



Oklahoma Territorial Museum opens new major exhibit to commemorate Oklahoma Centennial of Statehood

The Road to Statehood exhibit at the Oklahoma Territorial Museum opened to the public in mid-November. The new interpretive display offers a comprehensive narrative of all of the events surrounding Oklahoma's arrival at statehood on November 16, 1907. "The exhibit expands on the traditional story by dispelling myths about the removal of the capital to Oklahoma City and the effects the capital's removal had on Guthrie's economy, property values, and population," according to Justin Lenhart, curator. It also investigates topics that rarely have been previously depicted as part of the statehood process, such as the Dawes Commission, the Curtis Act, the Snake Rebellion, and the Sequoyah Convention. All of these are examined in some detail in order to fully explain Oklahoma statehood.

On the technical side, the new exhibit has incorporated some technological advances in exhibit design. All nine cases utilize fiber optic lighting. This allows curators to illuminate artifacts without incurring the damaging effects of heat or UV light. An interactive component helps visitors fully understand the Oklahoma Constitutional Convention by allowing them to listen to interviews with individuals who were at the convention. All of the new interpreta-

tive panels were printed using reverse lettering and large fonts, making them easy to read in low light levels.

These elements, in combination with a new design, make this exhibit different from anything previously done at the Oklahoma Territorial Museum. "What truly sets this exhibit apart is the way it came to fruition," said Lenhart. "*The Road to Statehood* was not the brainchild of a single individual, but rather the work of many. This was the first Outreach Division exhibit that incorporated different departments of the Oklahoma Historical Society. All aspects of the exhibit were created and implemented by the OHS staff," he noted.

The Oklahoma Territorial Museum staff collectively wrote the script and interpretation. Exhibits designer Eddie Hillhouse designed the exhibit and installed the fiber optic lighting as well as the interpretive panels. Graphic designer Bill Seimens designed each of the interpretative panels, and designer Cynthia Manning did all the printing. Tom Murby and W. Lee Smith of the exhibit shop fabricated the walls and cases and installed the flooring. Jennifer Silvers, Chad Williams, and Terry Zinn of the OHS Research Division provided the documents, the newspaper scans, and the photographs. Historic Houses Director Martha Ray as-

sisted with artifact installation, and Mike Bell, collections curator at the Oklahoma Museum of History, assisted with artifact preparation and installation. This collaboration laid a new foundation for future exhibits at the Oklahoma Territorial Museum and also at other OHS facilities.

The Road to Statehood is found on the second floor of the Oklahoma Territorial Museum, located at 402 E. Oklahoma Avenue in Guthrie. For more information call the museum staff at 405/282-1889.



Bob Blackburn, OHS Outreach Director Kathy Dickson, OTM Director Valerie Haynes, and Curator Justin Lenhart at the exhibit opening (T. Zinn photo).

Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center planned for Enid

The development project in Enid to create the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center is moving rapidly along, according to Outreach Director Kathy Dickson. The campaign started out with a fund-raising goal of \$5 million. With the enthusiastic community support and the uncertain nature of construction costs, the goal has been raised to \$7.5 million, and an impressive \$5.3 million has already been raised. Fritz Baily, an architectural firm in Tulsa,

is designing the building, which will include 6,000 square feet in new construction and complete renovation of the existing 10,000 square feet of the Museum of the Cherokee Strip. Quatrefoil and Associates, a Maryland firm, is designing the new interpretative exhibitions, which will feature a Land Run Theater and an exhibition gallery titled *Land and the People*, telling the regional story of settlement throughout the Strip. Other exhibits feature oil and gas

in the Strip and Enid's development and transformation into a regional trade center, as well as the history and legacy of Phillips University.

One of the most important aspects of the transformation to a regional heritage center is providing for a research facility and archive. The archival collection's diaries, letters, photographs, memoirs, newspapers, journals, and other records will make it possible for present and future generations to study and understand the people and their culture, enterprises, accomplishments, and challenges, which collectively comprise the region's heritage. There are still sponsorship opportunities available for this important project. Contact Michael Walters in the campaign office for more information. His number is 580/234-8999.

Exhibits are being planned, construction documents are being developed, selection of a construction manager is under way, and storerooms are being emptied for the move out of the building. Stop in soon to get a look at the old before it makes way for the new.





Director's Column

By **Bob L. Blackburn**
Executive Director

As the new year begins, especially our centennial year, it reminds me again how lucky I am to be part of the Oklahoma Historical Society, the Oklahoma History Center, and Oklahoma's historical community.

On the one hand, I get to enjoy the study of history as an author and storyteller—and I get paid to do it. On the other hand, I have the privilege of doing my part to gather collections and make them accessible to the widest possible audience through books, exhibits, and research possibilities. Both are equally satisfying.

