma History Center, the Will Rogers Memorial Museums, and twenty-one museums scattered from Bartlesville and Durant to Frederick and Goodwell.

"We will be turning to our partners around the state to sustain programs and keep our research facilities and historic sites open and accessible to the public," said Blackburn. "Education, heritage tourism, and historic preservation are too important to do less."

Murrell Home to host Hair Jewelry workshop

The George M. Murrell Home in Park Hill will host a Hair Jewelry workshop on Saturday, August 13, from 9 a.m. to noon. This is the second of two summer workshops relating to nineteenth-century crafts.

Hair jewelry was a popular form of jewelry making throughout the nineteenth century and is an elegant way to make fashionable jewelry as well as a memorable keepsake. The \$35 participant fee includes instruction, history, and materials to make and take home a personalized locket.

Space is limited for the Hair Jewelry workshop, and reservations are required. Participants must register by August 6. To reserve a spot, please call the Murrell Home at 918-456-2751. Cash, check, and major credit cards are accepted. A National Historic Landmark, the George M. Murrell Home is located at 19479 East Murrell Home Road in Park Hill.

Melvina Heisch receives US Secretary of the Interior's Historic Preservation Award

At a ceremony in Washington, DC, on June 17, four preservation officers received the prestigious US Secretary of the Interior's Historic Preservation Award. The award was given to these four individuals for their outstanding efforts to protect America's diverse cultural and historical heritage for the education and enjoyment of future generations. Among those honored was Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Melvena Heisch of the OHS.

This year marks the fortieth anniversary of Melvena Heisch's career with the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office at the OHS. During these four decades, Heisch stayed committed through patience, perseverance, and tenacity. When she first started, she emerged in a new career field in a fragmented place without much of a sense of history or pride of heritage. But, on April 19, 1995, though severely wounded along with many of her staff members in the Oklahoma City bombing, Melvena emerged as a leader to help the city recover. Using her knowledge of historic preservation, she helped influence the retention and restoration of many of the 324 buildings damaged or destroyed in the sixteen-block blast radius.

US Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell commended the awardees for their extraordinary individual creativity and expertise in the preservation of a wide range of historic and cultural resources, including the restoration of buildings damaged or destroyed in the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing; enhancing federal preservation efforts in marine archaeology; developing training programs for tribal members to learn about Hualapai culture and language; and incorporating the preservation of historic structures into local development and revitalization.

Created by the National Historic Preservation Act, the awards are the only congressionally mandated, cabinet-level recognition program acknowledging the dedication and expertise of historic preservation professionals within federal, tribal, state, and local government agencies. The winners of the 2015 US Secretary of the Interior's Historic Preservation Awards are:

State Historic Preservation Officer Category—Melvena Heisch, Oklahoma Historical Society; Federal Preservation Officer Category—Dr. Brian Jordan, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, US Department of the Interior; Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Category—Loretta Jackson-Kelly, Hualapai Tribal Nation; and Certified Local Government Coordinator Category—Nancy Hiestand, City of Bloomington, Indiana.



US Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell presents the Historic Preservation Award to OHS Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Melvena Heisch.



Director's column

By Dr. Bob L. Blackburn
Executive Director

As the old saying goes, the only thing that never changes is change itself. Here at the OHS, we are knee-deep in change.

First, let me share the good news. The Will Rogers Memorial Museum and Birthplace Ranch came under the umbrella of the Oklahoma Historical Society on July 1, 2016.

This new partnership will create many opportunities to share Oklahoma history through the life and lessons of Will Rogers and add our institutional assets to keeping Will's legacy alive and relevant for future generations. To me, this is another example of how we can grow stronger by working together.

We welcome Director Tad Jones, his staff and volunteers, and all of the people who have worked so hard to memorialize Will's story for more than seventy-five years. I look forward to being part of the Will Rogers circle of friends.

As you can read on page one of this issue, the other change is not so pleasant. I am talking about the deep budget cut that has us scrambling for ways to maintain our forward momentum and high standards. It will not be easy, but as I have said before, we cannot let setbacks throw us off course.

Our strategy for dealing with the cuts will take two tracks. One is short term. The other is long term.

The short term solutions include shifting operational costs to our partners in all program areas, reducing services in targeted programs, and asking staff and volunteers to continue cross training and

sharing duties. Without resources, we have to be more creative.

The long term solutions are more difficult because we have to anticipate both challenges and opportunities in the future. As we have learned from our study of history, the best way to plan for the future is to understand the past.

In the world of budgets, we have to realize that state funding for the OHS has been and will continue to shrink, the result of a combination of factors such as a shifting tax base, continued urbanization of the population and political agenda, and the rising costs of social services. With less money, we will have to adapt the way we collect, preserve, and share Oklahoma history.

In the world of museums and sites, the OHS has been shifting from a management organization to a support organization. The great leap forward in this transition will be the grants-in-aid program to be launched in 2019. With local support groups managing properties and the OHS providing cash and consultation, we can expand our impact on the historic community and encourage best practices.

