



Christmas Open House at the Sod House Museum



We would like you to experience a real pioneer Christmas! The Sod House Museum will be decorated for the holidays, and you will feel like you have stepped back in time when you join us for the free Christmas Open House on Saturday, December 10, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Rekindle the warmth and charm of a true pioneer Christmas with a visit to the museum. The early settlers made every attempt to decorate their homes for the holidays with whatever natural materials looked attractive at this time of year, such as evergreens, mistletoe, nuts, and berries. For some, there might even be a Christmas tree, decorated with bits of ribbon, yarn, berries, popcorn or paper strings, and homemade decorations. The Sod House will be decorated reflecting these basic traditions. Some of these homemade decorations were dolls made of straw or strips of fabric. Cookie dough ornaments and gingerbread men were also popular. Many times wood was simply too scarce to waste on a tree, if one could be found at all. Other sod homes were simply too small to make room for a tree.

Pioneer-era Christmas traditions will be shown throughout the museum. The event serves as a great opportunity to experience a century-old Christmas by making Christmas at the Sod House Museum a part of your cherished memories. Visitors can also enjoy the changes that have taken place in the museum such as a new display depicting the life that the early-day settlers lived. The traditional Santa and other Santas from around the world will be at the museum for the entertainment of young and old. The Friends of the Sod House will be serving cookies, coffee, and hot apple cider to visitors while they enjoy an old fashioned Christmas.

The Sod House Museum is located southeast of Aline on State Highway 8 and is operated by the Oklahoma Historical Society. The site is open Tuesday through Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information call Renee Mitchell at 580/463-2441 or email sodhouse@okhistory.org.

Murrell Home hosts Christmas Open House

The historic Murrell Home at Park Hill will be hosting its Eleventh Annual Christmas Open House on Sunday, December 11, from 1 to 5 p.m. Visitors are invited to tour the 1845 mansion and learn about Christmas customs from the mid-Victorian period. The halls will be decked in Christmas fashions of the 1800s, and live music will fill the air.

Special activities this year will include nineteenth-century parlor games. Guests young and old are invited to play traditional games and make Victorian Christmas crafts. The Friends of the Murrell Home will sponsor a reception with refreshments.

The Murrell Home Christmas Open House is free and open to the public, but donations are appreciated. The museum is located three miles south of Tahlequah at 19479 E. Murrell Home Road in Park Hill. The plantation home was the residence of George and Minerva (Ross) Murrell, and it is a National Historic Landmark. For more information on the Christmas Open House, contact the Murrell Home at 918/456-2751 or murrellhome@okhistory.org.



Christmas at the Peter Conser Historic Home

The Peter Conser Historic Home in Heavener is pleased to announce a very special visit from Santa! On Saturday, December 19, from 1 to 5 p.m. Jolly Old Saint Nicholas himself will be visiting the Peter Conser Home. He will be dressed in authentic turn-of-the-century clothing, so come see Santa and bring a camera to take your picture with him in this historic setting! Then enjoy the home, decorated for the holidays, with Mrs. Claus playing Christmas carols on her Appalachian dulcimer, and end your visit with cookies and hot apple cider on the back porch! Donations are gratefully accepted, with all donations received going toward the upkeep of the Peter Conser Historic Home. The Peter Conser Home is located at 47114 Conser Creek Road in Heavener. If you have any other questions, please call the museum at 918/653-2493 or email breid@okhistory.org. Come see Santa. He hopes to see you there!



Director's Column

By **Bob L. Blackburn**
Executive Director

The university community has long been an important partner in the work done by the Oklahoma Historical Society.

For more than ninety years faculty members and their graduate students have written some of the best ground-breaking history for *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*. Historians such as E. E. Dale, Emma Estill Harbour, LeRoy Fischer, Arrell Gibson, and others have faithfully served on the OHS board of directors. From internships and historic preservation surveys to exhibit planning and programs, our friends in the academic community have served the cause of history.

This year we have launched an innovative new partnership which explores new ground. The partner is Oklahoma City University, more specifically the Wanda Bass School of Music at OCU, led by Dean Mark Parker and the newly appointed president of the university, Robert Henry. At the heart of the partnership is a celebration of creativity in Oklahoma history.