For example, before writing this column today, I spent two hours with OU President David Boren discussing his collections and our efforts to tell the story of *Oklahoma's First Families*, a museum exhibit that will open in February. Listening to his stories about the men and women who influenced his path to the office of governor was like being a witness to history. I have had the pleasure of similar conversations with George Nigh, Henry Bellmon, David Walters, Frank Keating, and David Hall.

As a historian, I also am aware of how lucky I am to serve a cause that has drawn the energies and talents of many good people for 114 years. As I look around me, I see staff members who have devoted their careers to the "collecting, preserving, and

sharing of Oklahoma history." Their ability and dedication to serving a greater cause warms my heart.

They remind me of the innovative ability of Joseph Thoburn, a journalist who served OHS as a pioneer historian and archaeologist during the first three decades of the twentieth century. They fill the shoes of Muriel Wright, the editor of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, who championed the cause of history for more than fifty years. And they carry on the traditions of Rella Looney, who lovingly cared for four million documents in the Indian archives for more than half a century.

I look at the OHS Board of Directors and see men and women who care deeply about our mission. Each time we meet or talk on the telephone, I am amazed at the talent they bring to the cause and their willingness to volunteer their time and energy to the organization. Their service does credit to former board members such as Charles Colcord, Robert L. Williams, Edna Bowman, E. E. Dale, and George Shirk.

My good fortune extends to the time and place of my years at the OHS. Three years after I started as editor, the state celebrated the Diamond Jubilee. Then came a flurry of centennials commemorating the land runs, the founding of towns, and the durability of businesses and institutions. Each celebration offered another perspective on how history contributes to a sense of community.

Then there is the Oklahoma History Center. I hope my career is far from the end, but there likely will never be another project that provides the challenges, opportunities, and fellowship of that adventure. To those who had an oar in the water, you know what I mean.

As the new year begins, I am reminded of how lucky I am to be part of the Oklahoma Historical Society.

Dr. Bob

Development News

By Tim Zwink

I hope you had a happy holiday season. Best wishes for a prosperous new year. We are excited about this upcoming fund-raising year.

One major goal is to raise \$5 million for an Oklahoma History Center Endowment Fund. The purpose of the endowment is to create a regular source of support for the high-quality exhibits and programs at the History Center. It will also allow the OHS to continue its acquisition and preservation of valuable artifacts and collections for future generations of Oklahomans.

Since we will only use the interest generated from your endowment fund contributions, by giving to the fund you truly will be making a gift that will provide significant support far into the future. We already have received a generous \$500,000 matching grant from the Kirkpatrick Family Fund for our project. This is a great start to our fund-raising efforts. At this point, every dollar contributed to our endowment drive will be matched by this grant up to \$500,000.

How can you help with the Oklahoma History Center Endowment Drive? You can sponsor a leaf on the Oklahoma Family Tree, a memorial limestone paver, or a Red River Journey marker or bench. All sponsorship proceeds will go into the Endowment Fund. Or, you can simply make a monetary contribution.

All donations and pledges of \$1,000 or more to the endowment will be recognized on our Donor Wall, which will become permanent in November 2007. Of course, contributions of all amounts will be most welcomed. Join us in establishing the Oklahoma History Center Endowment Fund so that your Oklahoma Historical Society can continue its quality programs and activities. Give a gift that will keep on giving. If you have any questions, contact me at 405/522-5217 or at <tzwink@okhistory.org>.



New Members

Individual

Claypool, Larry, Guthrie
Codopony, Jackie, Sr., Apache
Cole, Lyndall, Oklahoma City
Dwight, Edward, Denver, CO
Fulkerson, Steve, Oklahoma City
Grubb, Melissa, Skiatook
Kendall, Clarke, Tulsa
Lee, Victor, Moore
McDannald, Vernon A., Humboldt, AZ
Roads, Roberta, Edmond
Shakelford, Lynn D., Choctaw
Smith, Terry W., Edmond
Wilhite, Rodney, Orlando, FL
Wilkins, Sandra, Meeker
Wolf, Mary Logan, Oklahoma City

Family

Balke, Helen, Oklahoma City
Bates, John, Anadarko
Collier, Kathryn A., Roswell, NM
Ezell, Danielle, Edmond
Heanue, Tommy Jay, Oklahoma City
Henderson, Mike & Vonda, Oklahoma City
Koenig, Pam, Oklahoma City
Leonard, Susan, Yukon
Montgomery, Gail, Del City
Moreno, Bill & Karen, Cache
Tims, Darwin J. & Debbie A., Norman
Watson, Mr. & Mrs. Hank, Oklahoma City

Friend

Merrill, Joan, Oklahoma City
Williams, Martha V., Oklahoma City

Institutional

Enid Public Library, Enid
Morrison Schools, Morrison
Fort Smith National Historic Site, AR
Jewish Federation, Oklahoma City

Corrections—On page 1 of the December 2006 issue, the date of the Red River Wreck raising was erroneously given as December 13; the event occurred on Monday, November 13. On page 4, Tobias Frazier was inadvertently identified as Comanche. He was a Choctaw Code Talker.