In the world of research, the OHS will continue to ride the recent wave of the digital revolution. Again with the grants-in-aid program, we will empower partners in the nonprofit and for-profit communities to preserve their own records, with digital copies shared through the OHS. It does not matter where archival records are located, as long as they are well preserved and accessible to the public.

On the road to these new realities, we must find ways to generate income to support programs, attract and retain dedicated staff members, and broaden our base of support so we can collect, preserve, and share Oklahoma history now and in the future. Whatever comes our way, we have to be prepared to adapt and move forward.

Yes, the only thing that never changes is change itself. We will be ready.

Dr. Bob

Development News

By Larry O'Dell

Planned giving is an excellent way to help the Oklahoma Historical Society by leaving money, stocks, houses, property, or other items of that nature to the OHS. Planned giving also can be complicated and confusing. With help from the Oklahoma City Community Foundation, the Oklahoma Historical Society has handled planned gifts and estates, and has resources available to help navigate the process. You can go to www.oklegacy.org to learn how it works.

At www.oklegacy.org there are stories from others who have planned to leave gifts to the OHS. You also can find information about the types of gifts that can be made, and what tax benefits are associated with those gifts. You can learn about leaving gifts in your will, charitable gift annuities, charitable annuity trusts, charitable lead trusts, and many other options. The site also has the latest news on planned giving and advice on planning wills. If you have any questions feel free to contact me at lodell@okhistory.org or 405-522-6676.



New Members, June

*Indicates renewed memberships at a higher level

Benefactor

Larry and Polly Nichols, Oklahoma City

Business Partner

*Bonnie Hefner, Oklahoma City

Director's Circle

*William Owen, Oklahoma City

Fellow

*John Favell, Tulsa

*Dan Hobbs, Norman

Associate

*Washington County Historical Society, Dewey

Friend

Rita Aragon, Edmond

*Brian and Julia Bakeman, Oklahoma City

*Donald and Virginia Bellows, Tulsa

*Clarence and Connie Black, Modesto, CA

*Bobby Blair, Shawnee

*Ken and Gerry Bonds, Oklahoma City

*William and Mary Bryans, Stillwater

Carl and Holly Conner, Choctaw

*Kathy Doss, Tulsa

*Curt and Mimi Hendricks, Oklahoma City

Sue Hood, Oklahoma City

*David Kueter, Oklahoma City

*Michael and Margaret Martz, Blanchard

Jim and Connie McGoodwin, Edmond

Gerald Nield, Ponca City

*Dennis and Sandra Noble, Edmond

*OKC Friday, Oklahoma City

*Jerry and Karen Peterson, Oklahoma City

Erin Snyder, Skiatook

Family

Drew and Shirley Austin, Stillwater

William and Laurisa Bernhardt, Choctaw

James and Marian Bradley, Westmoreland, KS

Mal and Lurie Bucholtz, Oklahoma City

Barbara Bush, Kiefer

Timothy and Linda Cannon, Tecumseh

Patricia Capra, Oklahoma City

Matt and Kristi Collard, Edmond

*Clara Davis, Reydon

Caroline Dennis, Edmond

Frank Gilson, Oklahoma City

Gary and Susan Grandle, Oklahoma City

Gloria and Robert Hall, Spencer

cont'd. on p. 7

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

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AROUND OKLAHOMA

Events

Step back in time at the *USS Batfish* Living History Day on Saturday, August 6, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in **Muskogee**. Attendees will experience what it was like to be aboard the *USS Batfish* submarine during World War II. The Batfish Living History Association will be on hand to provide demonstrations. There will be tours of the *USS Batfish*, guided by historians dressed in 1940s naval regalia. This authentic living history experience will be held at War Memorial Park, located at 3500 Batfish Road in Muskogee. Please call 918-682-6294 for more information.

Celebrate African culture in **Guymon** on Sunday, August 14. All are invited to spend the afternoon at Azuma: An African Celebration. Held in downtown Guymon from 3 to 6 p.m., attendees can watch traditional dancing, enjoy African music, and hear fascinating stories that have been passed down for generations. Samples of delicious cuisine from different African countries including South Sudan, Ethiopia, and Eritrea will be available. The diversity of Guymon is on display for all to enjoy at this special, award-winning festival. Azuma: An African Celebration is free to attend and will take place at NE Fifth Street and Main Street in downtown Guymon. For more information please call 580-338-6246.

The Spencer Historical Society will host its twenty-sixth annual Ice Cream Social in **Spencer**. The event will be held on Saturday, August 27, from 6 p.m. until dark. There will be free ice cream, cake, cookies, and live entertainment. Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs. The Ice Cream Social will be held at Ben Black Park, adjacent to the Spencer Museum at NE Fiftieth Street and Palmer Avenue in Spencer. The Spencer Museum will be open throughout the event. For more information or directions, please contact Linda Verges at 405-771-3561.