Development News

by Paul F. Lambert

We have received an outstanding response thus far to our Annual Giving Campaign! We recently completed a mailing to the general membership of the OHS and will be contacting donors who have made major contributions in the past. Contributions have ranged from \$5 to as high as \$50,000 for specific projects. All donations are meaningful and important to us. We are grateful for the confidence in us that members and donors express through their donations. We are also excited by the opportunity the contributions afford us to maintain the quality of our exhibits and education programs that keep the History Center both an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution and of the National Archives.

Another important development is our new planned giving promotion. Soon we will have extensive information on our website detailing the many ways individuals can support the OHS in their estate and retirement plans. We also will have written materials available for interested parties. Our website will even have a section to assist professionals in advising their clients about the various planned giving possibilities. Developing our endowment funding is critically important to the future of the OHS, and we hope you will give some thought to the possibility of including the OHS in your long-range plans.

If there is a program that is particularly important to you, you will be able to specify that the earnings from your endowment contribution will be used specifically for that program. You may also use endowment donations to support the operations of one museum or site, historic home, or historic fort statewide. The possibilities of perpetually supporting education programs, museum exhibits, historical publications, and preservation of archival materials and artifacts are exciting, and I look forward to working with members who want to benefit future generations of Oklahomans in this manner. Contact me at 405/522-5217 or plambert@okhistory.org with any questions.

The concert held at the History Center on November 9 was our first joint effort to use music as an interpretive tool. In this case the OHS, with a gift from Dick and Jeannette Sias, commissioned an original symphonic score dedicated to the historical spirit of Wiley Post. OCU contributed faculty support, rehearsal time, and a performance by the student orchestra.

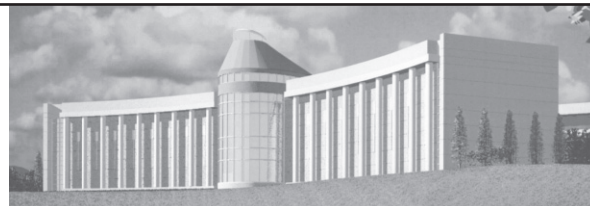
Joining the partnership were the composer, Callen Clarke of Edmond, and the featured violinist, Kyle Dillingham of Oklahoma City. Both are graduates of OCU. Both OCU and the OHS raised money from the collaboration.

The next step in our partnership is the recording of a score for the silent film *Daughter of Dawn*.

Five years ago, with financial assistance from the Lawton Community Foundation and the McMahon Foundation, the OHS purchased the only surviving copy of a six-reel film made in 1919 and 1920. It was shot in the Wichita Mountains with an all-Indian cast.

Once the film was transferred and restored, we realized we had a unique window into Indian culture that deserved the best possible sound track. We hired a Comanche classical composer who produced an original symphonic score for a sixty-piece orchestra. When we discovered the cost of getting the score recorded, we put it on the shelf.

The project is once more gaining momentum thanks to our partnership with OCU. Dean Parker and his faculty are currently working on the "click track" so the music is synchronized to the scenes of the movie. Once the recording sessions are complete, the sound track will be added to the film, and it will be released through film festivals, showings



around the state, and a possible showing on Turner Classic Movies.

Fortunately for the OHS, Robert Henry is a student of history who cares deeply about his home state. Dean Parker, likewise, cares deeply about his students and is always looking for a way to push them and give them practical experience that will help them in their careers and music. Both educators have helped us shape a new partnership that will serve the people of Oklahoma for years to come.

Yes, the college community has long been a partner. We need to recognize new and innovative ways to make that partnership work.

Dr. Bob

New Members, October 2011

*Indicates renewed membership at a higher level

Director

*Norvell Clarke, Oklahoma City

Associate

*Mr. and Mrs. Jackie Cooper, Oklahoma City
*Charles Oppenheim, Oklahoma City

Friend

*Pat Ferry and Betta Carney, Little Rock, AR
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Moore, Kingwood, TX
*Mr. and Mrs. Allan Stocker, Bartlesville
Jay Wilkinson, Nichols Hills

Family

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Arnold, Edmond
*Mr. and Mrs. Mike Bevil, Chickasha
Betty Chancellor, Shawnee
*Heidi Diver, Oklahoma City
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Ersland, Chickasha
William Farbes, Oklahoma City
*Mr. and Mrs. Joe Ford, Lawton
Mr. and Mrs. Dean Gigstad, Oklahoma City
*Dr. and Mrs. Bill Hill, Antlers
*Richard Lillard, Miami
*Barbara Nathman, Vian
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Phillips, Madill
Carolyn Register, Dill City
Karleene Smith, Norman
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Trenkell, San Augustine, TX
*Jeannette Uhles, Broken Arrow
Ted Withrow, Bethany