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

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Events

In **Oklahoma City** the Oklahoma Genealogical Society's monthly meeting will be held on Monday, January 8, 2007, at 6 p.m. in the Chesapeake Events Center at the Oklahoma History Center, 2401 N. Laird Avenue. Jack D. Baker, an experienced American Indian researcher, will give a presentation on how to use the Dawes Rolls to locate your American Indian ancestors. The OHC Research Center will be staffed and remain open until 7:45 p.m. that evening. (Special to ML)

In **Oklahoma City** the Oklahoma Humanities Council will hold its 22nd Annual Oklahoma Lecture in the Humanities on Thursday, February 22. The event is also recognized as the official Centennial Lecture in the Humanities. The gathering will take place at the Oklahoma History Center, 2401 N. Laird Avenue. Wilma Mankiller, former principal chief of the Cherokee Nation, will be the distinguished speaker, delivering the lecture at 8 p.m. The event will be free and open to the public. However, underwriter tickets will soon be available, which will entitle a purchaser to a reserved seat as well as an autographed copy of Mankiller's book, *Every Day is a Good Day: Reflections of Contemporary Indigenous Women*. Call 405/235-0280 for additional information.

(Humanities Interview, Fall 2006)

Tahlequah's Cherokee Heritage Center is hosting a two-day class on Southeastern Beadwork on Friday and Saturday, February 9-10, 2007. The class will meet on Friday from 6 to 9 p.m. and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Participants will learn traditional beadwork styles of the Cherokee for bandolier bags, belts, and sashes. History of beadwork and material selections will also be part of the instruction. Registration fee is \$65. Class size is limited, and preregistration is required. Reserve a spot by calling Tonia Weavel at 918/456-6007 or toll free 888/999-6007 or reach her at <education@cherokeeheritage.org>. (Special to ML)

Exhibits

Oklahoma City's National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum is the venue for a special exhibit entitled *Indian Modernism: Selections from the Silberman Collection*, which will run through March 25, 2007. The exhibit showcases more than forty works that illustrate the diverse expressions of late-twentieth-century American Indian artists. Included are sculptures by

Bob Haozous and John Hoover as well as paintings by Joe Hilario Herrera, Tony Da, Kevin Red Star, and Harry Fonseca. Also, the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum welcomes the public to an exhibit open house from 4 to 8 p.m. on February 2, 2007. *Pinturas de Fe: The Retablo Tradition in Mexico and New Mexico*, a traveling exhibit from the Museum of New Mexico, will premier at the open house. Retablos are two-dimensional paintings with religious themes, usually painted on wooden boards or tins. During the come-and-go event, visitors can view the exhibit at their leisure. From 6 to 8 p.m. exhibit curator Lane Coulter and award-winning *santero* Charlie Carrillo, both of Santa Fe, New Mexico, will give presentations about historic and contemporary New Mexican religious art traditions. Admission is free to museum members and children 17 and under; admission for non-member adults is \$5. A special evening buffet will be available from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Dining on Persimmon Hill restaurant. The exhibit remains on display through April 2007. For more information visit <www.nationalcowboymuseum.org>. (Special to ML)

Stillwater's Sheerar Museum, located at 702 S. Duncan Street, has a special exhibit titled *Oklahoma Icons: From Mistletoe to Dinosaurs, An Exhibit of Official State Symbols* on display through April 2007. The museum is open Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. Admission is free. The Museum Shop offers centennial and Oklahoma-made products as well as vintage books and other items. (Special to ML)

Happenings

The **Oklahoma Arts Council** is directing two Official Centennial Projects to commemorate Oklahoma's centennial of statehood. One of the projects involves the "Te Ata Garden," which will be located on the east side of the Capitol, a daily entry point for the governor, legislators, and visitors. The garden's focal point will be a water feature and a larger-than-life-size sculpture of Chickasaw storyteller Te Ata. The second project will be the opening of a new gallery on the first floor, west wing, of the Capitol. The gallery, which is scheduled to open by Statehood Day, November 16, 2007, will provide a permanent home for the State Art Collection.

