



Mistletoe Leaves



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February 2007

First Families of Oklahoma exhibit premiers February 14 at Oklahoma History Center

To mark the Centennial of Oklahoma Statehood, the Oklahoma Museum of History will mount a major exhibition featuring the lives of Oklahoma's governors and their families. The new exhibit opens in mid-February and continues through the Centennial Year. Since 1907, 24 families have served the state as "First Family."

OMH Exhibits Curators Elizabeth Baxter and Jill Holt and Research Center Projects Specialist Larry O'Dell, in collaboration with OHS Executive Director Bob Blackburn, have assembled an intriguing display of artifacts and text that features "the man in office," rather than his politics. "Our hope is to put a human face on the leaders who have been willing to serve the people," noted Blackburn.

According to Baxter, "We are telling each governor's story from childhood up through the decision to run for office, the campaign, and the inauguration."

The *First Families of Oklahoma* exhibit will be displayed in the Oklahoma History Center's first-floor Gaylord Special Exhibits Gallery. Inside the exhibit, graphic panels will offer short biographies, accompanied by "video scrapbooks." Each video scrapbook will, at the push of a button, display pictures of the governor from childhood through his inauguration. This element was developed by Rillis Howard of the



OMH staff. Dispersed throughout the gallery are artifact cases featuring items donated by or loaned by each governor, including campaign materials and more personal mementos.

"To get artifacts from the former governors, we simply had to explain the idea behind the exhibit and ask them for their help. They were all quite willing to help us obtain the artifacts to tell stories that people might not know about their lives before they took their place in the Governor's Mansion. The First Ladies and other family members were also very helpful," said Baxter.

Over the past few months Blackburn and the curators have conducted interviews with the living governors. Deceased governors' families were contacted as well, and they provided artifacts and photos. "Meeting with these folks and hearing their stories, especially the children who lived in the Governor's Mansion and helped on campaigns, has given us great insight into the role of the family in the life of a governor," Baxter explained.

In addition, in the upstairs Samuel Roberts Noble Gallery, another exhibit will be devoted to the First Ladies. It will feature photographs, artifacts relating to each woman's personal career and to her campaign contributions, several inaugural gowns, and other apparel, such as Molly Boren's wedding dress.



The Chesapeake Corporation donated \$275,000 to construct the exhibits. *First Families of Oklahoma* will continue at the Oklahoma History Center through 2007.

Governors of the Great State of Oklahoma

- Charles N. Haskell, 1907-11
- Lee Cruce, 1911-15
- Robert L. Williams, 1915-19
- James B. A. Robertson, 1919-23
- John C. Walton, 1923
- Martin E. Trapp, 1923-27
- Henry Simpson Johnston, 1927-29
- William J. Holloway, 1929-31
- William H. Murray, 1931-35
- Ernest W. Marland, 1935-39
- Leon C. Phillips, 1939-43
- Robert S. Kerr, 1943-47
- Roy J. Turner, 1947-51
- Johnston Murray, 1951-55
- Raymond D. Gary, 1955-59
- J. Howard Edmondson, 1959-63
- Henry L. Bellmon, 1963-67, 1987-91
- Dewey F. Bartlett, 1967-71
- David Hall, 1971-75
- David L. Boren, 1975-79
- George Patterson Nigh, 1979-87
- David L. Walters, 1991-95
- Francis A. Keating, 1995-2003
- Charles Bradford Henry, 2003-

OHS wins two awards from Public Relations Society

At its autumn meeting the Oklahoma City Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) presented two awards to the Oklahoma Historical Society and the Jones Public Relations Group, Inc.

The first award was the Award of Merit in the Marketing/Public Relations Campaigns category for the Oklahoma History Center Grand Opening. This award recognized all the public relations and marketing that went into the grand opening of the History

Center in 2005. The award criteria specified that programs must include marketing communications and/or public relations communications and must be designed to introduce and promote new or established services or ideas.

OHS also received an Honorable Mention in the Public Relations Materials 4 Color category. This award recognized the various printed materials that were developed for the grand opening of the History Center.

These included: invitations, news releases, the welcome brochure, and the current visitors guide. The Staplegun, a local advertising, marketing, and public relations firm, in concert with the Jones Public Relations Group, Inc., designed these materials. OHS developed the copy and initial design. Staplegun and Jones PR refined those concepts into the final, award-winning product.



Director's Column

By **Bob L. Blackburn**
Executive Director

As one of my favorite philosophers once said, "Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you are going to get." Of course, that philosopher was Forest Gump, and he was referring to the unpredictable twists and turns in our future.

This past week, we started a new round of legislative hearings with both our Senate and House committees. Sometimes, you never know what you are going to get.

Although many questions will be asked and many options will be explored, we will stay on message with what we think are the most important long-range strategies for accomplishing the mission of the Oklahoma Historical Society.

Those three keys are efficiency, higher standards, and partnerships.

Since the 1980s we have been realigning and tightening the way we accomplish our mission of collecting, preserving, and sharing history. It started with basic governance and the structure of the Board of Directors in the new OHS Constitution adopted in 1981.

The efficiencies accelerated in the 1990s with strategic planning, one-year goals and objectives, and planning documents such as the "Historic Context Review," which allows us to evaluate success or failure based on themes, time periods, and places served.

More recent have been the structural changes in the different departments, such as consolidating Archives and Library into the Research Division, consolidating Mu-

seums and Historic Sites into the Outreach Division, and creating project units that can focus on specific goals and technological innovation. We already see the results.

This growing efficiency has allowed us to raise the standards of what we do. Standard government issue is no longer acceptable. Consistent mediocrity is the same as failure. We have the talent, and we certainly have the story, so why should we not set our goals higher?

