



Mistletoe Leaves



Vol. 40, No. 2

Published monthly by the Oklahoma Historical Society, serving since 1893

February 2009

Economic impact study released Jan. 9

During a special presentation on January 9 at the Oklahoma History Center, Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., and its many partners, including the OHS State Historic Preservation Office, announced the release of *Economic Impacts of Historic Preservation*, one of the most important tools ever provided for Oklahoma's historic preservation efforts.

"We believe that the study offers community leaders in the public and private sectors the data they have long needed to support improvements in public policy that will not only stimulate our economy, but will result in improved preservation of the buildings, structures, sites, districts, objects, and landscapes that represent Oklahoma's unique heritage," said Dr. Bob L. Blackburn, State Historic Preservation Officer and executive director of OHS.

Dr. David Listokin, Center for Urban Policy Research, Rutgers University, delivered the special presentation. He detailed the methodology for completing the study and the report's exciting final results. The study examined the direct and indirect impacts of historic preservation activities in Oklahoma for the year 2007 and concluded that they totaled \$357 million (rehabilitation, \$125 million; heritage tourism, \$175 million; and Main Street, \$57 million).

The state's preservation leaders have long believed that preservation and adaptive reuse of historic properties makes sound business sense for communities of all sizes. Now they have solid evidence of just how significant historic preservation is to a community's economy and its quality of life.

The study also addresses the impacts of two key Oklahoma preservation programs since their beginnings: the federal rehabilitation tax credits program and the Oklahoma Main Street Program.

With financial contributions from the State Historic Preservation Office, the City of Oklahoma City, Chesapeake Energy, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Kirkpatrick Family Fund, and Julie Bott Miner in memory of Lt. Col. and Mrs. James F. Bott, Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., selected the Center for Urban Policy Research, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, to complete the study. Dr. Listokin and Dr. Michael Lahr of Rutgers directed the project, and Dr. Dan S. Rickman of Oklahoma State University worked closely with them to complete the



property valuation analysis portion of the investigation. Under a contract with the National Park Service's National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, the Urban Policy Research Center developed the Preservation Economic Impact Model (PEIM). The input/output model was used for this and many similar studies across the nation.

The Oklahoma Main Street Center of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce was also a key partner in the initiative as they provided valuable and extensive data for the study and participated in draft study reviews and other activities. The Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department also generously provided assistance.

The study includes a detailed analysis of the economic impacts of general rehabilitation work in Oklahoma; of redevelopment completed under the federal and state rehabilitation tax credits programs; of the Oklahoma Main Street Program; of heritage tourism initiatives; and of local historic district designation.

An executive summary of the study provides a concise statement about how historic preservation activities contribute to Oklahoma's statewide and local economies and places these efforts in a national context. Copies of the summary are available from POK at 405/525-5325 or by e-mail at <preservationok@preservationok.org> and also from the SHPO at 405/521-6249 or e-mail at <bharris@okhistory.org>.

The complete 400-page study document is found at <www.preservationok.org> and also at <www.okhistory.org/shpo> (click on "Publications").

Oklahoma governors exhibit to reprise in Tulsa

The OHS Oklahoma Museum of History announces that its popular exhibit *Inspired to Lead: Governors and First Families of Oklahoma, 1907-2007* has been installed in Tulsa at the Tulsa Historical Society. It will remain there for several months in 2009. The exhibit is part of a special THS program titled *The Road to the Governor's Mansion*.

The Tulsa Historical Society is located at 2445 South Peoria. The Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation provided exhibit funding.

The original governors exhibition opened in February 2007 in the OHS History Center in Oklahoma City, where it remained on display during the Centennial year.

"We are telling each governor's story from childhood up through the decision to run for office, the campaign, and the inauguration," said Elizabeth Baxter, OHS curator in charge. The materials include video scrapbooks that display photos of each governor from his childhood through his inauguration, artifacts donated or loaned by various governors, and information from interviews. Call 918/887-9484 for details.





Director's Column

By **Bob L. Blackburn**
Executive Director

I have a confession to make. I am addicted to challenges, especially when they are filled with promise.

During the last year, I have been thinking more than usual about the future of the Oklahoma Historical Society, the future of the historical community throughout the state, and the best means of advancing both.

Of course, we have to maintain and constantly improve our existing infrastructure and programs, but we have to keep our eyes on the horizon. Maybe it is a natural part of the aging process, but I realize more and more how quickly tomorrow will get here. We have to be prepared with new ways of accomplishing our mission.

There is one tool that I believe could be critical to collecting, preserving, and sharing history. It is a grants-in-aid program for local historical societies and museums.

Across the state there are more than one hundred historical societies and local museums that have the best chance at collecting history at the grassroots level. Most are run by volunteers. Some have buildings and collections to maintain. All need money to fulfill their dreams.

A grants program would accomplish several goals beyond the obvious investment in infrastructure and care of collections.

One, a grants program would promote higher standards across the board and lay the groundwork for a more secure future for each society or museum. Before a society or museum would be eligible for a grant, they would need nonprofit status with the IRS, incorporation with the Secretary of State, by-laws, a business plan, board members, and specific, attainable goals.

Second, such a grants program would strengthen the existing bond between the Oklahoma Historical Society and the local groups. With both programmatic and financial bridges between us, we could coordinate more efficient use of resources and attract additional partners to our shared mission.

To make this grants-in-aid program work, the State of Oklahoma needs to find a dedicated stream of revenue that takes the funding out of the annual scramble for political support. To be successful, the process should be based on clear criteria and merit, not connections that are here today and gone tomorrow.

Over the next eight years, I will fight to create such a grants program. I will talk to legislators, the Governor, and candidates running for office. Most importantly, I will talk to local historical groups who share our passion for collecting, preserving, and sharing the history of Oklahoma and its people.