Experience Indian culture at India Fest in **Tulsa** on Saturday, August 27. This free event is hosted by the India Association of Greater Tulsa and will be held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Pavilion of Tulsa's Expo Square. Attendees can taste food from different regions of India, watch traditional dancing, listen to Indian music, and even get a henna tattoo. Vendor booths will have traditional arts, crafts, jewelry, and other goods available for sale. There also will be an area with children's activities. All are invited to experience the culture of one of the world's largest coun-

tries at India Fest. The Pavilion at Expo Square is located at 4145 East Twenty-First Street in Tulsa. For more information please call 918-809-4849.

Join the Oklahoma Museums Association (OMA) for the 2016 OMA Annual Conference in **Bartlesville**. Eighteen sessions will be held from Wednesday, September 21, through Friday, September 23, at the Bartlesville Community Center. The theme of the conference is "Diamonds in the Making: Museums as Cultural Gems" and the conference format will be a little different this year. The 2016 conference committee is planning to make it even more powerful and meaningful, with a conference all about Oklahoma museum professionals. To register online visit www.okmuseums.org/conference. Early bird registration is available through August 3. Also included on the website is information about preconference workshops, session topics, speakers, exhibitors, hosts, sponsors, scholarships, and lodging. The Bartlesville Community Center is located at 300 SE Adams Boulevard in Bartlesville. For more information please call 405-424-7757 or email info@okmuseums.org.

Meetings

The monthly meeting of the Oklahoma Genealogical Society (OGS) will be held on Monday, August 1, at the Oklahoma History Center in **Oklahoma City**. Billie Fogarty will be the speaker and her presentation is entitled "Unlocking the Treasures in the National Archives." The meeting and program will take place from 6 to 7:45 p.m., and experienced researchers will be available prior to the meeting at 5 p.m. to answer research questions. Meetings are free for OGS members. Nonmembers are welcome, but are charged \$5 to attend. OGS meetings are held at the Oklahoma History Center, located at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in the State Capitol Complex. Please call 405-637-1907 for more information.

Exhibits

Visit the Plains Indians and Pioneers Museum in **Woodward** to enjoy a new exhibit of artwork by Patrick Riley and Lanny Feigenshiu. The exhibit of sculptures and masks is on display through Saturday, August 6. The Plains Indians and Pioneers Museum is located at 2009 Williams Avenue in Woodward. Museum

hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and admission is free. Please contact Director Robert Roberson at 580-256-6136 or pipm@swbell.net for more information.

A traveling exhibit entitled *Native Voices: Native Peoples' Concepts of Health and Illness* will be hosted by seven different organizations in Oklahoma, from May 2016 through May 2020. This interactive exhibition examines concepts of health and medicine among contemporary American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawai'ians. Stories drawn from both the past and present examine how health for Native people is tied to community, the land, and spirit. It features more than one hundred tribal leaders, healers, physicians, and educators. The *Native Voices* exhibition will be hosted by more than one hundred different organizations across the United States, including seven stops in Oklahoma:

- Sac and Fox Nation, **Stroud**
May 25–July 5, 2016
- Caddo Nation of Oklahoma, **Binger**
May 25–July 5, 2016
- Comanche Nation College, **Lawton**
July 20–August 31, 2016
- Sam Noble Museum, **Norman**
December 6, 2017–January 17, 2018
- Rose State College, **Midwest City**
September 13–October 25, 2018
- Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences, **Tulsa**
October 9–November 20, 2019
- University of Oklahoma—Tulsa, **Tulsa**
March 25–May 16, 2020

The US National Library of Medicine (NLM) developed and produced *Native Voices: Native Peoples' Concepts of Health and Illness*. The American Library Association (ALA) Public Programs Office, in partnership with NLM, tours the exhibition to America's libraries. To learn more and view content from the exhibition, visit www.nlm.nih.gov/nativevoices.

Do you want your organization's meeting, event, exhibit, or announcement included in the "Around Oklahoma" section of *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 Evelyn Brown, assistant editor, by email at eebrown@okhistory.org or by mail at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105. If you wish a news item to appear in the September issue, you must submit it by Friday, August 5.

August events at a glance

- 1-31 Tour de Museums summer program, hosted by T. B. Ferguson Home, Watonga
- 6 Aunt Jane's Ice Cream Social, Frank Phillips Home, Bartlesville
- 6 Back to School Kid's Craft, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 6 Beginning Tatting class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 6 Family Day at the Birthplace Ranch, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah
- 6 "Back to School" First Saturday Hands-on History program, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 6 Oklahoma Route 66 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, Oklahoma Route 66 Museum, Clinton
- 6 Route 66 Ninetieth Anniversary Celebration, Oklahoma Route 66 Museum, Clinton
- 10 Brown Bag Lunch and Learn lecture by Aaron Preston, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 13 Will Rogers and Wiley Post Fly-In, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah
- 13 Wood Turning demonstrations, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 13 "Vance AFB during World War II" Family Saturday program, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 13 "Searching for Pioneers: Native Women Writers of Oklahoma in Urban Homelands" presentation by Dr. Lindsey Claire Smith, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 13 Field Oven Cooking demonstrations, Fort Washita Historic Site, Durant
- 13 Hair Jewelry workshop, George M. Murrell Home, Park Hill
- 13 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 16 *The Stories They Could Tell: The Landscapes and Vernacular Architecture of Southwest Oklahoma* exhibit closes, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 18 Mysteries of the Mansion tour, Henry Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City
- 20 "The Outhouse: A Passing Americana" presentation by Dr. Billy Crynes, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 20 Kay County Ancestor Fair (cosponsored by Pioneer Woman Museum and Pioneer Genealogical Society), Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 20 Third Saturday Living History program, George M. Murrell Home, Park Hill
- 20 Tatting workshop, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 22 Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center Lecture Series presentation by Dr. Brad Agnew, Northern Oklahoma College—Gantz Center, Enid
- 24 "DNA Testing" Research Center Lunch and Learn, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 27 "Let's Talk About It, Oklahoma!" book discussion—*Cowboy Life: Reconstructing an American Myth*, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 30 Back to School Bash, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City