The results can be seen throughout the organization, and most clearly through the new Oklahoma History Center. We expected nothing less than the quality you would see in the Smithsonian or the National Archives, and we got it. We knew we could do better.

The attainment of higher standards, coupled with greater efficiencies, helps us look over the next horizon and leads us to the third part of this historic trinity—partnerships. The Oklahoma Historical Society, alone, cannot climb the mountain before us. We need partners to reach that height.

We need sister organizations such as the Oklahoma Genealogical Society, the Friends of Higher Education, and the cultural divisions of the many Indian tribes to collect and preserve the story. We need friends in the business community, the media, and the general public to help us share the story.

Without the funding, energy, and leadership of our friends, we will lose the momentum gained by the Oklahoma History Center and the Centennial Celebration.

This year, as we talk to senators, representatives, and officials in the Governor's Office, we will stay on theme and emphasize that our service to the people of our great state depends on keeping a balance between efficiency, high standards, and partnerships.

Yes, life is like a box of chocolates. As the legislative session opens, we will see what we get.



Development News

By Tim Zwink

The 2007 Oklahoma Historical Society Annual Meeting will be held on April 12, 13, and 14 in the Oklahoma History Center at 2401 N. Laird Avenue in Oklahoma City. Arrangements are now being finalized under the direction of the Annual Meeting Committee, which is chaired by board member James Waldo.

The conference hotel for the 2007 Annual Meeting is the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites at 6200 N. Robinson, about four miles north of the History Center.

A block of rooms has been reserved for OHS members, who are responsible for making their own room reservations. The room rate for persons attending the meeting is \$73 plus tax, and reservations may be made by calling 800/682-0049 or 405/843-5558. To receive the special rate, tell the desk clerk that you are attending the OHS meeting.

More details about the Holiday Inn, including pictures of hotel accommodations and amenities, may be found at www.okchotel.com.

Additional plans for the meeting will be announced over the next few months, with registration materials being mailed to the OHS membership in March.

New Members

Individual

Blanton, Eloise, Oklahoma City
Braden, Charles, Edmond
Crews, Ray, Colleyville, TX
Criner, Mark, Wichita, KS
Dagenhart, Carol, Commerce City, CO
Dushane, Robin, Grove
Fearing, Glenna A., Stillwater
Floyd, Larry C., Yukon
Galbraith, Dale W., Oklahoma City
Gray, Virginia, Oklahoma City
Hector, E. Roy, Stratford
Howard, Nancy, Bardstown, KY
James, Clary, Bethany
Karr, Linda J., Milburn
Kemp, Thomas Jay, East Hampton, CT
Kirkpatrick, A. J., Moore
Leblanc, Mary Gene, Oklahoma City
Leforce, Frank, Guthrie
Martin, Dan, Ramona
Parrish, John W., Shawnee
Pauli, Virgil Lee, Tulsa
Shaver, Melba L., Moore
Smith, Delores Willoughby, Chickasha
Wilson, Janet, Norman
Zimmerman, Louise, Arlington, TX

Family

Aldridge, Virginia, Edmond
Arrowood, Jason & Lindsay, Claremore
Bickley, Alan & Susan, Madison, WI
Blumenthal, Morris, Oklahoma City
Boer, James & Jane, Yukon
Boyce, Jim, Oklahoma City
Buchanan, Mike & Linda, Dallas, TX
Buchanan, Rick, Edmond
Call, James L., Oklahoma City
Christian, Steve, Norman
Dowell, Carl & Christel, Enid
Fears, Joe & Rhonda, Tulsa
Ferguson, Jeanne, Edmond
Galbraith, Alan & Bonny, Oklahoma City
Galbraith, Jack & Martha, Mustang
James, Greg & Penny, Bethany
Luckens, Clifford & Cynthia, Oklahoma City
Moorman, Stanley J., Edmond
Odell, Albert & Ann, Beaumont, TX
Pittser, Ronald F., Oklahoma City
Potts, John & Gus Shaver, Norman
Saunders, James, Oklahoma City
Shaklee, Mary M., Kremlin
Sisemore, Karen, Oklahoma City

Friend

Kitchell, Toni, Oklahoma City

Institution

Deer Creek High School Library, Edmond

Oklahoma Historical Society

Publications Division

Editorial Office: 405/522-4860
Dianna Everett, Ph.D., Editor
Linda D. Wilson, Assistant Editor
William E. Siemens, Graphic Artist

Membership Office
Alma Moore
405/522-5242
ohsmembers@okhistory.org

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Mistletoe Leaves is published for the members and friends of the Oklahoma Historical Society in partial fulfillment of the Society's purpose to "preserve and perpetuate the history of Oklahoma and its people, to stimulate popular interest in historical study and research, and to promote and disseminate historical knowledge."