Yes, I am addicted to challenges, and this is one challenge we will win.

Development News

By Paul F. Lambert

Many, if not most, OHS members have received letters inviting them to join when in fact their memberships were in good standing. The letters received were part of a mailing of almost 50,000 designed to go only to prospective members. In a mailing of that size, we would expect that a few duplications would occur. However, there were entirely too many of them, so we decided to investigate.

We have learned that two problems led to this situation. The most significant problem is that the mailing service we used apparently sent the mailing to our membership list instead of simply using the list to compare to our prospect lists and eliminate duplications! In addition, if the name of the same person or couple on the prospect list differs by one letter the computer does not recognize the duplication. Even the absence of a period after a title on one list caused the computer not to recognize the duplication.

We are most grateful for the interest and support of our members, and I want to apologize to those members who mistakenly received letters.

The good news is that we are receiving a large number of new members as a result of this mailing. In this issue of *Mistletoe Leaves*, we have a list of new members for December. Most of these new members joined during the last week of the month in response to this mailing. The list for January will be impressive as well. Again, thanks to our members for their understanding and continued support!



New Members, December

*Indicates renewed membership at a higher level

Director's Circle

Charles and Carla Flounoy, Oklahoma City
Richard M. Hillemeyer, Oklahoma City

Fellow

*Frankfurt, Short, Bruza Associates, P.C., Oklahoma City
Joanna Champlin and Shawnee Brittan, Oklahoma City
Frank and Sally Deatherage, Oklahoma City
Todd Family Charitable Foundation, Oklahoma City

Associate

H. D. and Virginia Cagle, Piedmont
Mort G. Welch, Oklahoma City

Friend

Susan Anderson, Holdenville
Raymond E. Batchelor, Tulsa
Patrick and Donna Brady, Oklahoma City
*Darlene Browers, Oklahoma City
George and Julia Cannon, Oklahoma City
Pat Cunningham, Chickasha
Joy L. Day, Grove
Mike and Susan Edwards, Oklahoma City
William and Rose Edwards, Stillwater
Lee Gaston, Okmulgee
Kay Gelnar, Edmond
Mr. and Mrs. Frank X. Henke, Tulsa
Keith Jackson, Lawton
*Mike and Martha Larsen, Perkins
Rod Limke and Juan Hernandez, Oklahoma City
John and Maxine Luton, Muskogee
Stuart Maier, Oklahoma City
John and Donna Massey, Durant
*Jim and Connie McGoodwin, Edmond
Mary Ellen Meredith, Oklahoma City
Harold V. Miller, Shawnee
*Nancy Moore, Oklahoma City
Jannette B. Neff, Sayre
Terry Newkumet and Joan Goth, Norman
Joe Peters, Sallisaw
Margaret Pickard, Oklahoma City
Mrs. F. Warren Pixley, Claremore
Norris and Betty Price, Oklahoma City
Tony and Claire Puckett, Oklahoma City
Carl and Debby Rubenstein, Oklahoma City
Evelyn Shultz, Moore
Stirling L. Thomas, Oklahoma City
David and Sharon Trojan, Enid
Jerry D. Whitten, Duncan
Randy and Ann Wilson, Edmond

Family

Rosie Alvarez, El Reno
Larry Anderson, Edmond
J. Dan and Barbara Batchelor, Oklahoma City
Elizabeth Bennett, Oklahoma City
David Blatt and Patricia Hipsher, Tulsa
Mike and Shirley Boren, Konawa
Dean and Patricia Brown, Norman
Randall Cain, Hominy

Cont'd. on p. 7

Oklahoma Historical Society
Membership Office: Alma Moore
405/522-5242
ohsmembers@okhistory.org

Mistletoe Leaves (USPS 018-315) is published monthly by the Oklahoma Historical Society, 2401 N. Laird Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7914. Periodicals postage paid at Oklahoma City, OK. (ISSN 1932-0108)

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Mistletoe Leaves*, 2401 N. Laird Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7914.

By authorization of the Oklahoma Historical Society's Board of Directors, 5,100 copies are prepared at a cost of \$1,025.00 each month. The publication is financed in part with federal funds from the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior.

Contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Oklahoma Historical Society or the United States Department of the Interior. Mention of trade names does not constitute endorsement or recommendation by either organization.

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.

All Oklahoma Historical Society facilities are for the education and enjoyment of all. State and federal regulations prohibit unlawful discrimination in state and federally assisted programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, and/or handicap.

Anyone denied benefits should contact the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Historical Society, 2401 N. Laird Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7914, telephone 405/521-2491, and/or the Director, Office of Equal Opportunity, United States Department of the Interior, Washington, DC 20240.



Meetings

The **Oklahoma Genealogical Society** will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, February 2, 2009, at 6 p.m., in the Research Library, at the Oklahoma History Center, 2401 North Laird Ave., in Oklahoma City. Laura Martin, director of the research library, and other staff will present a program entitled "Exploring the Research Library and Archives." They will discuss how to access the Oklahoma Historical Society's map collection, the film and video collection, the Hillerman photograph collection, and the Oklahoma City death index. Since this month's meeting will be held in the Research Library, it will not be open to researchers. The meeting is open to the public; it is free for OGS members and a suggested \$3 donation is asked from nonmembers. (Special to ML)

Events

Southwestern Oklahoma State University in **Weatherford** is hosting its annual, two-day jazz festival featuring internationally known jazz musicians on Thursday and Friday, February 12–13. The performance on Thursday evening from 7 to 8 p.m. and the clinic on Friday at 1 p.m. are free. Admission to the Friday evening event at 8 p.m. is \$10 for adults and \$3 for students. Call Dr. Keith Talley at 580/774-3708 for more information. For groups visits, contact Brian Adler at 580/774-3063. (Special to ML)