Please visit www.okhistory.org/calendar for a complete list of OHS events, programs, and exhibits.

"The Outhouse: A Passing Americana" presentation at Sod House Museum

Dr. Billy Crynes, emeritus professor of engineering at the University of Oklahoma, will be at the Sod House Museum to present "The Outhouse: A Passing Americana" on Saturday, August 20, at 10 a.m.

This interesting and enjoyable presentation will cover the history of the outhouse, unusual uses and constructions, and the "accommodations" of historical figures. In 2003 Crynes's photo collection of barns, windmills, and outhouses prompted him to put together a unique history of outhouses. He has collected 1,939 outhouse photographs from forty-nine states and fifty-five countries and will share a portion of his collection with the audience. Visitors will hear and see things they never knew about this humble, democratizing structure.

The Sod House Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and is located southeast of Aline on State Highway 8. For more information please contact Director Renee Trindle at 580-463-2441 or sodhouse@okhistory.org.

"Let's Talk About It, Oklahoma!"

The Pioneer Woman Museum (PWM) in Ponca City is pleased to host the "Let's Talk About It, Oklahoma!" book discussion series. This monthly book group is a project of the Oklahoma Humanities Council. "Let's Talk About It, Oklahoma!" is designed to encourage adults to read and discuss literature based around a central theme. The theme for this cycle at PWM is "The Cowboy." It is free to participate, and the book discussion group begins at 10 a.m. each Saturday. The books listed below can be borrowed from PWM prior to or after each discussion.

- Saturday, August 27—*Cowboy Life: Reconstructing an American Myth*, led by guest scholar Dr. Hugh Foley
- Saturday, September 10—*The Virginian*, led by guest scholar Dr. David Oberhelman
- Saturday, October 8—*The Log of a Cowboy*, led by guest scholar Tracey Hanshew
- Saturday, October 29—*Monte Walsh*, led by guest scholar Dr. Sara Jane Richter
- Saturday, November 19—*Lonesome Dove*, led by guest scholar Dr. Karen Neurohr

For more information please call 580-765-6108, email piown@okhistory.org, or visit the museum's Facebook page. The Pioneer Woman Museum is located at 701 Monument Road in Ponca City.

Oklahoma History Center Traveling Trunk program plays ever-increasing role in Oklahoma schools

The Oklahoma History Center Education Department is reaching out to all Oklahoma schools to make hands-on history available through its Traveling Trunk program. Each trunk contains background information, lesson plans, activities, and three-dimensional artifacts. The trunks directly address Oklahoma Academic Standards and relate to Oklahoma History Center exhibits.

The Traveling Trunk program began ten years ago as a way to reach students who, for whatever reason, could not visit the History Center. Two or three trunks were made available for loan that contained a few artifacts and replicas associated with Oklahoma's past and current events.

Now there are twenty-five trunks available and the reach has exceeded 25,000 students in two-thirds of the counties in the state. The Education Department expects to reach 35,000 Oklahoma students during the next academic year. The trunks available cover topics including Colonial History, People of Oklahoma, Early Oklahoma, Nineteenth-Century Oklahoma, and Twentieth-Century Oklahoma. The Education Department is in the process of developing an American Indian Nations of Oklahoma trunk to be available for the new academic year.

Traveling Trunks may be reserved by calling 405-522-0791 or by visiting www.okhistory.org/historycenter/trunks. Trunks are reserved on a first come, first served basis. They may be checked out for a week at a time and are available to be picked up and dropped off at the History Center. The trunks also may be shipped at the requestor's expense. The Traveling Trunk program is available to teachers and home school co-ops. Community groups may also check out trunks, though priority is given to teachers and home school co-ops. Early reservations for the 2016-2017 school year are highly recommended.



Students will learn about early explorers of present-day Oklahoma with items from the Oklahoma Explorers trunk.

Historical Marker back in place

The historical marker along Route 66 between Luther and Arcadia lay broken beside the road for two years. The Run of '89 East Boundary marker denoted the location of the eastern boundary for the Unassigned Lands that opened through a land run at noon on April 22, 1889.