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

Yale's Jim Thorpe Park, located on S.H. 51, will host the 13th Annual Winter Encampment Battle of Round Mountain on February 17-18, 2007. A living history lesson will be presented for students on Friday, February 16, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. On Saturday and Sunday, February 17-18, the public can view Confederate and Union encampments from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Battle demonstrations will occur at 2 p.m. on Saturday and at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday. OHS speakers Arthur Street, Howard McKinnis, and Omar Reed will present programs on "Cannons," "Variety of Guns Used in the War," and "Blacks in the Civil War." Daily admission to the event is \$5 for adults. Children, ages 12 and under, are free. A grand ball is free to the public on February 17, from 7-10 p.m., at the elementary school gym. While in Yale, visit the Jim Thorpe House, located at 706 E. Boston. The former home of 1912 Olympian Jim Thorpe offers artifacts from Thorpe and his family. For more details contact Lou Hensley at 918/387-2525. (Special to ML)

Weatherford's Southwest Oklahoma State University Fine Arts Auditorium will be the venue for the 37th Annual Jazz Festival on February 8-9 at 7 p.m. The SWOSU Jazz Festival will feature artists from across the country as well as jazz groups from area schools. Terry Segress offers more information at 580/774-3175 or by e-mailing him at <terry.segress@swosu.edu>. (Special to ML)

Tulsa's 21st Annual Indian Art Festival will take place on February 9-11 at Tulsa Expo Square, 4145 E. 21st Street. The event will offer an art market, Indian exhibition dancing, storytelling, food, and cultural exhibits. For the schedule of events go to <www.tulsaindianartfest.com>. For reservations call 918/838-3875. The festival is a project of the National Indian Monument and Institute and is given with the assistance of the Oklahoma Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts. (Special to ML)

In **Oklahoma City**, the Oklahoma Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts are sponsoring the Winter Tales Storytelling Festival on February 15-17 at Stage Center, 400 W. Sheridan, Oklahoma City. Considered one of the nation's top storytelling festivals, the event will feature evening performances, workshops, and a children's matinee. Singer-songwriter Tom Paxton and nationally acclaimed tellers Gay Ducey, Andy Offutt Irwin, and Baba Jamal Koram will participate. For more in-

formation call 405/270-4848 or log on to <www.artscouncilokc.com>. (Special to ML)

Lawton's Great Plains Coliseum, 920 S. Sheridan Road, will be the venue for a judged quilt show entitled "For the Love of Quilts" on February 16-17 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. In addition to more than 200 entries, two traveling quilt exhibits, the *Hoffman Fabric Challenge* and the *Top 100 Quilts from the Oklahoma Centennial Contest*, will be featured. Call 580/252-0387 or e-mail Judy Irey at <jai0387@yahoo.com>. (Special to ML)

Exhibits

The **Bartlesville** Area History Museum, located at 401 S. Johnstone, is the venue for an exhibit entitled *The Flight That Changed the World: Wiley Post's Contribution to Aviation*. The exhibit, an official Oklahoma Centennial project, features Post's life and his fascination with aviation. As part of the exhibit two videos are presented. One is an hour-long documentary titled *Wiley Post of Oklahoma*, hosted by Bill Moore of the Oklahoma History Center, and previously featured on OETA. The second video is a two-minute footage of one of Post's flights at the Bartlesville airport, shot by Bartlesville's photographer Frank Griggs. The exhibit will be on display through February 28, 2007. Admission is free. The museum days and hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information call 918/338-4290. (Special to ML)

Tulsa's Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art, located at 2021 E. 71st Street, will have the *From Shtetl to the Sooner State: Celebrating Oklahoma's Jewish History* exhibit on display until March 2007. Call 918/492-1818 for more information. (OMA MuseNEWS, Winter 2007).

Happenings

Claremore's Will Rogers Memorial Museum, located at 1720 W. Will Rogers Boulevard, is offering Sunday movie matinees during the month of February. Double features of Will Rogers's movies will be shown in the museum's large theater at 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. on February 4, 11, 18, and 25. They *Had to See Paris* and *A Connecticut Yankee* will be presented on February 4; *Dr. Bull and Handy Andy* on February 11; *So This is London* and *Down to Earth* on February 18; and *Business and Pleasure* and *State Fair* on February 25. During intermission visitors can watch shorts from Rogers's personal productions and home movies or the Disney short on polo, offered in the Disney Theater. Admission is free. The museum is

open year round from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For additional information call 918/341-0719. (Special to ML)

Writings, Etc.

Love County Historical Society's 2007 Calendar, which is an Oklahoma Centennial edition, features images of the Glazener Confectionary (1899), O. F. Comer (1910), Rosse Hotel (1914), Bomar Depot (1918), Simon School Students (1941), Greenville's 7th and 8th Grades (1941), Meadowbrook 5th and 6th Grades (1942), Burneyville High School Girls' Basketball Team (1943), Jimtown School Students (1945), Marietta Senior Class (1947), Thackerville High School Boys' Glee Club (1947), and Montgomery Store (early 1950s). Calendars can be ordered from Love County Historical Society, P.O. Box 134, Marietta, OK 73448. Cost of the calendar is \$5 plus \$1.50 for postage. The postage will vary if more than one calendar is ordered. Contact Laquitta Ladner at 580/276-3477 for information. (Special to ML)

Meetings

In **Oklahoma City** the Oklahoma Genealogical Society's monthly meeting will be held on Monday, February 5, 2007, at 6 p.m. in the Chesapeake Events Center at the Oklahoma History Center, 2401 N. Laird Avenue. Marianne Long, featured speaker, will present a program on Germans who lived in Russia. The OHS Research Center will be staffed and remain open until 7:45 p.m. that evening. (Special to ML)

In **Purcell** the McClain County Historical and Genealogical Society meets on the third Tuesday of every month at the Masonic Hall, 900 N. Canadian. Membership in the society is open to all interested persons. Contact the McClain County Historical and Genealogical Society by phone at 405/527-5894 or mail inquiries to 203 W. Washington, Purcell, OK 73080. (Special to ML)

Awards

The **Oklahoma City** National Memorial and Museum has recently been awarded accreditation from the American Association of Museums Accreditation Commission. Oklahoma now has eleven accredited museums. (Special to ML)



Hidden Collections . . .