Frederick's Prather Brown Center, 211 South Thirteenth St., is hosting the town's annual Oyster Fry and Craft Show on Saturday, February 21, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Enjoy fried or raw Gulf oysters. Call 580/335-2126 or send an e-mail to <frederickcc@pldi.net>. (Special to ML)

Miami's Coleman Theatre, located at 103 North Main, has three attractions scheduled in February. For Valentine's Day see the classic movie *Roman Holiday*, starring Gregory Peck and Audrey Hepburn. It will be shown on February 13 and 14 at 7:30 p.m. On Friday, February 20, Melody House Musicals, a children's show, will be presented at 10 a.m. And, on February 26 through 28 at 7:30 p.m. Miami Little Theater will perform in "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum." For more info call 918/540-2425. (*The Encore*, Friends of the Coleman Newsletter, Winter 2008-09)

The Spirit Bank Event Center, 10441 South Regal Blvd. in **Tulsa**, is the venue for the Tulsa Indian Art Festival on February 13–15, 2009. The event will include a fine art market, exhibition, dancing, entertainment, storytelling, American Indian food, and more. Hours are Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more about this, call 918/838-3875 or e-mail Richard Vale at <rvale2@cox.net>. (Special to ML)

Celebrate Mardi Gras in Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Aquarium in **Jenks** is hosting a celebration reflecting the sights and sounds of New Orleans with food, drinks, and music. The event is scheduled for Saturday, February 7, from 7 p.m. to midnight. Contact Janis Davis at 918/296-3474. (Special to ML)

Norman's historic Downtown Arts District will be the venue for the 15th annual Mardi Gras parade featuring floats, musicians, dancers, and more on Saturday, February 21, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Telephone 405/360-3279 or send e-mail to <normanmardigrasparade@gmail.com>. (Special to ML)

Numerous genealogical research trips are being planned in 2009 by Gregath Publishing Company, located in Wyandotte, Oklahoma. Among them are a **Tulsa** day trip scheduled for Wednesday, March 25. The excursion will include round-trip transportation by minivan from Gregath to Tulsa with stops at the Tulsa Genealogical Society Library and the Tulsa Genealogy Center of the public library system. Another trip is scheduled for May 27–28 to travel to the Midwest Genealogy Center in **Independence, Missouri**. The costs and the departure times for each trip have not yet been determined. For more information call 918/542-4148 or 1-800/955-5232, toll free in the United States. (Special to ML)

The **Bernice Nature Center**, located at Bernice State Park, in Bernice, Oklahoma, will be the venue for a chili cook-off on Saturday, February 7. The event begins at 11 a.m. and will continue until 3 p.m. Enter your best chili recipe for a chance to win a prize. Taste test kits are available for \$5. For information call 918/257-8330. (Special to ML)

Hennessey's Hometown Hootenanny is scheduled for Saturday, February 14, from 7-10 p.m. in downtown Hennessey. Enjoy an evening of country, bluegrass, gospel, and folk music featuring area musicians. Call 405/853-6212 or e-mail <cathyhh@pldi.net>. (Special to ML)

Lake Murray Resort Lodge will be the venue for a bluegrass festival on Friday and Saturday, February 27–28. Hours are 7 p.m. on Friday and 1 to 11 p.m. on Saturday. Call 918/423-4891 for more information. (Special to ML)

Anglers can enjoy a two-day Blue River Trout Derby scheduled for February 14–15 at the Blue River hunting and fishing area near **Tishomingo**. All age groups are welcome to participate for a chance to win cash prizes. Entry forms are available at the Tishomingo Chamber of Commerce. For more information telephone 580/371-2175 or e-mail message them at <johnstoncochamber@yahoo.com>. (Special to ML)

Volunteers Needed

The Cherokee Heritage Center, located at 21192 South Keeler Drive (off Willis Road) in **Park Hill**, is holding a volunteer recruitment meeting at 9 a.m. on February 11 at the Chapel Building on the grounds of the CHC. Genealogists Gene Norris and Ben Chasenah of the CHC will give presentations to those interested in volunteering or to those interested in Cherokee genealogy. CHC is seeking volunteers for the Adams Corner Rural Village that recreates 1890s Indian Territory and educates the public about Cherokee events during that decade. Individuals are also needed to greet visitors, perform research, demonstrate nineteenth-century crafts, and work with visiting school groups. For more info, telephone Karen Cooper at 918/456-6007, extension 247. (Special to ML)

Calendars

The 2009 **Love County Historical Society** calendars are available for purchase. Included in the new calendar are photos of the Thackerville Fifth Grade 1926, the Meadowbrook Boys Basketball Team 1951, Marietta National Bank 1920, the Batson School Boys 1923, Marietta Juniors of 1936, Burneyville Independent Baseball Team 1946, Young Ladies of Orr 1945, Oswalt First-Fourth Grades 1941, Jimtown Farm Boys 1939, Greenville Freshmen 1941, and Model T Ford 1926. The calendar costs \$5 plus \$1.50 for postage. Orders should be mailed to the Love County Historical Society, P.O. Box 134, Marietta, OK 73448. For more information telephone Laquitta Ladner at 580/276-3477. (Special to ML)

Fort Towson Time Line returns visitors to 1820s

On February 27 the annual Fort Towson Time Line will begin at 9 a.m. and continue to 2:30 p.m. Reenactors will offer demonstrations of activities that took place at the fort and in Indian Territory from 1824 to the 1870s. Fifteen "stations" will reflect time periods and related activities. They include hawk throwing, fire building, and candle making.

The first encompasses the early military era, 1820s and 1830s, with interpreters demonstrating various aspects of soldiers' life around camp.

The 1840–1842 period features a mountain man. He will present aspects of the rendezvous era at the fort. There will also be a blacksmith and a laundress.