(Oklahoma Arts Council Newsletter, Fall 2006)

In **Oklahoma City** on January 11-13 Dr. David Hilligoss, a professional storyteller, will be performing and displaying his 1914 Carrie Nation Fundraiser Quilt and his collection of prestatehood family memorabilia. The presentation will occur at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City. (Special to ML)

Bixby Historical Society, in Tulsa County, celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of the incorporation of the Town of Bixby. That event occurred in December 1906, although the town was founded much earlier. (Special to ML)

Opportunities

Norman's Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center at the University of Oklahoma is seeking applicants for its Visiting Scholars Program, which provides financial assistance to researchers working at the center's archives. Awards of \$500 to \$1,000 are generally granted as reimbursement for travel and lodging. The Visiting Scholars Program is open to any applicant. Emphasis is given to those pursuing postdoctoral research in history, political science, and other fields. Graduate students, interested undergraduates, and lay researchers can also apply. The Carl Albert Center evaluates each research proposal based upon its merits, and funding for a variety of topics is expected. The center's collections are described in the publication *A Guide to the Carl Albert Center Congressional Archives* (1995), prepared by Judy Day, et al., and at <www.ou.edu/special/albertctr/archives/>. Applications are accepted at any time. No standardized form is needed. Application documents should include a description of the research proposal in fewer than one thousand words, a *vita*, an explanation of how the center's resources will assist the researcher, a budget proposal, and a letter of reference from an established scholar in the discipline, attesting to the significance of the research. For information on applying contact Archivist, Carl Albert Center, 630 Parrington Oval, Room 101, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK 73019. Inquiries may also be made by phone at 405/325-5835 or by e-mail at <channeman@ou.edu>. (Special to ML)



Hidden Collections . . .

The Dallas Bowman Papers

By Larry O'Dell

Because the Civil War has often been a favored subject of Oklahomans, the Dallas Bowman Papers (96.72) demand attention, even though it is not a large collection. Dallas Bowman, born on March 28, 1843 or 1844, in Kentucky, enlisted in the army of the Confederate States of America in June 1861 at Fort Arbuckle. Bowman's family had moved to Texas in the early 1840s.

Bowman joined the First Regiment Choctaw and Chickasaw Mounted Rifles, which was also organized in the summer of 1861. He served most of the war in Indian Territory, and his letters provide a rare personal account of the region's Civil War events.

The fifteen letters, written to his mother and uncle, and to Bowman from his mother, span the years 1861 through 1864. The subjects include the company's movements and the various forts and towns that the troops occupied. Some of the highlights include Bow-

man's description of an 1861 war dance at Fort Washita, his dismay at signs of smallpox at Fort Smith, his complaint about a lack of food for the horses in the winter of 1863, and his report of a slave sale at Northfork Town in 1863. He also wrote home about Christmas parties held at Scullyville for the soldiers, the removal of Lt. Gen. Kirby Smith, and his hope for peace in the winter of 1864.

One of the more important missives, penned on August 18, 1863, at Camp Cooper, in the Creek Nation, concerns the Battle of Honey Springs and offers Bowman's personal observations on the Confederates' defeat. The same letter reports that Bowman and others had visited Fort Gibson, going there under a flag of truce. Bowman conveys his impressions of the interaction between Southern and Northern soldiers; the Union men offered the Confederates whiskey and cigars.



In 1864 Dallas Bowman married Catherine McKinney, a Choctaw. After the war he stayed in the Choctaw Nation. He died in January 1869, less than a month after his wife had passed.

One son, Edward Spencer Bowman, survived them. In 1996 Bowman's descendants, George Bowman and Phillip Manke, donated the letters, as well as the two photographs presented below, to the Oklahoma Historical Society's archive.



OHS Faces . . .

Alma Moore, Membership Secretary, Development Office

If you have an OHS membership, you have either talked to Alma Moore or received her services. She maintains and updates the membership mailing database so that members receive their monthly newsletter, the *Mistletoe Leaves*, and the quarterly historical journal, *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*. Moore is also the individual primarily responsible for stuffing envelopes with annual meeting ballots and registration forms. On a daily basis she answers telephone inquiries and written correspondence from a membership base of approximately four thousand individuals and institutions. If a member comes to the Oklahoma History Center and realizes that they have lost their membership card, she promptly types them a

new card and takes it to them at the admission desk. Through the years she has become acquainted with many of the OHS members and gives a personal touch to their requests.

Moore started working at the Oklahoma Historical Society in October 1997 after working for Liberty Mutual Insurance in Oklahoma City. Prior to her employment at the insurance company she had worked for a state agency. Consequently, she received a letter from the state personnel office regarding a position at the Oklahoma Historical Society.

Mistletoe Leaves asked her what she enjoyed most about her job. She said that she likes working with people and answering their inquiries. Through her conversations with members, they have shared personal information about themselves, such as having attended one-room schools or

about family members who have participated in a land run or who operated a particular business.

Alma Moore can relate to many of their stories regarding their experiences, because her family of five lived in rural Oklahoma. She was born in Bennington, Oklahoma, and she graduated from Durant High School. Her father rented a farm, where they grew cotton and peanuts. She recalls that her family used a team and a wagon until they purchased their first car in 1953. She remembers that when she was very young, her dad unhitched the horses from the wagon before boarding a ferry to cross the Red River on their travels to visit her grandmother in Texas.

Outside the workplace she is a member of the OK City Sweet Adelines. Alma has been singing with the Sweet Adelines for fourteen years and recently attended the international competition in Las Vegas. And, as often as possible, she enjoys the company of her lively three-year-old granddaughter, Emily.