The Jimmy Stewart Papers

By Larry O'Dell

Thanks to the donation by James E. Stewart, Jr., the Oklahoma Historical Society houses an important collection that highlights the history of the state and national Civil Rights movement. The Jimmy Stewart Collection (2006.75) tells the story of an African American leader who stood in the forefront of this struggle throughout the twentieth century.

Born September 6, 1912, in Texas, James E. Stewart, Jr., moved in 1916 with his family to Oklahoma City. There, he met and became acquainted with future author Ralph Ellison, who became a life-long friend. In 1928, after Jimmy Stewart had attended a few years at Douglass High School, he and his family relocated to Wichita, Kansas. There, he earned honors playing football at the already integrated Wichita High School North. Stewart attended Langston, then called the Oklahoma Colored Agricultural and Normal University, for one year before moving to Oklahoma City. As a young man he ingratiated himself with Roscoe Dunjee and began writing a column that Dunjee printed in his newspaper, the *Black Dispatch*.

The column, titled "Jimmy Says," not only commented on timely issues, but activities occurring in the black community. In 1937 the Oklahoma Natural Gas Company hired Stewart, who eventually worked his way to a position as a vice president. In 1942 members elected him vice president of the local NAACP branch, and he quickly became its president.

World War II interrupted his civilian life, and he signed on as one of the earliest African Americans allowed to enlist in the United States Marine Corps. After returning to Oklahoma, Stewart persisted in advancing Civil Rights and joined the NAACP National Board of Directors. In 1952 he sponsored Oklahoma City as the host community for the national convention. A key figure in Oklahoma's peaceful integration of public and private facilities, Stewart attained many honors over his career. He died on April 13, 1997.

The collection contains chapters from an unpublished autobiography, an invaluable study for students of mid-twentieth century Oklahoma. The collection also holds correspondence (personal and business), speeches, official reports, newspaper clippings, tape recordings, photographs, and books from his library. He also collected postcards, pictures, and memorabilia concerning his interests. Many of the photos were autographed by the celebrities.



A young James Stewart as he began his career in journalism and Civil Rights (OHS photo).

The John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick Research Center, located at the Oklahoma History Center, is exhibiting many of these items in the James Stewart Exhibit in the main reading room. A finding aid may be accessed and many of the photographs viewed online at the Oklahoma Historical Society's web site, <www.okhistory.org>, through the Research Division's database, CuadraStar.

Oklahoma History Center to host two black history programs in February

On February 10 and 17, 2007, OHS will commemorate Black History Month at the Oklahoma History Center, according to Bruce Fisher, Curator of Diversity. The programs are open to the public.

On Saturday, February 10, at 10 a.m., a symposium will deal with "History of African Americans in Radio Broadcasting in Oklahoma." The featured lecturer will be Lester LeSure, the state's only historian of the topic. Following his lecture and a question-and-answer session, a panel discussion will be conducted by students of broadcaster Ben Tipton, joined by Clara Luper. Tipton, known as "the Tall Man," is the state's best-known black broadcaster. He worked at KBYE, where he introduced Rhythm and Blues to the Oklahoma City audience. He also created an organization called "Soul Motivators" to train young black people, primarily of high-school age, to be broadcasters. The program will take place in the Chesapeake Events Center at the History Center.

A week later, on Saturday, February 17, at 10 a.m. a round table discussion will be held on the topic "I Remember Second Street." Residents and former residents of Oklahoma City's formerly segregated African American district are invited to join James Johnson, president of the Douglass High School Alumni Association, to personally describe their experiences of growing up or living there.

The purpose of the "I Remember Second Street" program is to videotape the participants as they reminisce, thereby chronicling everyday life around Second Street. Johnson will be the facilitator, and all interested individuals will be able to take part in the "open mike" session.

In addition, artist Mary Ann Moore will be signing her poster, "The Aldridge Theater," a print of a pastel painting created for the Oklahoma Historical Society. Other Second Street-related items will also be available.

Both programs will occur in the Chesapeake Room. For more information, contact Bruce Fisher at 405/522-5049.



Pictured at the 2004 Buffalo Soldiers program were the late Tom Harris (Muskogee), Dr. Wilbur Wilson, a World War Two Tenth Cavalry veteran, and Sylvester Sallis, a Tulsa educator (Staff photo).

Buffalo Soldiers to celebrate Black History Month at Fort Gibson

On Saturday, February 10, Fort Gibson Historic Site will present its annual Community Program in celebration of Black History Month.

The event will take place in the site's historic stone barracks. This year's topic will be "The Invisible Men of Honor: The Legend of the Buffalo Soldiers." The Buffalo Soldiers were members of all-black units that served in the U.S. Army from the 1860s into the mid-twentieth century. In 1867 Fort Gibson became the first assignment of the Buffalo Soldiers in Indian Territory.

Planned activities include presentation of three Buffalo Soldier stories and the showing of a 20-minute history film. The program will begin at 1 p.m. and will last approximately one hour.

Refreshments will be served afterwards. Admission to the fort will be free during the event.

Fort Gibson Historic Site is located on State Highway 80 in Fort Gibson and is operated by the Oklahoma Historical Society. Regular admission is \$3 for adults, \$2.50 for seniors (65 and over), and \$1 for students 6 to 18. Children 5 and under are admitted free.

For additional details, contact either Omar Reed or Chris Morgan by telephone at 918/478-4088 or e-mail the historic site at <fortgibson@okhistory.org>.