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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

Exhibits

The Cherokee Heritage Center in **Tahlequah** is presenting a new exhibit: *Brother vs. Brother: Cherokees in the Civil War*, open now until April 15, 2012. Hear the stories and view authentic artifacts used by Cherokee soldiers on both sides of the war. For more information, contact the Cherokee Heritage Center at 888/999-6007 or visit CherokeeHeritage.org. (travelok.com)

Events

Step back in time and celebrate a Territorial Christmas in **Guthrie** in the downtown historical district with period home tours and evening victorian walks. Visitors to a Territorial Christmas will step back in time with candlelit trolley rides, carolers, and decorated store windows depicting Victorian-era Guthrie. Pick up some tasty treats from peanut vendors lining the downtown streets, enjoy an old-fashioned Christmas parade, and visit Journey to Bethlehem, a depiction with live actors and animals of the trek taken by Mary and Joseph. Other Territorial Christmas activities include the Territorial Homes Tour featuring homes decorated in the style of the early twentieth century, Victorian Walk Evenings, and Candlelight Trolley Tours on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays in December. Guthrie's Territorial Christmas is a perfect family-friendly getaway this holiday season. The Victorian Walks occur on December 10 from 5 until 9 p.m. For more information, call 405/282-2800. (travelok.com)

Experience a real, full-sized train ride at the Oklahoma Railway Museum in **Oklahoma City**. On Saturday, December 17, the museum will feature Christmas-themed train rides. Tickets are on sale now for \$15 and the train leaves at 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12 p.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3 p.m. from the museum. The museum features freight and passenger cars and a real steam engine. Admission is free to the museum, which is open every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. To purchase tickets or for further information, call 405/424-0504.

Quite literally a blast from the past, Christmas Guns is a tradition brought to America by German immigrants. The discharging of firearms such as cannons and guns was believed to dispel evil spirits

in preparation for the upcoming holiday. Come and celebrate this historic tradition with a visit to this year's Christmas Guns celebration held at Historic Fort Reno in **El Reno** on December 18. Honor this timeless tradition plucked from German and American folklore with storytelling, good food, and a visit from Santa. The event is free and occurs from 2 to 4 p.m. For more information, call 405/262-3987. (travelok.com)

The **Minco** Honey Festival on December 3 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. is the event to attend for pure, sweet Oklahoma honey from the largest honey producing facility in the state. Tours of the Ross Honey Plant will be given throughout the day by the owners, and an impressive array of honey products and gifts will be available for purchase. This year's festival will also feature the popular and much-anticipated honey bake-off. Minco dairy producers will also have free samples of cheese and milk products available to crowds of festival-goers. Come to the Minco Honey Festival and you are guaranteed to notice the aroma of food throughout the town supplied from local restaurants and food vendors. The festival will also include more than one-hundred crafters, a quilt show, a kids' tractor pull, and booths filled with Made in Oklahoma products. For those wanting to receive information about their antiques, the Minco Honey Festival will also be hosting a version of the Antiques Roadshow. Admission is free. (travelok.com)

Enjoy a vast array of Christmas lights at the **Chickasha** Festival of Light from November 22 to December 31, nightly from 6 to 11 p.m. Admission is free and donations are accepted. In addition to sparkling lights the festival also offers a live nativity, which occurs nightly December 3 to 18 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. with a twelve minute nativity show every thirty minutes. Along with the nativity is the opportunity to pet animals and take pictures. Camel rides are available for a fee and make a great photo opportunity. For more information, call 405/224-9627.

Cowboy Crossings, an inaugural event at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in **Oklahoma City**, played host to forty-two artists and more than four hundred guests totaling art sales of more than \$2.2 million on October 15, 2011. The event presented the Cowboy Artists of America (CAA) 46th Annual Sale &

Exhibition alongside the longstanding Traditional Cowboy Arts Association (TCAA) Exhibition and Sale, now in its thirteenth year. The combination offered collectors of Western fine art an unparalleled opportunity to view in one location. The TCAA is dedicated to preserving and promoting saddle making, bit and spur making, silversmithing, and rawhide braiding, all traditional crafts evolved from the cowboy culture of the American West. This year sixteen artists offered forty-five works of functional art for purchase and exhibition. The CAA exhibition and sale will continue through November 27, while the TCAA will continue through January 8, 2012. Several works and casts remain for sale and can be viewed at www.nationalcowboymuseum.org or for more information, call 405/478-2250.