National Trust grants available

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is currently accepting grant applications from nonprofit organizations and public agencies for four grant programs that have a February 1, 2007, postmark deadline.

National Trust Preservation Funds are designed to encourage local-level preservation by providing seed money for projects focused on planning or education efforts. Support is offered for obtaining professional expertise in architecture, archaeology, engineering, preservation planning, and fund raising. Funds may also support preservation education activities. Awards range from \$500 to \$5,000 and average from \$1,000 to \$2,000.

Grants from the Johanna Favrot Fund for Historic Preservation and the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund for Historic Interiors range from \$2,500 to \$10,000. The Favrot Fund supports preservation planning or education. The Mitchell Fund assists in the preservation, restoration, and interpretation of historic interiors. Nonprofit organizations, public agencies, individuals, and for-profit businesses may receive grants from the Favrot and Mitchell funds if the project will involve a National Historic Landmark.

Grants from the Hart Family Fund for Small Towns range from \$5,000 to \$10,000 and are intended to assist small-town preservation and revitalization initiatives around the nation. The fund focuses on towns with populations of 5,000 or less.

Applicants should contact their National Trust regional office; a listing of these can be viewed at www.nationaltrust.org/regional_offices/index.html.

Chisholm Trail Museum receives research collection

Kingfisher's Chisholm Trail Museum recently received a donation of research material relating to American Indian cultures, according to Ginger Murphy, Historical Interpreter at the OHS facility.

The donor, Dr. Virginia Giglio of Kingfisher, has been acquiring the materials since 1985. The collection's primary focus is books on the Cheyenne and Northeastern and Southeastern Woodlands tribes.

"I want teachers to be able to use the videos and reference books, such as the *Time-Life Series 500 Nations*, novels, and music to help enlighten their students to the historic cultures around them," Giglio said. She noted that she "has had the privilege of studying and working" with the Indian peoples that are represented in her collection.

Eventually researchers "will also have access to [Giglio's] tapes, field notes, articles, and files as well as books on every culture within the contiguous United States and Alaska," said Murphy. Giglio was motivated to give the collection to the Chisholm Trail Museum because she knew that the facility would make the collection available to the public within her lifetime.

For further information contact Ginger Murphy, Chisholm Trail Museum, 605 Zellers Avenue, Kingfisher, OK 73750 or call her at 405/375-5176.

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

Join the growing army of Oklahoma History Center volunteers by attending the orientation session to be held on February 10, 2007. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer is invited to attend the session.

E-mail volunteer coordinator Robbin Davis at <rdavis@okhistory.org> or call her at 405/522-0754. A surprising variety of volunteer projects is available. Annually the volunteers' services are recognized at a banquet held in their honor, as pictured below.



OHS Places . . .

Chisholm Trail Museum and Seay Mansion

605 Zellers Avenue
Kingfisher, OK 73750-4228
Phone: 405/375-5176
E-mail: <reneem@okhistory.org>
Hours: Tuesday–Saturday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.;
Sunday, 1–5 p.m.
Closed: Mondays and state holidays.
Admission: Donations.



As Oklahomans and others commemorate the centennial of Oklahoma statehood in 2007, they should plan to visit historic Kingfisher, a town established during the land run on April 22, 1889. In Kingfisher visitors can enjoy the Chisholm Trail Museum and the Seay Mansion, located across the street from the museum. The museum's exhibits offer artifacts relating to the Chisholm Trail, American Indian culture, and early-day farming and ranching. From the museum a rustic, wooden sidewalk leads visitors to the Village located on the museum grounds. There they will see a one-room school, a bank, and a cabin used by the family of the famed Dalton boys.

Abraham J. Seay (1832–1915) was appointed as the second Oklahoma territorial governor in 1892. He hoped that the territorial capital would be moved from Guthrie to Kingfisher. Therefore, he built a two-and-one-half-story, wood-frame, brick-veneer, Victorian-style house in anticipation that it would be used as the governor's mansion. His home, called "Horizon Hill," is situated southwest of Kingfisher. The capital was not moved to Kingfisher, but the Seay Mansion continues as a reminder of Oklahoma's early history. The house was completed in March 1892, in time to host visiting dignitaries who were present at the Cheyenne and Arapaho land opening on April 19, 1892.

Visitors to Seay's home will be welcomed to the front parlor, the music room, and the dining room. On the northeast corner of the house is a round turret where a library is situated on the first floor. From the entry hall a winding staircase with hand-turned balusters leads



to the second-floor bedrooms. Seay used the third floor of the turret as an observation room. The remainder of the third floor doubled as a ballroom as well as additional sleeping space. For its historical and architectural significance the Seay Mansion was listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NR 71000664). The property was transferred from the Oklahoma Tourism Department to the Oklahoma Historical Society in 1991.