Six Oklahoma resources listed in National Register of Historic Places

The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office is pleased to announce that on December 6, 2006, the National Register of Historic Places accepted six new submissions from our state. The National Register of Historic Places is our nation's official list of properties significant in our past. The newest listings from Oklahoma include the Waverly Historic District in Enid, the Muskogee Depot & Freight District, Nichols Park in Henryetta, the Merchants National Bank Building in Lehigh, Ardmore's Central Park Bandstand, and the Park Hill Mission Cemetery near Tahlequah.

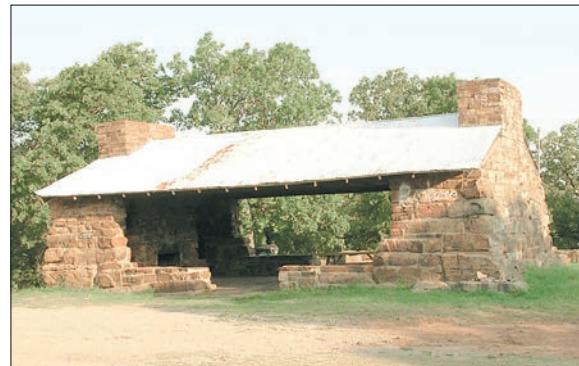
The Waverly Historic District is a residential district that represents Enid's early-twentieth-century growth and success as an economic center. From folk Victorian styles through stately Colonial Revivals of the early 1920s, Waverly neighborhood's housing stock reflects the tastes of some of the area's most influential citizens.

The district includes the McCristy-Knox Mansion and the T. E. Eason Mansion, two of Enid's finest historic homes. More typically, though, the district's streets are lined with good examples of the more modest homes that reflect the styles of the 1910s and 1920s. Craftsman-style bungalows and stately, Colonial Revival-style houses populate the tree-lined streets. The City of Enid recognizes the neighborhood as a local historic preservation district. Cathy Ambler prepared the nomination for the City of Enid.



Muskogee Depot (S. Schwenk Associates photo).

The Muskogee Depot & Freight District is located on the south edge of downtown Muskogee. Centered on the Midland Valley Railroad Depot and the Rock Island Freight Depot, this area reflects Muskogee's importance as a rail center in eastern Oklahoma. Numerous business and manufacturing concerns located in the area, attracted by efficient rail service. The area still serves as a warehouse district but is slowly evolving into a city cultural center. The Three Rivers Museum occupies the former Midland Valley Depot, the district's most prominent building. The Prairie School-style depot, attributed to St. Louis architect Louis Curtis, anchors a burgeoning cultural district. In recent years street improvements have enhanced the area, while music events have



Nichols Park picnic shelter,
(J. Gabbert/SHPO photo).

attracted large crowds. Sally Schwenk Associates prepared this nomination for the City of Muskogee.

Nichols Park in Henryetta is centered on Lake Nichols and is located about a mile south of the town center. It is significant as a designed landscape constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps between 1938 and 1941. The rustic structures that mark the beach and picnic areas reflect the National Park Service Rustic style of architecture, which emphasized a naturalistic design using local materials. An impressive bathhouse on the lake's north shore is a focal point of the park. Picnic and camping areas on the lake's west and south sides are connected by hiking trails and a perimeter road. These picnic areas feature stone pavilions that highlight the high quality of masonry work done by the CCC workers. This was one of the last such parks to be constructed in Oklahoma, and the city is working to rehabilitate the old park. Cindy Savage, of ARCH Consulting, prepared this nomination for the City of Henryetta.

In Lehigh the Merchants National Bank Building was constructed in 1907 at the busiest corner of a once-thriving Coal County town. An ornate, two-story brick-and-stone building, the bank reflected the regional importance of coal mining and cotton farming. As these two industries failed, so too did the bank,

and the town slowly declined. Now owned by the Lehigh Historical Society, the Merchants Bank Building stands as the sole reminder of a once-thriving commercial center. The rest of the downtown area has disappeared, torn down as the population moved out. The LHS maintains a museum in the building and is raising funds to restore some of the historic interior finishes. The building remains a source of pride in a community that once was the county seat of Coal County.

The Central Park Bandstand in Ardmore is a Classical Revival-style structure constructed of white limestone. It was built to house the town's Orthophonic Victrola, a large, concert-grade record player. Outdoor concerts, with popular and classical music emanating from the machine at the center

of the bandstand, were popular attractions in the 1920s. The bandstand also served as a gathering point for other events, both festive and political. The bandstand, distinctive with its sweeping colonnade, serves also as a memorial to the fallen soldiers of Carter County who served during the Great War. The City of Ardmore has extensively rehabilitated Central Park and added new playground equipment and restrooms, but the Bandstand has justly remained the park's focal point. The nomination was prepared by Cindy Savage, of ARCH Consulting, for the City of Ardmore.

Park Hill Mission Cemetery, also known as Worcester Cemetery, is located just south of the Murrell House in Park Hill, near Tahlequah. It is the final resting place for a number of persons significant in Cherokee history, in particular Elias Boudinot and Rev. Samuel Worcester. Both men were associated with the influential newspaper, the *Cherokee Phoenix*. Boudinot gained notoriety for signing the Treaty of New Echota, which called for the Cherokees' removal from their eastern homelands to the Indian Territory. Assassinated soon after arriving in Indian Territory, his was the



Park Hill Cemetery, Worcester plot (Lois Albert photo).

cemetery's first interment. Worcester not only operated the territory's first printing press, but he also served as a teacher and as a religious missionary. The cemetery is owned and maintained by the Oklahoma Historical Society. This nomination was prepared by Lois Albert of the Oklahoma Archeological Survey, using a matching grant from the SHPO.