The Civil War period will reflect the use of Fort Towson by Confederate troops and will also include reenactors.

An artillery demonstration is on tap, and the soldiers will help children learn to march.

Fort Towson Historic Site is near the community of Fort Towson and may be contacted by phone at 580/873-2634 or by e-mail at <jdavis@okhistory.org>. The program is free and is open to the general public.



February programs feature George Washington's Indian policies

Gerard Baker, superintendent of Mount Rushmore National Park, will be on hand at the History Center on Wednesday, February 18, at 7 p.m. to give a program on early Indian Territory. The presentation is free and open to the general public. Call Jason Harris at 405/522-0785 for details.

Baker's talk is presented in conjunction with an all-day workshop for Oklahoma teachers on February 20. George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens and the Oklahoma History Center are hosting it. The workshop at the History Center will focus on the way in which George Washington's Indian policies, enacted during his two terms as president, shaped nineteenth-century American policy. From his job as a surveyor to his military responsibilities on the frontier to his role as the first elected leader of a new country, Washington had varied contacts with Indian tribes on the continent.

Panelists will explore how his beliefs and practices shaped his policies, and how those policies were, or were not, carried out in his legacy. Moderated by Gerard Baker, the panel will include a number of Washington and Native American historians. Notable art historians will also discuss how the concept of the West is depicted through art.

The February 20 program will be filmed by the Fairfax Network and then broadcast nationally on March 23, 2009.

This program is produced by the Fairfax Network in partnership with George Washington Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens, through a donation from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation.

Sod House lecture to commemorate Black History Month

In conjunction with the celebration of February as Black History Month, Dr. Roger Hardaway will speak on "African American Cowboys" at the Sod House Museum in Aline, Oklahoma, on Saturday, February 14, 2009, at 10 a.m.

Hardaway is professor of history at Northwestern Oklahoma State University in Alva where he has been a member of the faculty since 1990. Prior to coming to NWOSU, he was on the faculty at Eastern New Mexico University. He has also been an adjunct instructor at the University of North Dakota and a visiting professor of history at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. A native of Tennessee, he studied particularly the history of the American West as well as late nineteenth- and twentieth-century U.S. history in graduate school. He holds master's degrees in history from New Mexico State University and the University of Wyoming. He earned the doctorate in history from the University of North Dakota where his dissertation was on African Americans in the American West—a topic on which he has concentrated his research for the past several years. In addition to his three books on that subject, Hardaway's research has appeared in books authored by others and in *Annals of Wyoming*, the *Journal of Arizona History*, and the *Negro History Bulletin* [now

known as the *Black History Bulletin*]. Each book has featured a chapter on African American cowboys.

Several thousand black cowboys worked on the ranches, ranges, and cattle trails of the American West during the late nineteenth century. The cattle industry was centered in the former slave state of Texas, which had a large African American population. The cattle frontier moved from the Lone Star State throughout the American West, and African American cowboys moved with it. Before long, contests were held to see who was the best roper or bronc rider, and these evolved into the twentieth-century sport of rodeo. Just as several black cowboys became well known for their ability to handle cattle and horses as part of their ranch duties, so, too, have others become renowned as rodeo performers in the twentieth century. One of the more famous black rodeo cowboys, Bill Pickett, was born in Texas but lived for many years in Oklahoma. A transition figure who began as a working cowboy, Pickett became a

well-known rodeo star who invented "bulldogging"—which became the rodeo sport of steer wrestling. Hardaway's presentation on February 14 will discuss both nineteenth-century working cowboys and those who have excelled in twentieth-century rodeo arenas. Call 580/463-2441.



OHS Places . . .

Fort Gibson

907 North Garrison, State Highway 80
Fort Gibson, OK 74434-0457
Phone: 918/478-4088
Hours: April 15–Oct. 14:
Tues.–Sun., 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Oct. 15–April 14:
Thurs.–Sun., 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Admission: Adults \$3; Seniors (age 65+) \$2.50;
Students (ages 6–18) \$1;
Children (5 and under) free.

Fort Gibson was the first U.S. military post established in the area that became Oklahoma. Until 1824 Fort Smith, Arkansas Territory, had been the major fortification in the southwest. As the western boundary of Arkansas Territory expanded the need for another fort further west became apparent. Thus, in 1824 Colonel Matthew Arbuckle, commander of the Seventh Infantry at Fort Smith, established Cantonment Gibson on the Grand River, near its confluence with the Arkansas River. Originally intended to keep peace on the frontier, the fort also served as a destination point when the Five Civilized Tribes were removed from the southeastern United States to Indian Territory in the 1820s and 1830s. In 1832 the cantonment was renamed Fort Gibson, and it became a staging area for military expeditions such as the Dodge-Leavenworth Expedition of 1834. During the Civil War (1861–65), the fort was first occupied by Confederate troops until Fort Davis was established across the Arkansas River. Union troops then occupied Fort Gibson and temporarily renamed it Fort Blunt.

Fort Gibson's former commissary serves as the visitors' center. Other structures with public access include the barracks, the hospital, the bakery, the stockade, married officers' quarters, the library, and the mess house. Visitors will see a reconstructed log fort and outbuildings reminiscent of the early 1800s and will learn about the fort's historical significance during its sixty-six years of existence.



Upcoming events at Fort Gibson include Community Day on February 21 and the Public Bake Day on March 28. Future issues of *Mistletoe Leaves* will give details about these activities. Fort Gibson is operated by the Oklahoma Historical Society and is listed as a National Historic Landmark. In 1966 the fort was added to the National Register of Historic Places (NR 66000631).