Members of the Chisholm Trail Museum, Inc., and volunteers support OHS staff in the operation of the museum and mansion. Past events have included tatting and Victorian dance workshops as well as annual living history programs and the annual Governor Seay Inaugural Ball. An ongoing project called "Images of the Past" involves collecting, digitizing, and preserving of historic photographs pertinent to Kingfisher County history.



the dates and the times. The museum is located at 2617 W. Fir in Perry, east of the Interstate 35 exit.

Rose Hill School classes begin on January 15

Rose Hill School, at the OHS Cherokee Strip Museum in Perry, will buzz with activity when the spring semester begins in mid-January.

Students from all across Oklahoma will assemble at Rose Hill, a 1910 one-room schoolhouse. The classes are conducted by a certified educator. Rules of deportment, books, subjects, and teaching methods common at the turn of the century will be in effect.

Visitors are welcome to observe free of charge. Classes begin at 9:30 a.m. and continue through 1:30 p.m. Call to confirm



Workshops at Pawnee Bill Ranch in January-February

Learn to make a "primitive" bow on January 27

More than a thousand years ago American Indians used primitive bows for hunting bison and other animals. The craft of making these primitive bows will again be taught at the Pawnee Bill Ranch Historic Site. This year's training session will be held on Saturday, January 27.

The workshop will take place between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. in the ranch's historic Big Barn. Preregistration and prepayment are required. Participants are advised to dress warmly and bring a lawn chair.

The class provides a learning opportunity for modern hunters, reenactors, or those who enjoy acquiring primitive skills.

For more details or to preregister contact the staff at <braid@okhistory.org> or phone them at 918/762-2513.

Soap making skills can be acquired on February 1

The ranch staff will hold a soap-making workshop on Thursday, February 1. The session will take place in the PBR Museum's Conference Room from 6:30 to 9 p.m. The fee is \$15, and as usual, prepayment and preregistration are needed. Site interpreter Brandon Reid will teach the class and also impart information about the history of soap making. Participants will take home a nice, new bar of home-made soap.

If your taste does not incline to making bows or soap, design a Valentine on January 13

Martha Ray, director of the OHS Historic Homes Department, will arrive at the Pawnee Bill Ranch Historic Site on January 13 to conduct the annual Victorian Valentine workshop.

Victorians traditionally crafted delicate and ornate Valentines, using ribbons, lace, and flowers. Workshop participants can impress their sweethearts with an original creation, designed and crafted during the workshop.

The fee is \$15 per person, and preregistration and prepayment are required. Participants are asked to bring their own scissors. The creative supplies will be provided.

To register or to find out more about Victorian Valentines, call 918/762-2513.

The Pawnee Bill Ranch Historic Site is located one-half mile west of Pawnee on U.S. Highway 64.

National Register nomination grants are available from SHPO

The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) announces its annual matching grants to state, local, and tribal governments and nonprofit organizations for the preparation of National Register of Historic Places nominations. The SHPO has reserved \$10,000 of its FY 2007 Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) allocation from the U.S. Department of the Interior for the program. The funds will be equally divided for award in two grant rounds, with any funds remaining from Round 1 carried over for Round 2. Applications and detailed instructions will be available from the SHPO on February 1. The deadline for Round 1 applications is 5 p.m. on April 2, and the deadline for Round 2 applications is 5 p.m. on June 1.

Each grant is limited to \$900, and the applicant must provide a nonfederal, cash match of at least \$600. Grant recipients will use the funds to retain an appropriately qualified professional to complete preparation of an individual property nomination for the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Register is the catalogue of our nation's significant buildings, structures, sites, districts, objects, and landscapes important in our past. While listing in the National Register is not a guarantee of preservation or of financial assistance, it is one of the most important components of the preservation strategy for any significant property. The designation provides increased public awareness of these irreplaceable resources, provides limited protection for them, qualifies property owners for federal and state tax credits under certain circumstances, and may qualify the property owner for grant assistance when such programs are funded.

To obtain a National Register Nomination Grant Application or further information about the National Register, contact the SHPO at 405/521-6249 or visit the agency's web site at <www.okhistory.org> and click on SHPO.

Historic Preservation Review Committee meets on January 18

The Oklahoma Historic Preservation Review Committee (state review board) is appointed by the governor to provide advice to the State Historic Preservation Officer about nominations to the National Register of Historic Places and other preservation issues. The committee convenes quarterly, and the first meeting for the centennial year will be held Thursday, January 18, 2007, at 10 a.m. Committee members include Arn Henderson, Chair (architectural historian), LeRoy H. Fischer (historian), John D. Hartley (prehistoric archaeologist), Harry Simms (architect), and Towana Spivey (historic archaeologist).

Each meeting is held in the Oklahoma Historical Society's boardroom in the Oklahoma History Center at 2401 N. Laird Avenue in Oklahoma City.