The State Historic Preservation Office continues to strive to gain recognition for places significant in Oklahoma's history. These six properties add to the compendium of the state's documented history. A goal of the SHPO is to have five properties from each county represented in the National Register by Centennial Day, November 16, 2007. The listing of the Merchants National Bank in Lehigh brings the number of Coal County's listings to three. Other counties with fewer than five listed resources are: Cotton, Dewey, Greer, Harmon, Love, Major, Marshall, Nowata, and Woodward. For more information on National Register properties, contact Jim Gabbert by telephone at 405/522-4478 or e-mail <jgabbert@okhistory.org>.

OHS Places . . .

Sequoyah's Cabin

Route 1, Box 141
Sallisaw, OK 74955-9735
Phone: 918/775-2413
E-mail: <seq_cabin@okhistory.org>
Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday, 2-5 p.m.
Closed: Mondays and state holidays.
Admission: Free.
Directions: Three miles north and seven miles east of Sallisaw on State Highway 101.



Travelers to eastern Oklahoma should visit

Sequoyah's Cabin, near Sallisaw and the Oklahoma-Arkansas state line. The cabin serves as a state museum and an interpretive center. Furnishings in the cabin replicate how it might have been furnished by Sequoyah. Situated near the museum is a bronze sculpture of Sequoyah accomplished by sculptor Fred Olds.

Sequoyah (ca. 1778-1843), also known as George Guess or Gist, created the Cherokee syllabary, which was adopted by the Cherokee Nation in 1821. Sequoyah was born in Tuskegee, in present Tennessee, and lived in Alabama and Arkansas before coming to Indian Territory in 1829. That year, he built a one-room log cabin near present Sallisaw. There he farmed and worked as a blacksmith.

Sequoyah's Cabin became the property of the Oklahoma Historical Society in 1936. Between 1936 and 1937 a Works Progress Administration (WPA) work project enclosed the cabin in a stone building. The secretary of the interior designated the site as a National Historic Landmark in 1966. In 2006 Sequoyah's Cabin became the nation's sixth landmark to be listed in the National Literary Landmark Register.



Donors to the Research Division's library and archive

The following individuals donated materials to the Research Division in the last three months of 2006:

Patrick Alexander, Bethany
Barbara Cody, Tuttle
Alvin Turner, Norman
Glendeen Unsell, Ada
Joe Todd, Oklahoma City
Howard Piepenbrink, Alexandria, VA
Judy Dutterer, Winnetka, IL
Kenneth Corder, Edmond
Billy Erkin, McAlester
Michael Dean, Oklahoma City
Sharon Burns, OGS, Oklahoma City
Joan Overturf, Corvallis, OR
Mary Dickerson, Whitefish, MT
Betty C. Park, Oklahoma City
Gregory A. George, Guthrie
Doris Yocham, Sapulpa
Anne C. Jones, Kansas City, MO
Judy Burns, Oklahoma City
Laquetha Young, Oklahoma City
Anne Browne Dunker, Rogersville, MD
Margaret Gagliardi, Annandale, VA
Donna M. Stephens, Edmond
Vereal Barton, Gordonville, TX
John Sipes, Jr., Norman
Bill Marion, Edmond
Bob Blackburn, Oklahoma City
Bob Green, Oklahoma City

Ellen Collins Johnson, Tahlequah
M. L. Deering, Edmond
Don Paulson, Ouray, CO
J. L. Barrington, Naperville, IL
Robert Gaylord, Edmond
Mrs. A. C. Wilbur, Port Clinton, OH
Paul T. Bryant, Arden, NC
Betty Jane Harris, Vegas, NV
Mary Duffe, Edmond
Donald M. Mueller, Yukon
Elizabeth Hay, Houston, TX
Genevieve Slade, OGS, Oklahoma City
Larry Rankin, Edmond
Myrtle Beavers, Destin, FL
Mary Jane Warde, Stillwater
Richard J. Gewin, Oklahoma City
Gayle Carson, Oklahoma City
Dan Provo, Edmond
Daryle G. Murray, Oklahoma City
Robert Main, Oklahoma City
Will Paine, Stillwater
Vernon Kyker, Moore
Elaine Dake, Norman
Al M. Snipes, Oklahoma City
Robert Thomas, Edmond
Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt, Germany
Phyllis A. Young, Lawton
Fred Dittmar, Norman

Mark your calendar!! History Center volunteer training is February 10

The growing army of Oklahoma History Center volunteers will muster for the year's first training session, to be conducted from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, February 10, 2007. Previously interviewed individuals are scheduled to attend the session.

In the past year, these dedicated individuals have researched and catalogued artifacts for the Oklahoma Museum of History and have served patrons in the Research Center.

The session on February 10 will feature presentations by Museum Director Dan Provo, Education Director Mike Adkins, and others. Contact volunteer coordinator Robbin Davis at <rdavis@okhistory.org> or call her at 405/522-0754.