Anyone interested in reading about the fort should consult "Fort Gibson: Forgotten Glory" by Richard C. Rohrs published in *Early Military Forts & Posts in Oklahoma*, edited by Odie B. Faulk, Kenny A. Franks, and Paul F. Lambert (Oklahoma Historical Society, 1978). This book is currently out-of-print so locate a copy in a local public or university library. Related articles published in *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* include: Grant Foreman, "The Centennial of Fort Gibson," 2 (June 1924): 119–28; Q. B. Boydston, "Fort Gibson Barracks, Powder Magazine, and Bake Oven," 50 (Autumn 1972): 289–96; Q. B. Boydston, "The Restoration of Old Fort Gibson," 58 (Summer 1980): 176–91; Thom Rosenblum, "The Search for Authenticity at Historic Fort Gibson," 61 (Winter 1983–84):



Impress your sweetheart with a Valentine made at an OHS site!

The **Pioneer Woman Museum** in Ponca City will have a Valentine's Day Open House on February 14. Admission is free, and the event starts at 1 a.m. and runs until noon. Staff will present a class on how to make ribbon roses. Cost is \$10; preregistration is required. Admission covers all supplies and also brings you a 15 percent discount in the Gift Shop! Call them at 580/765-6108 for details.

Drummond Home in Hominy will host an Antique and Valentine exhibit of dolls all during the month of February. A special focus will be on Louisa May Alcott and her *Little Women*. On February 5 a valentine-making workshop begins at 6 p.m. with Martha Ray as instructor. There's a \$12 fee. Call them at 918/885-2374 to learn more about the event and exhibit!

Community Day at Fort Gibson February 21

Fort Gibson Historic Site is presenting its eighth annual Community Program in honor of Black History Month at 1 p.m. Saturday, February 21. This year's program is entitled "Opportunity Knocks." Included in the program will be a showing of a brief documentary on the Buffalo Soldiers, African American troops of the post-Civil War era. The army meant opportunity to many former slaves after the Civil War. Besides furnishing a livelihood, military service meant educational and travel opportunities for the men. Fort Gibson was an early headquarters for the Tenth U.S. Cavalry, which was perhaps the most famous all-black regiment.

Also on the program will be songs performed by students from Tulsa's Peary Elementary School and a presentation by site interpreter Omar Reed about volunteer opportunities at Fort Gibson. Refreshments will be served afterwards. The event will be held in the historic barracks building, 907 North Garrison Ave.

Fort Gibson Historic Site is located on State Highway 80 in Fort Gibson, Oklahoma. Winter hours of operation are Thursday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$2.50 for seniors 65 and over, and \$1 for students 6 through 18. Children 5 and under are admitted free. Admission will be free to everyone from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on the day of the event.

History Center's Skulls and Hides activity to reprise on February 28

As the special exhibit *Field, Forest & Stream* comes to an end at the History Center, the education staff will again offer a related hands-on activity program.

Skulls and Hides will introduce young and old alike to the symbolisms and uses associated with the "leftover parts" of various critters.

Contact Jason Harris, curator of education, at 405/522-0785 or e-mail him at <jharris@okhistory.org> for further information.

Hidden Collections . . .

The Jerry Elliot Collection

By Larry O'Dell and Jennifer Silvers

Several Oklahomans have been key personnel in the U.S. space program, not just the many astronauts, but politicians, engineers, and others. The Oklahoma Historical Society's Jerry Elliot Collection (80.11) would interest NASA researchers and people interested in Elliot's art, writing, and activities involving his Cherokee and Osage ancestry.

Jerry Elliot, or J. C. High Eagle, born in Oklahoma City on February 6, 1943, graduated with a degree in physics from the University of Oklahoma in 1965. The next year NASA hired him. He held key positions in several of the programs, including Project Gemini, the Apollo Program, Skylab, Apollo-Soyuz, Space Station Freedom, the Space Shuttle program, and the International Space Station. In 1970 President Richard Nixon awarded Elliot the Medal of Freedom for his work as Retrofire Officer during the Apollo 13 accident and the safe return of the astronauts. He has also received the Bausch and Lomb National Science Award, the Medal of Honor from the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Cherokee Medal of Honor, and the Ely Samuel Parker Award, bestowed by the American Indian Science and Engineering Society. Elliot has also performed on the American Indian flute at the John F. Kennedy Performing Arts Center in Washington, D.C., and as a soloist with the National Symphony and the Milwaukee Symphony. He is also noted for his poetry and writing.

The collection consists of twenty-nine document boxes and two oversize containers. Several hold biographical information, personal writings, newspaper clippings, awards, and correspondence. The majority relates to his NASA service and includes job diaries, drawings, transcripts, publications, notes, memos, progress reports, and other fascinating information. Also included are a few maps and posters. Another interesting component of the papers is the American Indian projects that Elliot worked for and discussed in his writings. The Research Division also has oral interviews with Elliot; these may be used at the library.

As usual, the guide to the Jerry Elliot Collection may be viewed on the Research Division's online catalogue at the Oklahoma Historical Society's website, <okhistory.org>. It may also be accessed at the Oklahoma History Center in the John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick Research Center.



Want to be a volunteer?

OHS Volunteer Open House is February 28

Plan to attend the Volunteer Open House at the Oklahoma History Center on February 28.

Join the growing army of Oklahoma History Center volunteers. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer is encouraged to attend this informational meeting.

E-mail volunteer coordinator Robbin Davis at <rdavis@okhistory.org> or call her at 405/522-0754. A surprising variety of projects is available to which you may turn your varied talents!

Annually the volunteers' services are recognized at a banquet held in their honor. As museum and staff all know, volunteers are the backbone of a successful organization. Do not miss this opportunity to serve the state's students and adult history buffs by giving your time to the Oklahoma Historical Society and Oklahoma History Center. The History Center is located at 2401 North Laird Ave. in Oklahoma City, across from the Capitol building.