As usual, the January 18 meeting is open to the public. The committee and SHPO staff invite concerned citizens and preservation professionals to participate in this important component of the statewide preservation program. For further information about the committee, the National Register, or other SHPO programs, call 405/521-6249 or visit the SHPO's web pages at <www.okhistory.org>.



Murrell House and Drummond House also offer Valentine workshops

Cupid's arrow will be flying fast at workshops offered to the general public at the Murrell House near Park Hill and at the Drummond House in Hominy during January 2007. On the 27th at 9 a.m. OHS Historic Homes Director Martha Ray will present the workshop at the Murrell House. At the Drummond House she'll repeat the instructional gathering at 6:30 p.m.

The Victorians used ornate cards to express their affection for their loved ones. Typically, they used lace, ribbons, and flowers, and they often included little love notes as well. Ray will deliver information on the history of Valentines as well as very specific directions on how to make them. The cost of each workshop will be \$15, just as it is at the Pawnee Bill Ranch. Similarly, preregistration and prepayment are expected.

The Murrell House is located at 19479 E. Murrell Home Road, near Park Hill. Contact the staff at 918/456-2751. The Fred Drummond House is located at 305 N. Price Avenue in Hominy. Contact the staff at 918/885-2374.

A Centennial Item . . .

Camille Nixdorf Phelan's Oklahoma Quilt

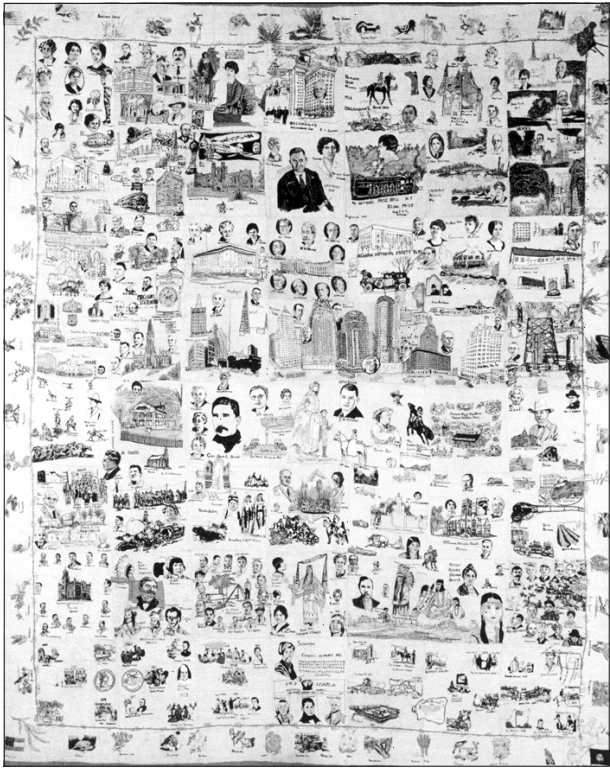
In her own way, Camille Nixdorf Phelan (1882–1946) was a historian. She preserved Oklahoma history through her artistic talents and needlework. Around 1927 she decided to make a quilt that would portray the state's history from 1541 (the year of Francisco Vásquez de Coronado's expedition across the present Oklahoma Panhandle) to around 1931. She spent two years researching Oklahoma's history and selecting prominent individuals and events to be represented on the fifty-four-block quilt. Phelan worked four years stitching the outlines of the drawings with black silk thread and embroidering the details in pastel colors.

Her work known as "the Oklahoma History Quilt" was exhibited at the 1933 Chicago World's Fair. On November 30, 1935, Oklahomans were invited to a banquet at the Biltmore Hotel in Oklahoma City, where Governor Ernest W. Marland accepted the quilt on behalf of the Oklahoma Historical Society. Each guest received a souvenir booklet that included a brief biography of Phelan, a photograph of the quilt, and a key to the scenes and individuals depicted on each quilt block.

Camille, the only child of Dr. Perry T. and Nancy Nixdorf, was born on April 12, 1882, at Pleasant Farm in Miller County, Missouri. When Nancy Nixdorf died during

childbirth, young Camille was sent to live with an aunt. Camille Nixdorf developed her talents in art while attending St. Joseph Academy in St. Louis, Missouri. She married Dr. Joseph R. Phelan in 1900, and they moved to Oklahoma City in 1901. Like other women of her social station, Phelan was a member of several women's organizations. She was also the organizer and president of the Clara Barton Chapter of the Oklahoma City Red Cross.

For more information about Phelan and her quilts, interested persons can read two articles published in OHS's quarterly journal, *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*. The first article, titled "Oklahoma History Quilt," was written by Dan W. Peery and appeared in the December 1935 issue. Dorothy Cozart wrote the second article, titled "Camille Nixdorf Phelan: Oklahoma Quiltmaker," which appeared in the Winter 1994–95 issue.



Quilts on display at OHS museums in January 2007

Ponca City's Pioneer Museum is hosting the *Hoffman Challenge Quilt Exhibit*, which extends through Sunday, January 14. The Oklahoma Centennial Quilt Project will follow at that facility.