OHS MUSEUMS AND SITES

Black Kettle Museum junction of US 283 & SH 47 Cheyenne, 580/497-3929	Museum of the Western Prairie , 1100 N Memorial Dr. Altus, 580/482-1044
Cherokee Strip Museum/Rose Hill School , 2617 W Fir, Perry, 580/336-2405	National Hall of Fame for Famous American Indians US 62 east, Anadarko 405/247-5555
Chisholm Trail Museum/Seay Mansion , 605 Zellers Ave., Kingfisher 405/375-5176	No Man's Land Museum PSU Campus, Goodwell 580/349-2670
Chisholm Trail Historical Museum , E of US 81/US 70 junction, Waurika 580/228-2166	Oklahoma Museum of History , 2401N Laird Ave., OKC 405/522-5248
Confederate Memorial Museum , US 69, ½ mi. N of Atoka, 580/889-7192	Oklahoma Route 66 Museum , 2229 W Gary Blvd. Clinton, 580/323-7866
Fort Gibson Historic Site 907 N. Garrison, SH 80 in Fort Gibson, 918/478-4088	Oklahoma Territorial Museum/Carnegie Library 402 E Oklahoma, Guthrie 405/282-1889
Fort Supply Historic Site Campus of W.S. Key Corr. Center, Fort Supply 580/766-3767	Henry Overholser House 405 NW 15th St., OKC 405/528-8485
Fort Towson Historic Site NE of Fort Towson off US 70 580/873-2634	Pawnee Bill Ranch ½ mi. W on US 64, Pawnee 918/762-2513
Fort Washita Historic Site SH 199, 13 mi. E of Madill 580/924-6502	Peter Conser House 4 mi. S of Heavener on US 59, 3½ mi. W of Hodgen 918/653-2493
Frank Phillips House 1107 Cherokee Ave. Bartlesville, 918/336-2491	Pioneer Woman Museum 701 Monument Rd., Ponca City, 580/765-6108
Fred Drummond House 305 N Price, Hominy 918/885-2374	Robert S. Kerr Museum 6 mi. SW of Poteau, US 270 at Kerr Conference Center 918/647-9579
Frederick Pioneer Village , 201 N 9th St., Frederick, 580/335-5844	Sequoyah's Cabin SH 101, 11 mi. NE of Sallisaw, 918/775-2413
George M. Murrell House 19479 East Murrell Home Rd 3 mi. S of SH 82, Park Hill 918/456-2751	Sod House Museum SH 8, 5½ mi. N of Cleo Springs, 580/463-2441
Healdton Oil Museum 315 E Main, Healdton 580/229-0900	Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center , 3 mi. E and 4 mi. N of Spiro 918/962-2062
Honey Springs Battlefield 1863 Honey Springs Battlefield Rd., E of US 69, near Rentiesville, 918/473-5572	State Capital Publishing Museum , 301 W Harrison Guthrie, 405/282-4123
Jim Thorpe House 706 E Boston, Yale 918/387-2815	T. B. Ferguson House 519 N Weigle, Watonga 580/623-5069
Museum of the Cherokee Strip , 507 S 4th, Enid 580/237-1907	Tom Mix Museum 721 N Delaware, Dewey 918/534-1555
Museum of Higher Education , Old Central, OSU Campus Stillwater, 405/744-2828	White Hair Memorial ½ mi. S of SH 20 on Blackburn Rd., Ralston 918/538-2417



Victorian Style Show and Ladies' Tea set for March 3 at History Center

Crinoline and lace, bonnets and bows—step back in time and enjoy a Victorian style show and tea hosted by the Oklahoma Historical Society on Saturday, March 3, 2007, from 2 to 5 p.m. in the Chesapeake Events Center, in the Oklahoma History Center, 2401 N. Laird Avenue, Oklahoma City. All proceeds will benefit the Oklahoma State History Day Program, an annual event hosted by OHS for Oklahoma's fifth year through high school students' participation.

Kelsey Arnold, OHS Administrative Programs Officer, told *Mistletoe Leaves* that approximately 27 ladies will be modeling. Each will wear five dresses to illustrate fashions from the decades from 1820 to 1920. As the models promenade across the stage and stroll around the room, OHS Director of Historic Homes Martha Ray will emcee the event, giving descriptions of each gown and accessories, such as hats, handbags, parasols, and shoes. Models will be wearing dresses and gowns that would have been worn for day wear, for visiting, for evening, and for balls during each of the decades. Women's period undergarments will also be modeled and described. Arnold stated that most models have sewn their own dresses, while others have had their apparel made by seamstresses who sew for reenactors.

Tickets for the Victorian style show are \$15 per person, and the deadline for sending payment is February 9. Mail your check or money order made out to OHS to: Kelsey Arnold, Oklahoma Historical Society, 2401 N. Laird Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73105. For registration purposes, please include your name, complete address, and phone number. For more information contact Kelsey Arnold at 405/522-0692 or send an e-mail to her at <karnold@okhistory.org>.

Above, presented in the order in which a lady dons them:
pantaloons, underpetticoat, chemise, corset, corset cover.

Frontier Brigade Muster

Fort Washita

February 10th
2007
9 am to 5 pm
Free of charge

See and Talk to Civil War Soldiers preparing for War

For more information call (580) 924-6502
Highway 199 between Madill and Durant, Oklahoma

Forts Washita and Towson plan February activities

The **Fort Washita** Frontier Brigade Muster will take place on Saturday, February 10, at the Fort Washita Historic Site. The public is invited to view Civil War-era soldiers as they practice drilling in time, inspecting muskets, skirmishing, and other military activities.

The event begins at 9 a.m. and continues until 5 p.m. There is no admission charge. For more information call 580/924-6502. The site is located on State Highway 199 between Madill and Durant.

The **Fort Towson** Timeline event will take place on Friday, February 23. While this is not a "public" event, *per se*, the public may attend. During the day, 600 school children will trek to the fort to watch reenactors present vignettes of military scenes from 1824 through the 1890s.

Thirteen OHS staffers and volunteers will offer first-person portrayals of such individuals as Civil War refugees, a candlemaker, and a surgeon. Another will discuss the problems of controlling nineteenth-century youth gangs. Fort Towson Historic Site is located northeast of the town of Fort Towson on U.S. 70.

Call 580/873-2634 for additional information, or e-mail the staff at their station, <jdavis@okhistory.org>.