Sponsored by the Oklahoma Railway Museum, Central Oklahoma Model Railway Club, N-Rail, and the South Canadian Model Railroad Club, the Thirty-fifth Annual **Oklahoma City** Train Show will be held December 3 and 4 in the Travel and Transportation Building at the Oklahoma State Fairgrounds. The show is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, with admission \$8 for adults and children under twelve free. Whistle Stop OKC and others will sponsor a train set giveaway every hour for children under twelve. For tickets and further information, call 405/842-4846 or visit the website at www.oktrainshow.com.

Opportunities

Do you want to have your organization's meeting, event, or exhibit featured in the "Around Oklahoma" section of the *Mistletoe Leaves*? The "Around Oklahoma" section features meetings, events, exhibits, and other Oklahoma history and heritage-related activities or programs sponsored by entities other than the Oklahoma Historical Society. To submit news items, please email ttoney@okhistory.org or send your entries to Tabatha Toney, Assistant Editor, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73105, during the first week of the month before you wish the news item to appear. For example, if you wish a news item to appear in our January issue, please send it to the editors by the first week of December. Thank you for your submissions.

May Lillie inducted into Cowgirl Hall of Fame



Left: May Lillie taking aim

A group from the Oklahoma Historical Society and Pawnee made the trip to Fort Worth to attend the 2011 ceremony for the induction of May Lillie into the Cowgirl Hall of Fame.

Mary "May" Emma Manning was born on March 12, 1869, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. At the age of seventeen, May Manning fell in love with and married Gordon William Lillie in 1886. As a wedding gift from her husband, later known as "Pawnee Bill," May received a pony and a .22 gauge target rifle. Two years after their wedding they launched their own Wild West show titled "Pawnee Bill's Historic Wild West." Billed as the "Champion Girl Horseback Shot of the West," May had a natural sense of showmanship and great style as a sharpshooter. For twenty years, from 1888 to 1908, she and Bill traveled and entertained thousands.

Although her life was cut short by a 1936 car accident, May Lillie remains a symbol of the West. The iconic image of Lillie taking aim down the barrel of her gun is representative of how the American West is remembered. Today, Wanda Green portrays May Lillie in the Wild West Show at the Pawnee Bill Ranch held each June.

Pictured below: Bob Rea, Ronny Brown, Erin Brown, Ana Davis, Kevin Webb, Alyce Vigil, Ed Green, Wanda Green, Martha Ray.



Christmas at the Pawnee Bill Museum and Ranch

Beautiful holiday decorations will transform Pawnee Bill's mansion the entire month of December. Ranch staff, community organizations, businesses, and private individuals will come together to decorate the historic home in the spirit of the holidays. Visitors can see the mansion's decorations during normal hours of operation. On December 3 the mansion will host a Santas of the World Tour. Many Santas and elves representing different time periods and countries all over the world will entertain visitors with their stories and wonderful costumes. The festive event will take place from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the Pawnee Bill Mansion. There is no charge for the event. For more information, call 918/762-2513 or email pawneebill@okhistory.org.

C-SPAN visits the Oklahoma History Center



"Pearl Harbor Revisited" lecture by Dr. James Baker

Join us at the Oklahoma History Center as we remember the seventieth anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor and the beginning of World War II in the Pacific for the United States. On December 15 the OHC will host a lecture with special guest Dr. James Baker from the University of Central Oklahoma. Baker will examine the deadly surprise attack on Pearl Harbor.

The evening will feature a special discussion on the battle. Topics include missed clues leading up to the attack, reasons for the successful surprise, various historical interpretations of the event, and conspiracy theories.

The museum will open its doors at 6 p.m. and the program begins at 7 p.m. Admission is free and seating is first come. Be sure and come early to explore our new exhibit on the events relating to December 7, 1941 and the beginning of the U.S. war in the Pacific.

For more information please contact Jason Harris at jharris@okhistory.org or 405/522-0785.

Second Annual Renaissance Winter Ball



Mo Anderson receives a pioneer woman statue from then Lieutenant Governor Jari Askins at the 2010 Renaissance Winter Ball.