Make a bow— or make a quilt

In February the Pawnee Bill Ranch Historic Site is offering workshops for both the tough and the gentle arts of the past.

Do you yearn to create a hand-made quilt top? Plan to join the Quilt Block of the Month Workshop at the PBR this month. OHS Historic Homes Director Martha Ray will assist each class member in designing and creating a new quilt block every month. This first-Tuesday-of-each-month gathering will occur this month on February 3. Call first for information.

If more manly arts intrigue you, the ranch will be hosting the always-popular Primitive Bow-Making Workshop on February 4 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The cost is \$20 per person and includes lunch. This class teaches the construction of the longbow beginning with choosing and seasoning the wood and completing the bow. Several bows in various stages of construction will illustrate.

Call 918/762-2513 to reserve your spot.

It Takes More

Than Money . . .

. . . to create collections and exhibits that can fulfill the Oklahoma Historical Society's goals of educating the public and providing research opportunities. It takes the donation of an artifact, an art work, a book, a document, or a whole collection of those things that help us tell Oklahoma's story. It also takes loyal members. Here are the contributions of some of your friends and associates who understand those needs:

Research Division Donors October–December 2008

Askew, Vernon E., Oklahoma City
Baker, T. Lindsay, Rio Vista, TX
Basore, Caroline H., Oklahoma City
Blankenship, Charles K., Waxahachie, TX
Bray, Francine, Indianapolis, IN
Bryan, Frances, Edmond
Carson, Philip, Edmond
Cory, Marilee H., Jacksonville, FL
Courtney, J. L., Oklahoma City
Dickey, Margurete, Oklahoma City
Elliot, Jerry C., Oklahoma City
Eudaily, Daniel H., Dillon, MT
Fisher, Bruce T., Oklahoma City
Frakes, Stacy, Oklahoma City
Glass, Pat, Oklahoma City
Gotcher, Bill, Tulsa
Greenfield, Juanita, Belmond, IA
Griffis, Molly, Norman
Huffaker, Walt, Marshalltown, IA
Hull, Don M., Norman
Jones, Anne Braly, Sherman, TX
Jones, Charles E., Oklahoma City
Kroeker, Marvin, Ada
Laub, Nancy, Oklahoma City
Lord, Ronald, Oklahoma City
Marion, William J., Edmond
McElroy, Mary, Oklahoma City
Montgomery, Anita, Yukon
Moore, Carol Sue Montgomery, Temple
Nichols, James, Moore
Oklahoma Genealogical Society, Oklahoma City
Phillips, Randa, Atwood
Professional Basketball Club, LLC, Oklahoma City
Quillan, Catherine, Edmond
Reed, Lynda Lu, Oklahoma City
Ross, Duaine E., Oklahoma City
Rosser, Linda Kennedy, Oklahoma City
Samples, Dick, Oklahoma City
Sasser, David, Perkins
Smallwood, Barbara, Tulsa
Smith, Stephen H., York, PA
Steves, Chris L., Oklahoma City
Strange, Michelle A., Norman
United Daughters of the Confederacy, Chapter 1181, Oklahoma City
Vester, Barbara J., San Leandro, CA
Wallace, Don, Kingston
Wert, Lynette, Oklahoma City
West, Mary M., Tulsa
Wheatley, Sarah, Stillwater
Williams, Mason, Eugene, OR
Wise, Shelley, Oklahoma City
Yearwood, Lonnie, Edmond
Young, Lillian D., Tahlequah

**Mark the calendar!
State History Day Contest
is Wednesday, May 6, 2009**

New Members, cont'd.**Family**

Phil and Ruth Carson, Altus
 J. C. and Freda Christopher, Norman
 Donald and Kitty Clark, Anadarko
 B. J. and Ann Coffia, Edmond
 Robert and Janice Coleman, Yukon
 Harold and Marilyn Cooper, Enid
 John and Heather Cooper, Ardmore
 Don and Yvonne Courtney, El Reno
 Tom and Ann Creider, Midwest City
 Doug and Earnesteen Dalton, Altus
 A. B. and Evelyn Decker, Edmond
 Jack and Katherine Dickey, Weatherford
 Harold and Linda Dills, Oklahoma City
 John and Susan Dobson, Oklahoma City
 Clarence Drumeller, Yukon
 Phyllis Durland, Muskogee
 Sandra Ewing and William Reichardt, Lawton
 Donnie and Judy Ferguson, Waynoka
 Robert and Marlene Floyd, Oklahoma City
 John and Cheryl Forrest, Tulsa
 Hoot Gibson, Edmond
 Frank and Sherri Gilbert, Duncan
 Arthur and Carolyn Gorman, Bartlesville
 Thomas and Billye Gray, Weatherford
 Coy E. Hammonds, Kellyville
 Harrell Harris, Madill
 Bill and Shirley Harwell, Broken Arrow
 John and Peggy Haxton, Perry
 Richard L. Heath, Stillwater
 Jim and Beverly Hicks, Midwest City
 Marvin B. Jones, Broken Arrow
 David and Janet Kem, Edmond
 Al Kiedaisch and Barbara Slagle, Tulsa
 Danny E. King, Chocktaw
 Dr. and Mrs. Wayne King, Oklahoma City
 Robert and Mary Alice Kinniburgh, Oklahoma City
 Dennis and Mary Jane Kitt, Grove
 Steven and Connie Knowles, Edmond
 Michael and Joan Korenblit, Edmond
 Jeff and Sue Krauss, Oklahoma City
 Charles and Lorraine Lear, Del City
 Dr. Richard Lester, Edmond
 Mr. and Mrs. Macy Lewis, Wichita, KS
 Donald and Martha Lippert, Edmond
 Michael and Velda Lorenz, Stillwater
 John and Jacqueline Ludrick, Weatherford
 Keith and Michale Marcy, Clinton
 *Conrad and Jayne Markert, Stroud
 *Wanda McClung, Hastings
 Joe and Karan McDonald, Edmond
 Eugene and Susan McDowell, Wann
 Robert and Arlene Meier, Oklahoma City
 Mr. and Mrs. Overstreet, Spencer
 Becky Patten and Marvin York, Norman
 H. W. and Norma Peace, Oklahoma City
 Bill and Gayle Piester, Muskogee
 Lynn and Nancy Pinson, Tipton
 Robert and Dedra Porter, Edmond
 Linda Price, Norman
 Laurance and Gayle Reid, Norman
 Thomas and Betty Roberts, Edmond
 Larrie and Tina Rouillard, Oklahoma City
 William and Joan Scanlon, Norman
 Tom and Amy Schroeder, Yukon
 Larry W. Simpson, Enid
 Allen and Barbara Smallwood, Tulsa
 Michael and Lynn Smith, Stillwater
 Walter Riley Smith, Poteau
 Steve and Veronica Sullivan, Oklahoma City
 *Heath Tejeda, Midwest City
 Roy and Darlene Thornton, Midwest City
 Linda Upchurch, Lamar
 Virgil and Sallie Upchurch, Norman
 Charles and Claudene Vaughan, Drummond
 Donald Vick, Oklahoma City
 Stephen E. Walker, Cushing
 Lawson and Lillian Ward, Gadsden, AL
 Brent and Nicole Weber, Oklahoma City
 Alan and Kathy Weedin, Lawton
 Robert W. White, Oklahoma City
 Dale Willhite, Yukon
 Sam and Ann Williams, Tulsa
 Stanford Williams, Norman
 Kenneth and Patty Wilson, Blanchard
 Kenneth and Jeff Woodcock, Bristow
 John and Cheryl Yaroslavski, Norman
 Nina Zapffe, Norman