Drummond House doll exhibit continues through February

The Friends of the Drummond Home will host an antique doll and antique Valentine exhibit beginning February 1 and continuing through the month. The exhibit is on display inside the Drummond House, 305 N. Price Avenue in Hominy.

Dolls on exhibit come from the collections of Wanda Shepard (Skiatook), the TallGrass Doll Club (Bartlesville), Michelle Webb (Hominy), and Beverly Whitcomb (Wynona). Barbara Herd of Wynona also loaned a portion of her large collection of antique Valentines.

The Drummond House's hours of operation remain Wednesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. For more information call 918/885-2374.

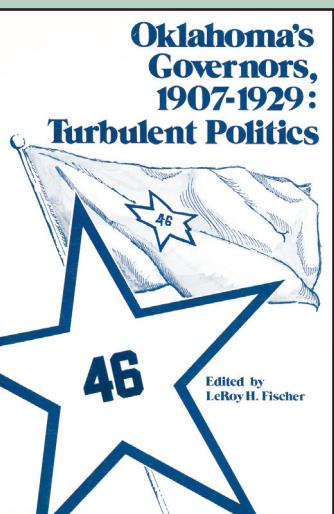
Murrell House postcards are now available

The Friends of the Murrell Home have recently produced note cards featuring a scenic view of the historic house and its grounds. The price of a single card is \$1, and sets of 5 are offered for \$5 and 10 for \$10. All proceeds benefit the Friends of the Murrell Home, the organization that supports part of the operation and maintenance of the historic Murrell House at Park Hill, near Tahlequah.

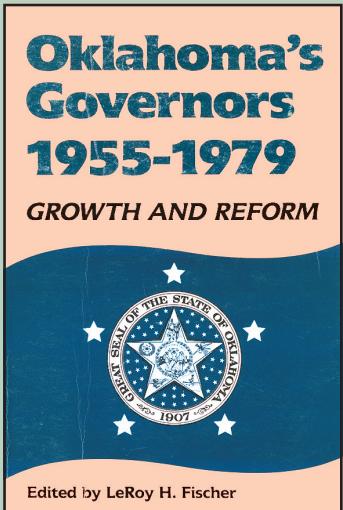
More information is available, and orders may be placed by calling the staff at 918/456-2751 or sending an e-mail message to <murrelhome@intellex.com>.

The Murrell House is located at 19479 E. Murrell Home Road in Park Hill.

Centennial Bookshelf



\$13.95 in paper.



\$8.95 in paper.

Oklahoma's Governors is a four-book series, beginning with the Territorial Era, 1889-1906.

The series also includes *Oklahoma's Governors, 1929-1955: Depression to Prosperity*. All are edited by Dr. LeRoy Fischer of Oklahoma State University and are published by the Oklahoma Historical Society.

OHS publications are always available in the Oklahoma History Center Gift Shop.

Telephone the OHC Gift Shop at 405/522-5214 or e-mail it at <giftshop@okhistory.org> to get additional information on these and other titles relating to the *First Families of Oklahoma* exhibit and the 2007 Centennial Celebration.

Purchases may also be made online at <www.okhistory.org>.

Membership discounts always apply.

PERIODICALS

Oklahoma Historical Society
2401 N. Laird Avenue
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7914

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Smithsonian Affiliations
Membership Program

Mistletoe Leaves

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February 2007

Wilma Mankiller to present Oklahoma Lecture in the Humanities at Oklahoma History Center on February 22

Former Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation Wilma Mankiller will be the distinguished speaker at the 22nd Annual Oklahoma Lecture in the Humanities, which is also recognized as the official Centennial Lecture in the Humanities by the Oklahoma Centennial Commemoration Commission.

The lecture will be held at 8 p.m. on Thursday, February 22, in the Devon Great Hall of the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. The lecture will be free and open to the public.

Wilma Mankiller made history in 1985 as the first woman to be elected Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation. During her tenure she focused on improving health care and developing self-managed social programs. Mankiller has been inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame, the International Women's Hall of Fame, and the Oklahoma Hall of Fame. President Bill Clinton presented her with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1998. She is also the author of *Every Day is a Good Day: Reflections of Contemporary Indigenous Women*.

Call the Oklahoma Humanities Council at 405/235-0240 for further information.

Prairie Landsmen: The Jews of Oklahoma on display at History Center through February and March

Photographs by David Halpern of Tulsa are featured in *Prairie Landsmen: The Jews of Oklahoma*, an exhibit on loan to the Oklahoma Museum of History by the Sherwin Miller Museum of Tulsa. The exhibit comprises 38 photographs of Jewish people and places in Oklahoma that tell a story of the state's Jewish community. Diverse in origins and occupations, the Jews of Oklahoma still share a common bond. Each is a *Landsman* (pronounced Lonts-mon), which means "one who comes from the same home town."

Oklahoma towns represented in the exhibit include Ardmore, Velma, Muskogee, Fort Gibson, Chandler, Ponca City, Tonkawa, Claremore, Caddo, Enid, Nelagoney, Pawhuska, Chickasha, Hobart, Seminole, Collinsville, Hartshorne, Lawton, Erick, Bartlesville, Tahlequah, and Purcell.

According to Halpern, "In these photographs I have chosen to examine some of the families and individuals in the smaller cities and towns. They may be the last bastions of a shrinking non-urban population."

The exhibit was developed in 1996 under a program sponsored by the Oklahoma Museums Association and funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Mark Your Calendar!

The Oklahoma Historical Society Annual Meeting is April 12-14, 2007.
Further details will appear in the March and April issues of *Mistletoe Leaves*.