The Pioneer Woman Museum will host the Second Annual Renaissance Winter Ball with the Marland Mansion at the Marland Mansion on Friday, December 9. This is an annual holiday gala to raise funds for both sites and to honor the Pioneer Woman of the Year. Tickets are \$40. On Saturday, December 10, the Pioneer Woman Museum will host the annual Holiday Open House from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. The Patches and Pieces Quilt Guild will have an all-day sew day in the Education Room from

10 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. The museum will be closed Saturday, December 24 through Tuesday, December 27, and will reopen for business as usual on Wednesday, December 28, at 10 a.m. For more information, call 580/765-6108 or email piown@okhistory.org.

Below: Patches and Pieces Guild Member Sue Roy.



Above: Quilt block currently on display in the Historic Quilts exhibit at the Pioneer Woman Museum.

Need holiday gift ideas?

Step into the Oklahoma History Center Museum Store and pick up your copy of the *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*. The two-volume work contains 2,455 entries on the history and culture of our great state. The encyclopedias serve as a wonderful holiday gifts for those who are interested in history or would like to know more about our unique state. Retail price is \$100 for this award-winning set.

Humphrey Abstract's Christmas in the Village

Start a new family tradition this holiday season! Humphrey Heritage Village will be immersed in holiday cheer when Christmas comes to life at the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center in Enid. Experience Christmas in the Cherokee Outlet as it was more than one-hundred years ago with sights, smells, and sounds of the holiday season. Visitors will enjoy holiday food and musical entertainment in the Village Church and tours of the Glidewell home decorated in holiday splendor. Children of all ages can write their letters to Santa at the U.S. Post Office. The schoolmarm at Turkey Creek School will teach visitors how to make an ornament, and Santa will be waiting to hear their Christmas wishes. Guests will also have a chance to find that perfect holiday gift at the museum shop.

Christmas in the Village will begin on Sunday, December 4 from 2 to 5:30 p.m. and conclude with the lighting of the Christmas tree on the Green. The Heritage Center will also offer an array of special holiday activities from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, December 10 and December 17. Christmas in the Village will attract day trip visitors from outside the area and will provide our local community with a unique holiday experience throughout the Christmas season. Tickets are \$3 for adults and children 12 and under free. For additional information, contact Cody Jolliff at 580/237-1907 or cjolliff@okhistory.org.



Winter solstice walks at Spiro Mounds

At Spiro Mounds on Tuesday, December 21, archaeologist and site manager Dennis Peterson will lead guided tours beginning at 11 a.m., 2 p.m., and 7 p.m. Each walk will last about two hours and will require a mile of easy walking.

During each tour, Peterson will tell about this unique prehistoric American Indian mound site, the types of mounds, why they were created, and why some of the mounds are lined up for the sunsets of solstices and equinoxes. He will share the history of the site's excavations, American Indian ceremonies and stories, and tales of unusual events associated with the site. For those wishing to see the sunset, the 2 p.m. walk will end just before sunset, which is when the alignment will take place.

The Spiro Mounds site preserves 150 acres along the Arkansas River, with two miles of interpreted trails and a half-mile nature trail. Along with the outdoor site, it also features interpretive exhibits. There are twelve known mounds that were built to create unique alignments at sunrise and sunset on equinoxes and solstices.

You are invited to visit Spiro Mounds to experience one of the most unique historical sites in the United States as seen through the eyes of an archaeologist. The fee for tours is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children. No reservations are required unless you are bringing a large group. Be certain to dress for the weather. Spiro Mounds is located at 18154 First Street in Spiro. For more information, call 918/962-2062 or email spiro@okhistory.org.

SHPO announces Historic Preservation Review Committee's 2012 meeting schedule

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is pleased to announce the Oklahoma Historic Preservation Review Committee's (HPRC) meeting schedule for calendar year 2012. The HPRC (state review board) is appointed by the governor to provide advice to the State Historic Preservation officer about nominations to the National Register of Historic Places and other preservation issues. Current HPRC members include Arn Henderson (architectural historian, Norman); William P. Corbett (historian, Tahlequah); Ron Frantz (architect, Oklahoma City); John D. Hartley (prehistoric archeologist, Norman); and Charles S. Wallis (historical archeologist, Norman). The HPRC's four scheduled meetings will begin at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 19, April 26, July 19, and October 18.

The meetings will be held in the Oklahoma Historical Society's LeRoy H. Fischer Boardroom, Oklahoma History Center (third floor), 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, and they are open to the public. The HPRC and the SHPO encourage all interested parties to attend, and meeting agendas and National Register nominations under consideration at the respective meeting will be provided on the SHPO's website at <http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/spevents.htm>.