"I received many phone calls about the damaged marker," said Kathy Dickson, OHS director of museums and historic sites, "but unfortunately there was no funding to repair and reset the marker." When a news story ran about the damaged marker, members of the Oklahoma City/County Historical Society approached the OHS about sponsoring the repair.

Thanks to this generous donation, the marker is once again in its proper place on the roadside. On April 30, 2016, members of the Oklahoma City/County Historical Society gathered to rededicate the marker.

The OHS's historical marker program began following World War II. State Representative John E. Wagner met with Dr. Charles Evans, secretary of the OHS, to make plans for the OHS and the Oklahoma Department of Highways to establish a historical marker program. The Oklahoma Legislature authorized \$10,000 for as many markers as possible. The OHS was directed to select one hundred people, places, or events important in the state's history.

The number of historical markers increased dramatically after the state's semicentennial celebration in 1957. By the mid-1970s, in anticipation of the US bicentennial celebration, there were more than 250 historical markers in the state. Today there are records for more than 660 markers, but keeping an exact count is difficult. Many markers no longer exist—stolen, destroyed by vandals or automobile accidents, removed for roadwork, and lost. We have only the written record of these markers. Unfortunately, no funding was ever authorized for maintenance of the markers. In the mid-1980s, a \$1.2 million federal highway matching-fund grant program helped replace selected damaged and missing markers, and improved the safety and attractiveness of many roadside markers.

Dickson hopes to one day record the global position coordinates for all the markers to make them easier to find. According to Dickson some of the existing directions are not very descriptive. "I have found myself in the middle of pastures and on long forgotten roads with suspect bridges as I try to hunt them down. The goal once we have the coordinates is to work toward developing some type of an app that will not only help people find the markers but will provide more information about the topic, event, or person

featured on the marker. The coordinates will continue to mark the location even if the marker disappears."

Dickson invites everyone to send coordinates of markers near them along with photographs to kdickson@okhistory.org. To view a list of historical markers, please visit www.okhistory.org/sites/markers.



Individuals from the Oklahoma City/County Historical Society and the OHS gathered to rededicate the Run of '89 East Boundary marker on April 30, 2016 (photo courtesy of Ken Corder).

Fred Drummond Home to host Ice Cream Social

The Fred Drummond Home in Hominy is pleased to invite the community to its annual Ice Cream Social and Fundraiser on Saturday, September 17, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This family friendly event features activities for kids and adults alike.

The Ice Cream Social and admission to the Drummond Heirloom exhibit will be free. Richard Heinrich will be on site to teach rope tricks, and the first thirty children who can do a trick will receive a rope to take home. Visitors to this event will have the opportunity to tour the home for the regular admission fee. A bouncy castle will be on site for children, with a charge of \$2 for children up to age eleven and \$3 for children twelve and older. Hot dogs will also be for sale during the day.

The Fred Drummond Home is located at 305 North Price Avenue in Hominy. Regular admission is \$3 for adults, \$2.50 for seniors age sixty-five and over, \$1 for children ages six to eighteen, and free for children under five. For more information please call 918-885-2374.



The Stories They Could Tell exhibit

A special exhibit entitled *The Stories They Could Tell: The Landscapes and Vernacular Architecture of Southwest Oklahoma* is currently on display at the



Museum of the Western Prairie in Altus. This interpretive art exhibit explores the landscapes of southwest Oklahoma and the vernacular structures nestled into them that have inspired the work of Altus artist Brian Nichols.

The exhibit will inform visitors about early day life in southwest Oklahoma through history, geography, art, and architecture. The art will also connect visitors to these places. An informational catalog will help visitors focus on the landscapes that define southwest Oklahoma as well as the unique personalities of the common, ordinary structures that dot the rural countryside as captured in the paintings.

The Stories They Could Tell is on exhibit in the First Gallery of the Museum of the Western Prairie through August 16. For more information please call 580-482-1044 or email muswestpr@okhistory.org. The Museum of the Western Prairie is located at 1100 Memorial Drive in Altus.

Museum Day Live!

The Oklahoma History Center will open its doors free of charge on Saturday, September 24, as part of *Smithsonian Magazine's* eleventh annual Museum Day Live! event.



On this day only, participating museums across the United States emulate the spirit of the Smithsonian Institution's Washington, DC-based facilities, which offer free admission every day. On September 24, the History Center will open its doors for free to those who download a Museum Day Live! ticket. Each Museum Day Live! ticket provides free admission for two people. The ticket must be presented for free admission, with mobile redemption also accepted. To download a Museum Day Live! ticket, please visit www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday/museum-day-live-2016. Tickets may be downloaded beginning on Monday, August 1. A Smithsonian Affiliate, the Oklahoma History Center is located at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in Oklahoma City. Please call 405-522-0765 for more information.

Events and exhibits at the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum

On Saturday, August 6, the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum will host the Route 66 Hall of Fame Induction and the ninetieth anniversary of Route 66. Along with these two grand events, the museum will also be unveiling two new exhibits. The celebration will take place from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Wow! Room of the museum. The event is open to the public and free of charge.