Individual

Richard Ahrendt, Oklahoma City
 Suzanne J. Bartlett, Tonkawa
 W. J. Bowman, Oklahoma City
 Dr. Kari Boyce, Oklahoma City
 Arthia Bridges, Oklahoma City
 Jeanne S. Broome, Tucson, AZ
 Arlene Brown, Ardmore
 Teresa Burkett, Tulsa
 Nancy Coopridor, Oklahoma City
 Craig Corgan, Yukon
 Patrick Cowan, Oklahoma City
 Linda Donly, Edmond
 Cynthia Dronberger, Guthrie
 Cason Earp, Noble
 Jacob M. Edingfield, Oklahoma City
 Judi Elmore, Ardmore
 Carol Eyster, Wetumka
 Robert Flores, Edmond
 Mrs. Arthur Foster, Bristow
 Sandy Garrett, Oklahoma City
 Tom Gross, Tulsa
 Mary W. Hamilton, Oklahoma City
 Prentice Hapgood, Edmond
 Margaret Harlan, Oklahoma City
 Hubert Harris, Bethany
 Marilyn A. Harris, Raymore, MO
 Violette June Harris, Yale
 James Harrod, Edmond
 Brad Hawkins, Norman
 Donna Hinckley, Guymon
 Tim Holderby, Fort Gibson
 Garland Hollars, Moore
 James Hood, Oklahoma City
 Eileen R. Huff, Drumright
 Erma Hunter, Cleo Springs
 Pat Jaynes, Stillwater
 David J. Julian, Elk City
 Etta Marie Kennedy, Edmond
 Lamar Kerley, Bakersfield
 Scott Landon, Wagoner
 Scott Lane, Mead
 Marilyn J. Laughbaum, Oklahoma City
 Albert LaValley, Norman
 Patti Loughlin, Ph. D., Stillwater
 Nancy Lombardy, Oklahoma City
 Helen L. Love, Goldsby
 Greg Maphet, Shawnee
 Dolores J. McGlocklin, Harrah
 Sheila Melson, Chandler
 William M. Metcalf, Hobart
 James L. Mohon, Norman
 Gary D. Nealis, Bartlesville
 Carol Norman, Pauls Valley
 Doyle Wayne Owens, Huntsville, AL
 Willa Dene Pace, Edmond
 Holton Payne, Shidler
 Earl L. Pixley, Yukon
 Matt Prince, Edmond
 Roger Porterfield, Healdton
 Mary Quisenberry, Oklahoma City
 Marie Renfro, Oklahoma City
 Dr. Henry Roberson, Norman
 Cindy S. Schuering, Checotah
 Larry Schumacher, McAlester
 Rose Marie Shaw, Apache
 Ellen Sherman, Purcell
 Sol M. Smith, Sand Springs
 Bob Sturdivant, Fort Worth, TX
 Carolyn A. Taylor, Oklahoma City
 Lewis B. Taylor, Stillwater
 Zona E. Tillman, Oklahoma City
 Larry Toll, Springfield, MO
 Michael Tompkins, Oklahoma City
 Edward Tracy, Madill
 John Waldo, Nichols Hills
 Bennie D. Warner, Oklahoma City
 Martha Weiss, Oklahoma City
 Dorothy J. Whaley, Oklahoma City
 Barry Williams, Farmington, NM
 Carl L. Williams, Jay
 Diatra Williamson, Blackwell
 Stan and Paula Willingham, Clinton
 Jalynn Youngberg, Clinton
 Nancy Zerr, Oklahoma City

Institutional

Eufaula Area Arts Council, Incorporated, Eufaula
 *Van and Liz Hughes, Edmond

Twenty-year Members Renew in December

Listed below, with the date they joined the OHS, are people and organizations who had been members for twenty or more years upon renewing their memberships in December 2008. Their long-term loyalty is most sincerely appreciated!