The National Park Service regulations governing the SHPO's programs require that a qualified state review board participate in the National Register and other SHPO programs. During each meeting the HPRC hears presentations on nominations to the National Register of Historic Places from SHPO staff and consultants, receives comments from owners of properties proposed for nomination, listens to public comments and concerns, and formulates recommendations to the SHPO about whether a property should be nominated to the National Register. The HPRC and SHPO staff invite concerned citizens and preservation professionals to participate in this important component of Oklahoma's preservation program.

For further information about the HPRC, the National Register, or other SHPO programs, call 405/521-6249 or visit us on the website listed above.

Fort Gibson Candlelight Tour

Fort Gibson Historic Site will present its annual Candlelight Tour on Saturday, December 10. The 2011 event is titled "Home Front, Cherokee Nation" and is set in the town and military post of Fort Gibson in 1864. Visitors will view scenes showing the lives of the different types of people who lived at Fort Gibson and will learn about the impact the Civil War had on the residents of Indian Territory.

As in past years visitors will have refreshments and period music at the end of the tour. Tours will run from 6 until approximately 9:30 p.m. Reservations are \$7 each, payable in advance. In addition, candlelight tour visitors will also get a sneak preview of the temporary exhibits "Key Ingredients: America by Food" and "Feeding the Troops." The official opening of these exhibits for the general public is December 11. To make reservations or for more information, call 918/478-4088 or e-mail fortgibson@okhistory.org.

Museum Store News

By Jera Winters

The holidays are quickly approaching, and the Museum Store has items to delight friends and family. We now have several classic games that make great gifts for people of all ages.

Pente was developed in Oklahoma by entrepreneur Gary Gabrel in 1977. An example of a Pente game is included in the galleries of the Oklahoma History Center, and now patrons can take home their very own game to enjoy.

The Life and Risk! games are reproductions of the original releases of each game. Each game has the original package art and original design of game board and pieces. These time-honored games are a must for family game night.

We also have a range of game reproductions from the late 1800s to the mid-1900s. These games range from simple games such as Leapfrog, comprised of a playing board and a few wooden player pieces, to the more complex Baseball, a wooden pinball game based on America's favorite pastime.

The Museum Store is a great destination for your holiday shopping. We offer vintage-themed games and toys, as well as several new items bound to please those on your list. Our new OU and OSU holiday ornaments are perfect for the sports fans in your life, and we offer unique items created by Oklahoma artisans and companies.

Thanks for your continued patronage and support of the Oklahoma History Center Museum Store, and we look forward to helping you celebrate the Holidays. Contact us at 405/522-5214 or by email at giftshop@okhistory.org with any questions or suggestions. Happy Holidays!

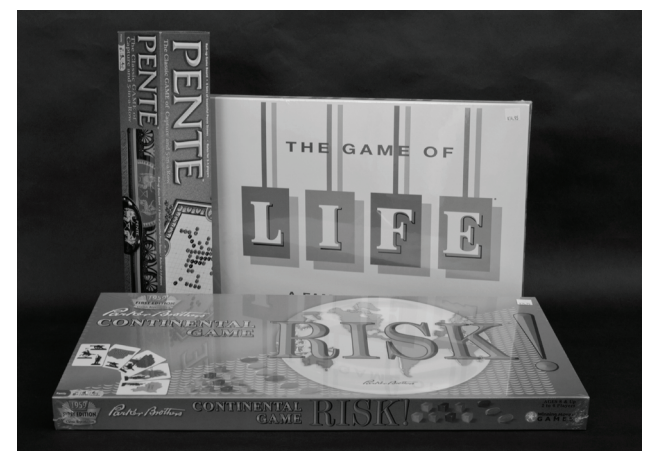
Dr. Michael J. Hightower continues research on banking

In October Dr. Michael J. Hightower's travels on behalf of the Oklahoma Bank and Commerce History Project took him to the eastern part of the state. Interviewees included John and Carlisle Mabrey of Citizens Security Bank in Bixby; Bill and Kelly Jordan, Laura Miller, and Jerry Fowler at Farmers State Bank in Quinton; John Massey at First United Bank and Trust Company in Durant; Charles McCall, Sr., at Ameristate Bank in Atoka; and Brian Shipp at Idabel National Bank in Idabel. Forays to public libraries and museums in Bixby, Durant, and Broken Bow rounded out a successful research trip.