Every two years, the Oklahoma Route 66 Association selects two people, one living and one deceased, to be inducted into the Oklahoma Route 66 Hall of Fame. Inductees have made outstanding contributions to the promotion, preservation, education, or business along the Mother Road. The selection includes a nomination and committee process. Past winners include author Michael Wallis of Tulsa, journalist Kent Ruth, "Mr. 66" Jack Cutberth of Clinton, and Lucille Hammons, known as "The Mother of the Mother Road."

The ninetieth anniversary celebration will commemorate the official establishment of Route 66 as a federal highway in 1926, when the United States established a national highway system.

The Oklahoma Route 66 Museum will also be unveiling a new folk art exhibit. Folk art from artists across Oklahoma and Route 66 will be on display until next year. Most of the works on display are part of the Dr. Al Turner Collection from the OHS. The outdoor exhibits will also be available for viewing. Panels have been placed on the outdoor columns depicting places in Clinton that were known along Route 66. Wall panels will be in place with photos of hot spots along Route 66 from Chicago to Santa Monica.

The Oklahoma Route 66 Museum is located at 2229 West Gary Boulevard in Clinton. Regular admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors ages sixty-five and up, \$1 for children ages six to eighteen, and free for children under six. The museum galleries present the history and legends of Route 66 through the decades. For more information please call 580-323-7866 or email rt66mus@okhistory.org.



Kay County Ancestor Fair at Pioneer Woman Museum

On Saturday, August 20, the annual Kay County Ancestor Fair will be held at the Pioneer Woman Museum in Ponca City. The Ancestor Fair exhibits may be viewed from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will feature lineage charts, family books, photographs, documents, and information about area history organizations. The Pioneer Woman Museum will be open normal business hours, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission to the museum will be by donation on this day. The Pioneer Genealogical Society and the Pioneer Woman Museum are cosponsoring this event. The Pioneer Woman Museum is located at 701 Monument Road in Ponca City. For more information please call 580-765-6108 or email piown@okhistory.org.



Oklahoma students compete in 2016 National History Day contest

In May, Oklahoma students from across the state competed in the 2016 Oklahoma National History Day (OKNHD) state contest, held at the Oklahoma History Center. The state winners advanced to the National History Day contest in June.

In all more than sixty students, grades six through twelve, their teachers, and their parents made their way to the National History Day contest, held June 12-16, on the University of Maryland, College Park campus in College Park, Maryland.

Nirvana Khan, who is taught by Margaret Wadleigh at Irving Middle School in Norman, received a third place medal in Junior Individual Website for "Petticoat Pilgrims: World War II Brides Explore Culture and Exchange Hope." The Senior Division Best Use of a Civil Rights Topic award went to Logan Wood, Raelynn Parham, and Will Lalman from Patty Sanders's class at Morrison High School for their website "Brushstrokes and Bloodshed: Emory Douglas and the Rise of the Black Panthers." Emily Tucker from Broken Arrow High School, taught by Molly Endsley, was in the finals for Senior Individual Performance and came in eighth in the nation for her performance "Contrarii Moribus: The Roman Invasion of Britain." Braxton Thompson, Kenzi Nix, and Kylie Nix from Dora Fuqua's class at Canton Elementary School placed fourth in the nation in Junior Group Exhibit for their project "Oil and the Osage," and received the Junior Division Oklahoma Outstanding Project. Zane Hilbig, Clint Stout, Austin Hamilton, and Tanner Neely, also from Patty Sanders's class at Morrison High School, placed seventh in the nation in Senior Group Exhibit with their project "Livestock Identification: Branding through History," and were awarded the Senior Division Oklahoma Outstanding Project.

National History Day is a worldwide contest with students from all fifty states,

American territories, and the Department of Defense. Students compete in exhibits, documentaries, performances, websites, and historical papers. Each year more than six thousand students compete at district contests in Oklahoma before making their way to the Oklahoma History Center for the state contest in May. "National History Day allows students to do the work of historians, explore the past in a personal and unique way, and then present what they learn to historians and museum professionals," said Sarah Dumas, OKNHD coordinator. "It is one of the best tools for authentic evaluation that classroom teachers can find and brings students from rural and urban schools together in a unique way, giving them skills that will benefit them in school, college, and life."

The students and teachers who attended the National History Day contest received special, one-of-a-kind Oklahoma City Thunder History Day shirts, donated by the Oklahoma City Thunder. Many students, including the students from Canton, had the opportunity to visit Oklahoma legislators, including Senator James Lankford.

At the state level, OKNHD partnered with Newspapers in Education (NIE) to provide a History Day Curriculum. The History Day 2016 curriculum published by Newspapers in Education was made available to 881 registered teachers via digital access, print access, or both. These 881 registered teachers report working with a total of 191,027 students across 603 schools. Of these teachers, 412 received a classroom set of student workbooks as a result of a specific request or because they are located within our standard circulation area. All four lesson plans were also made available digitally to the 881 registered NIE teachers as well as being featured in the *Oklahoman* newspaper.