Steven Cole, Oklahoma City, January 26, 1966
 Leo A. Demmer, Union City, February 1, 1969
 State University of New York, Albany, NY, October 1, 1972
 Northern Illinois University, Dekalb, IL, December 1, 1972
 Arthur W. Salisbury, Tulsa, November 1, 1973
 East Texas Baptist University Library, Marshall, TX,
 December 1, 1974
 James H. Lazalier, Norman, June 1, 1975
 George and Marjorie Breidenbach, Bixby, December 1, 1976
 Eugene Earsom, Oklahoma City, November 1, 1977
 Mary Ann Blochowiak, Edmond, June 3, 1978
 William and Camille Harrison, Chickasha, December 1, 1979
 John and Betty Minnett, Chickasha, December 1, 1979
 Wayne and Liz Rogers, Oklahoma City, October 1, 1981
 Dorothy Conley, Edmond, December 13, 1981
 Laquitta H. Ladner, Burneyville, April 1, 1982
 George Selby, Oklahoma City, November 1, 1982
 Stanford University, Stanford, CA, November 2, 1982
 R. Gary Mills, Ashland, KS, December 1, 1982
 Clarence L. Petrowsky, Weatherford, September 1, 1983
 Billie Dennis, Ardmore, December 1, 1983
 Edgar L. Cook, Lindsay, December 9, 1983
 University of Toronto Library, Toronto, Ontario,
 January 1, 1984
 Stephen E. Schuster, Stafford, TX, September 1, 1984
 Linda K. Starr, Norman, December 23, 1985
 Joseph F. Scheller, Oklahoma City, March 31, 1986
 Okmulgee Public Library, Okmulgee, June 16, 1986
 Lester Johnson, Stillwater, September 24, 1986
 Francis E. Briscoe, Ardmore, October 20, 1986
 Betty R. Kemp, Norman, November 4, 1986
 Violet Spinler, Winthrop, MN, November 4, 1986
 Fred W. Southerland, Miami, FL, November 6, 1986
 Mary F. McCormick, Seminole, November 20, 1986
 Becky Meyer, Norman, November 24, 1986
 Michael L. Morgan, Shawnee, December 1, 1986
 Ray Stratton, Kansas, December 1, 1986
 University of Guelph Library, Ontario, Canada,
 December 21, 1986
 J. L. Fletcher, Imanol, Spain, January 5, 1987
 Geraldine C. Gesell, Knoxville, TN, January 8, 1987
 Robert L. Huckaby, Oklahoma City, September 2, 1988
 Tim and Nancy Leonard, Oklahoma City, December 14, 1988
 Don C. and Grace Boulton, Oklahoma City,
 December 15, 1988



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PERIODICALS

Mistletoe Leaves

Vol. 40, No. 2

February 2009



Smithsonian Affiliations
Membership Program

Reminder

**The OHS Annual Meeting will be held April 22, 23, and 24
at the Bartlesville Community Center**

Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center at Oakwood Mall hosts Dust Bowl exhibit in February

The *Dust Bowl*, a traveling exhibit from the Humanities Texas organization, will be on display in the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center's Outreach Space at Oakwood Mall in Enid from February 6 through March 16, 2009. Striking during the depths of the Great Depression, the windstorms of the Dust Bowl blasted the hopes and hard work of people in the Great Plains. For those who lived through it, the experience remains unmatched as an example of ecological calamity. Nowadays, it is not easy for younger generations to comprehend what happened. But humanities resources can bridge the gap between generations and promote understanding of the pioneering will to prevail in the face of the immutable laws of nature.

The exhibit's topics include dust storms, devastated fields and crops, abandoned farms in the Great Plains, displaced men, women and children, migrating west and staying put, 4-H clubs, WPA, and other government programs, country schools, and changes through time.

Call Glen McIntyre at 580/237-2907 for additional information.

To Arms! Fort Washita Brigade Muster is February 28!

The infantry battalion of the Frontier Brigade will hold its annual muster at Fort Washita on February 27 through March 1. Reenactors from Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Kansas comprise the battalion. It typically fields from ninety to one hundred soldiers. They will be commanded by Col. Don Gross of Fort Worth, Texas.

The Frontier Battalion musters annually at the fort for training. It gives them the opportunity to work on drill and tactics without all the other things going on at a reenactment (such as battles). This weekend of concentrated drill helps keep them proficient in the linear tactics used during the Civil War. In comparison, during the war the men stayed sharp by drilling every day. During and before the Civil War soldiers were typically mustered to receive their pay every other month.

Each year a specific scenario is developed to help the soldiers get into the proper mindset for the weekend. This year will include the 37th Arkansan Battalion (Confederate). The scenario will be in 1860 and the Confederates will portray the militia while the Federals will all be regular army who were stationed on the frontier.

During the muster the battalion of reenactors tries to duplicate life on a frontier post as closely as possible. The men are quartered in the barracks. The officers have their own quarters. Throughout the day they follow the customs and courtesies of the period. Rations are provided for the troops and a central mess is established. As at any fort, women are present, all in period dress and proper character (no fine ball gowns here, just working dress).

As then, the day is controlled by the bugle. Bugle calls are used to call the men to all duties and meals and officers and non-commissioned officers to meetings. Bugle calls direct troop maneuvers during drill. A typical day will have reveille at 0700. The men have fifteen minutes to get their gear squared away and fall in for roll call. Attendance reports are due from the first sergeants to HQ by 0730. After breakfast the battalion will be formed and orders for the day published. The men will spend the morning in company and battalion drill. The afternoon will include advanced battalion maneuvers and may include classes on things the men need to know about life during the Civil War. A popular semiannual class deals with interacting with the opposite sex, taught by one of the ladies. As was customary during the Civil War, a dress parade will take place in the evening.

Fort Washita Historic Site is located at 3348 State Highway 199 near Durant. Call 580/924-6502 for information. Admission to view the military drill is free.