"As always, I was astounded by the diversity this state has to offer," said Hightower. "In drought-stricken western Oklahoma in August I talked to bankers who finance feedlots and irrigation farming, and I listened to recollections of the 'big dusties' that blackened the skies during the Depression. Down south, bankers rely on timber, vacation homes, and cow-calf operations to build their deposits and create lending opportunities. And no matter where I go, I meet bankers who enjoy their work in spite of regulators' insistence on drowning them in paperwork."

Even as he sorted through his findings and began transcribing interviews as part of his two-volume history of Oklahoma banking, Hightower looked forward to more research trips. "Community bankers are resilient folks," said Hightower, "and it's a pleasure to meet them and record their stories for posterity."

To share stories of banking and state commerce in your area, contact Hightower by phone at 434/249-6043 or by email at mhightower@okhistory.org.



Call for papers and presentations

The Oklahoma Historical Society is seeking papers and presentations for the OHS Annual Meeting, which will be held April 18, 19, and 20 at the Coleman Theater Complex in Miami, Oklahoma. A total of ten concurrent paper sessions will be held on Thursday, April 19, and Friday, April 20.

The theme for the Annual Meeting is “Crossroads of Creativity: Oklahoma’s Impact on Popular Culture.” All aspects of folk life and popular culture in Oklahoma or the impact of Oklahomans on American popular culture would be suitable topics for presentations. Presentations should be limited to twenty to thirty minutes in length, depending on the number of participants in each session.

One-page proposals should include the title of the presentation; a one-hundred-word description of the presentation; the name, address, phone number, and email address of the presenter; and a short curriculum vitae or brief biographical sketch. Those who submit proposals will be notified of their status by early February of 2012, if not earlier. Registration fees for program participants will be waived.

Please submit proposals as early as possible with a deadline for submissions on Friday, December 30, 2011. Send to: Annual Meeting Committee, Attn: Paul Lambert, Oklahoma Historical Society, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73105. Proposals also may be emailed to plambert@okhistory.org. For further information, call 405/522-5217.

Christmas tea at the Cherokee Strip Museum

The Christmas Tour of Homes in Perry raises money to help provide Christmas decorations for the town square. The Cherokee Strip Museum serves as one of the stops on the tour. On Sunday, December 11, at 2 p.m. join the museum for its holiday festivities. Visitors will enjoy refreshments and view the museum decorated with *scherenschnitte*, greenery, popcorn, and apples. *Scherenschnitte*, which means “scissor cuts in German,” is the art of paper-cutting design.

The Cherokee Strip Museum is located at 2617 Fir in Perry. For additional information, contact Peggy Haxton at 580/336-2405 or csmuseum@okhistory.org. The museum is open Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

“Key Ingredients” traveling exhibit at Fort Gibson

The Fort Gibson Historic Site will host a special traveling exhibit in its visitor center entitled “Key Ingredients.” A part of the Smithsonian’s Museums on Main Street program, the exhibit will bring aspects of its “Key Ingredients” gallery to Fort Gibson. The exhibit will examine the last five hundred years of food in America. Accompanying this exhibit will be a display entitled “Feeding the Troops,” created by the OHS to educate about nineteenth-century army food, such as was eaten by troops stationed at Fort Gibson at that time.

For more information contact Chris Morgan at 918/478-4088 or fortgibson@okhistory.org.

A day at Rose Hill School event

The Cherokee Strip museum offers living history programs to fourth grade children throughout Oklahoma. “A Day at Rose Hill School” event provides an introduction into lifestyles, education, and the environment of early Oklahoma. During their day at Rose Hill School, the children participate in a 1910 curriculum led by a costumed schoolmarm. The school day includes lessons from McGuffey’s Eclectic Reader, penmanship, orthography, geography, chores, and period games.

School activities are scheduled from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters. There is a \$5 fee for scholars, but no fee for teachers or bus driver. Others with the group will pay \$2.50 each.

Visitors are welcome, and visiting the schoolhouse is part of the admission to the museum. The schedule is subject to change. The Rose Hill School program is operated jointly by the Oklahoma Historical Society and the Cherokee Strip Historical Society.

Cherokee Strip Museum is located at 2617 West Fir, Perry, OK.