New Members, cont'd.

Family

Patti Howell, Oklahoma City
Loretta Jackson, Chickasha
Craig Johnston, Oklahoma City
Sarah Kimball, Stillwater
*George and Patricia Kiser, Yukon
Celia Lehmann, Yukon
Harold and Sue McMillan, Oklahoma City
*Roger Moore, Stillwater
Richard and Cindy Murray, Tulsa
*Jim and Luann Nelson, Liberal, KS
Keith and Bud Oehlert, Oklahoma City
*Rhea Patterson, Dewey
Connie Ponds, Oklahoma City
Linda Pond and Rebecca Cal, Stratford
Dale and Yvonne Shifflett, Oklahoma City
Deena Thomas and Katherine Thomas, Oklahoma City
Sally Wegner, Guthrie
*Donald Whitney, Edmond
T. J. Williams, Ada
*Craig Wright, Oklahoma City

Individual

Jennifer Bekhti, Park Hill
George Billingsley, Broken Bow
Paul Blankenship, Lindsay
Katherine Bowen, Broken Bow
Ray Cain, Muse
Jennifer Carroll, Owasso
Terry Castor, Beaver
Jacques DeLier, Oklahoma City
Kathryn Fenton, Virginia Beach, VA
Claude Gahart, Skiatook
Mary Habekott, Crawford
Michael Harris, Tahlequah
Chad Hillis, Maysville
James Hodgens, Stroud
Levittia Hudson, Idabel
Lisa John, Ada
Harold Jones, Miami
Kayli Koger, Jenks
Mary Littlefield, Stillwater
Gail Loafman, Duncan
Cindy Martin, Vinita
Cynthia Miller, Oklahoma City
Leslie Moreno, Tulsa
Chase Morgan, Indianola
Marcus Moss, Pauls Valley
Chandra Prevost, Tulsa
Jessi Runyan, Sulphur
Rebecca Starks-Pittman, Fitzhugh
Erin Taylor, Oklahoma City
Jacob Ward, Sapulpa
Katie Watson, Muskogee
Ashley Williams, Lawton
Tyler Wixon, Enid

Organizational

Durant Historical Society, Durant
Muscogee Creek Indian Freedmen Band, Moore

Storytelling Festival 2016 cancelled

With the support of its board of directors, Arts Council Oklahoma City has decided to discontinue the Oklahoma City Storytelling Festival.

Although listed in June and July issues of *Mistletoe Leaves*, Storytelling Festival 2016 will not take place in August. This does create an opportunity for organizations or individuals that wish to host an event, meeting, or program at the Oklahoma History Center on August 25, 26, or 27. These dates are now open for booking. If interested, please contact the Events Office at 405-522-0745 or events@okhistory.org.

SHPO seeks input for FY 2017 program

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will hold a public meeting on Friday, September 16, at 10:30 a.m. in the classroom of the Oklahoma History Center, located at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in Oklahoma City. SHPO staff will provide information about the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and how it supports the statewide preservation program. During the meeting, the SHPO will also receive public input for development of the Fiscal Year 2017 Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) application to the US Department of the Interior. The United States is celebrating the NHPA's fiftieth anniversary this year. Your participation in this public meeting is an important way you can join the celebration and help the SHPO advance Oklahoma's preservation goals for the future.

Under the NHPA, the SHPO administers the federal historic preservation program in Oklahoma. The purpose of the program is to encourage preservation of the state's archaeological and historic resources for everyone's benefit. The SHPO conducts surveys to identify archaeological and historic resources; nominates eligible properties to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP); comments on the effects of federal undertakings on archaeological and historic resources; develops the statewide preservation plan; administers the Certified Local Governments (CLG) Program; provides comments to the National Park Service about rehabilitation projects proposed for federal tax credits; and provides public outreach programs and technical assistance to preservation professionals, government agencies, and

interested citizens. The SHPO expects to receive approximately \$830,000 from the HPF for these programs and its operations. Ten percent of the HPF award is reserved for pass-through grants to CLGs.

"Tomorrow's Legacy: Oklahoma's Statewide Preservation Plan (January 2015–December 2019)" is available online at www.okhistory.org/shpo/stateplan.htm, and sets forth the statewide preservation community's goals and objectives. The SHPO's priorities for addressing the State Plan's goals are continuation of the archaeological and historic/architectural resources survey program, with special emphasis on resources associated with underrepresented peoples and extension of survey coverage to previously unstudied areas; preparation of NRHP nominations; and continuation of public outreach and technical assistance programs. The public's ideas and priorities for the SHPO's activities in each of these program areas in FY 2017 will help strengthen preservation efforts in Oklahoma.

Written comments and suggestions are also welcome from individuals who are unable to attend the meeting. Please complete the SHPO's "Project Suggestion Form" and return it by 5 p.m. on Friday, September 16. Call the SHPO at 405-521-6249 or email Melvena Heisch at mheisch@okhistory.org to request the form, or obtain it at www.okhistory.org/shpo/spevents.htm.