Twenty-year members renew in October

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

David Walters, Eufaula, September 1, 1972
Langston University, Langston, October 1, 1972
Bill and Mariam Corbett, Tahlequah, June 8, 1980
Darrell Walker, Konawa, October 1, 1981
Miami Public Library, Miami, January 14, 1982
Bruce and Betty Gallie, Rch Cucamonga, CA, August 1, 1984
L. Ernesting Maphet, Gate, October 1, 1985
Charles Stuart, San Francisco, CA, October 15, 1986
Pushmataha County Hist. Society, Antlers, October 15, 1986
Jerry Koelsch, Locust Grove, October 20, 1986
Francis Briscoe, Ardmore, October 20, 1986
Bob Hammons, Sallisaw, October 20, 1986
Marjorie Couch, Oklahoma City, October 27, 1986
Jack Welsh, Oklahoma City, October 28, 1986
Nancy Gee, Miami, October 28, 1986
John Lillibridge, Gaithersburg, MD, October 30, 1986
Joe and Sherry Ford, Lawton, October 31, 1986
John Watson, Fallbrook, CA, November 4, 1986
Violet Spinler, Winthrop, MN, November 4, 1986
Tim Morgan, Norman, November 4, 1986
Frank Heaston, Norman, November 4, 1986
Lydia Spalding, Oklahoma City, November 4, 1986
David Huff, Killeen, TX, November 5, 1986
David Petty, Guymon, November 10, 1986
Pat Perry & Betta Carney, Little Rock, AR, November 10, 1986
Ruth Schreiner, Duncan, November 13, 1986
David Lee, Centennial, CO, November 17, 1986
Teresa Black, Oklahoma City, October 6, 1987
Steven & Dana Wagner, Trinidad, CO, October 26, 1987
Checotah Landmark Preservation Soc., Checotah, October 17, 1988
Towana Spivey, Duncan, November 21, 1988
Jim Stone, Chandler, AZ, July 5, 1989
Gary & Lindey McDaniel, Bixby, August 8, 1989
Peter Winn & Gil Deaton, Edmond, August 15, 1989
Jean Phillips, El Reno, January 1, 1990
Bob & Chimene Burke, Oklahoma City, February 27, 1990
Spencer Historical Society, Spencer, September 28, 1990
J.M. Jackson, Oklahoma City, October 9, 1990
Richard Lowitt, Concord, MA, October 15, 1990
Plains Indians & Pioneers Museum, Woodward, October 31, 1990
Anita Cowan, Denton, TX, October 9, 1991

New Members cont’d.

Institutional

Sand Springs Cultural & Historical Museum, Sand Springs

Individual

Colton Brien, Perry
Dennis Brigham, Norman
Cary Carrell, Olustee
Robert Clark, Norman
Annette Clifton, Oklahoma City
Eleanor Dir, Portland, OR
Cristina Gonzalez, Stillwater
Kenneth Guess, Pryor
Ben Hagar, Oklahoma City
Melissa Howe, Duncan
Christina Isom, Ada
Amanda Jackson, Woodward
Katheryn Johnson, Ponca City
Harry Kocurek, Edmond
Billie Lax, Clinton
Sally Morris, Norman
Brenda Perry, Oklahoma City
Mary Nell Stamatis, Springfield, MO
Darren Thomas, Ashdown, AR
April Tollette, Glenpool
Ruth Wilson, Plains, KS

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

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OHS Holiday Gift Time!

Give the gift of Oklahoma history this holiday season! Consider giving your friends, relatives, colleagues, teachers, and students a gift membership in the Oklahoma Historical Society. Share your enjoyment of OHS’s publications, free admission to all OHS sites and museums, and the many other benefits of membership. Fill out the form below and return it with your payment. In mid-December we will send personalized gift membership announcements. Please attach a separate list for additional orders. Thank you for giving the gift of history!

Recipient’s Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Individual Membership \$35 _____ Family Membership \$50 _____

Sign Gift Card _____

“Music of the Civil War” program with Dr. David Hildebrand

On November 2 and 3 the Oklahoma History Center presented “Music of the Civil War” with historical musician Dr. David Hildebrand as part of the Civil War Sesquicentennial programming. Hildebrand entertained several groups of schoolchildren and their parents and teachers on the first day and conducted additional programs the evening of November 3. In his presentations, Hildebrand brought the music of the Civil War to life with spoken introductions and stories that put the songs and instruments into context. He also highlighted connections between the people and the music of that pivotal time in American history.

Hildebrand presents concerts and educational programs throughout the United States for museums, historical sites, and universities. He appears frequently at Colonial Williamsburg and Mount Vernon. His music is featured in movies and television documentaries, including some programming on networks such as PBS and C-SPAN. He visited the Oklahoma History Center previously to conduct educational programming on American colonial music.



Dr. Hildebrand presenting
his musical programs.
(photos by Lori Oden)