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!

Van and Pat Barber, Oklahoma City, May 1, 1974
Russell Newville, Lexington, June 1, 1979
Van Appelman Jr., Catoosa, April 3, 1985
Susie Clinard and Harley Lingerfelt, Shawnee, January 1, 1986
45th Infantry Division Museum, Oklahoma City, April 10, 1986
Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, IN, June 17, 1986
Ardmore Public Library, Ardmore, June 23, 1986
Kenneth and Corie Delashaw, Marietta, November 3, 1987
Dan Hobbs, Norman, April 13, 1988
Alice Coffman, Harrah, April 28, 1988
Lonnie and Susan Smith, Fort Towson, May 31, 1988
Nancy Samuelson, Sacramento, CA, May 12, 1989
Carol Woitchek, Oklahoma City, June 21, 1991
James Russell, Mustang, April 13, 1992
Jane Osborn, Miami, January 19, 1993
Myrtle Edmond, Antlers, May 17, 1994
Donald and Virginia Bellows, Tulsa, June 1, 1994
Joe Hickman, Broken Bow, April 26, 1995
Sylvia Duncan, Stillwater, July 5, 1995
Brent and Deborah Johnson, Tulsa, July 18, 1995
Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX, July 28, 1995
Randal and Kimberly Ice, Oklahoma City, February 27, 1996
Joy Grant, Mangum, June 4, 1996
Caroline Basore, Clayton, MO, June 13, 1996
William Slagle, Edmond, June 14, 1996

Oklahoma Historical Society
800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7917

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PERIODICALS



Smithsonian Affiliations
Membership Program

Tour de Museums summer program

The T. B. Ferguson Home in Watonga is proud to continue its summer program, Tour de Museums. Purchase a passport for \$6 at any participating museum, then get it stamped after touring each museum. The Tour de Museums summer program runs from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Enjoy visiting all eight participating museums across western Oklahoma and collect a stamp at each museum. When the passport is full, turn it in at the last museum that you tour, and your passport will be entered into a drawing to be held on September 26 at 1 p.m. The winner will receive a one-night stay at the Noble House Bed and Breakfast in Watonga for adults and a gift certificate for paddle boat rides at Roman Nose State Park for children.

Participating museums include Cherokee Strip Museum, Alva; Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher; Freedom Museum, Freedom; Gateway to the Panhandle Museum, Gate; Major County Historical Society, east of Fairview; Sod House Museum, southeast of Aline; Stafford Air and Space Museum, Weatherford; and T. B. Ferguson Home, Watonga.

Tour de Museums passports cannot be stamped prior to May 30, 2016, or after September 6, 2016. For more information please contact Louise Griffin at 580-623-5069 or historic.tbferguson.home@gmail.com.



Mistletoe Leaves

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Will Rogers and Wiley Post Fly-In

On Saturday, August 13, the Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch in Oologah will host the annual Will Rogers and Wiley Post Fly-In. Gates open at 7 a.m. with free admission, though donations are accepted. The event will take place from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on the two-thousand-foot grass strip adjacent to Oologah Lake. Pilots will fly the Oklahoma skies and land on the grass strip, a few yards from the home in which Will Rogers was born on November 4, 1879.

The annual fly-in commemorates the date that Will Rogers and Wiley Post died in a plane crash near Point Barrow, Alaska, on August 15, 1935. It also celebrates their dedication to the aviation industry. Pilots of antique aircraft, vintage warplanes, new and late model small aircraft, helicopters, and powered parachute planes will gather to showcase their aircraft and reminisce with fellow flyers. Visitors can get a close-up view of the planes and meet the pilots. There will also be a classic car and motorcycle show, Cherokee storytelling, activities for children, and food vendors. Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs.

During the past three decades, families have enjoyed the fly-in event. Among the most popular guests are Will and Wiley, who roll down the runway and up to the front gate to cheers of adults and children alike. Lester Lurk of Sainte Genevieve, Missouri, portrays Will Rogers, and Joe Bacon, pilot and Will Rogers Memorial Museum docent, portrays Wiley Post.

For the second year, the event will also include a "National Day of Remembrance" to honor pilots and passengers killed in small plane crashes in 2016. A lapel pin, featuring a portrait of Will Rogers in a flight jacket, has been designed to pay tribute to flyers. These commemorative pins will be presented to family members of deceased pilots and passengers. Names of the deceased will be honored on the Will Rogers Memorial Museums website at www.willrogers.com.



Lester Lurk portrays Will Rogers and Joe Bacon portrays Wiley Post at the 2015 fly-in event.



Will Rogers and Wiley Post (1972, Lee Harkins Collection, OHS).

Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, also called Dog Iron Ranch, is located at 9501 East 380 Road in Oologah. The Dog Iron Ranch Airport's FAA identifier is OK37; CTAF: 122.9. For more information please call 918-341-0719, email pr@willrogers.com, or visit www.willrogers.com.