More than 100 items in the Oklahoma Museum of History's quilt collection is also on display during January at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City.

Meyers/Hillerman photograph collection soon to be digitized

One of the largest single collections ever secured by the Oklahoma Historical Society was the Barney Hillerman photograph collection. Estimated to comprise approximately 750,000 images, the Hillerman Collection contains a wealth of imagery that includes business, industry, portraits, landscapes, and scenic views produced by Hillerman from 1958 until his death in 1991.

The vast holding also includes the Z. P. Meyers Photo Shop Collection. Hillerman worked for Meyers in the early 1950s. In 1965 Hillerman purchased from Meyers a fabulous array of images of early Oklahoma City and central Oklahoma. These date back to 1919.



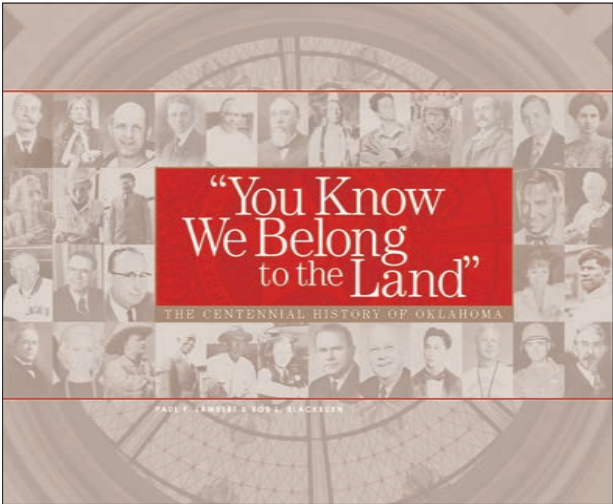
Several smaller photographic companies are represented in the Hillerman inventory. An example is Jack Roberts's rodeo negatives from 1971–79. The Barney Hillerman Collection is one of the best and largest photographic representations of Oklahoma for most of the twentieth century.

The digitization project is underwritten by a major grant from the Pauline Dwyer Macklanburg and Robert A. Macklanburg, Jr., Foundation. Over the next three years this support will allow the Research Division of the Oklahoma Historical Society to scan and catalog a significant portion of this huge collection.

In turn, the existence of thousands of scanned images will allow greater accessibility to one of OHS's most important visual collections. Pictured here are the U.S. Post Office Building (left), the Baptist Building (center), and the Baltimore Building (above). All are in Oklahoma City.

This is not the first time the Pauline Dwyer Macklanburg and Robert A. Macklanburg, Jr., Foundation has assisted the OHS Research Division. In 2003 the foundation generously provided a grant of \$30,000 to complete the \$150,000 that the Oklahoma Historical Society required in order to purchase the Hillerman Collection.

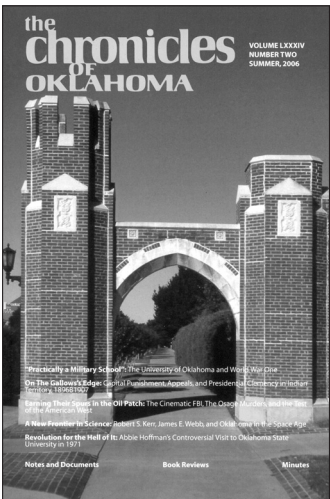




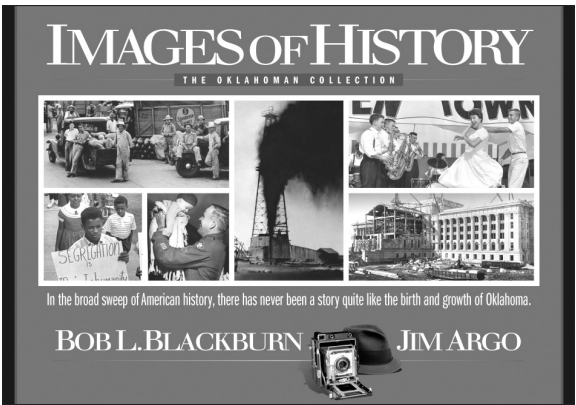
Centennial Bookshelf

OHS publications are sold through the Oklahoma History Center Gift Shop. Call the Gift Shop at 405/522-5214 or visit <www.okhistory.org> for more information. OHS member discounts always apply.

By Bob L. Blackburn and Paul Lambert. A new publication from the Oklahoma Heritage Association. Price: \$39.95.



OHS quarterly historical journal. Back issues are \$7.00.



By Bob L. Blackburn and Jim Argo. Sponsored by the OHS and The Oklahoman. Price: \$39.95.

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

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Mistletoe Leaves

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Oklahoma Centennial Stamp to be launched at Oklahoma History Center on January 11

OHS members and the general public are invited to join Governor Brad Henry and representatives of the United States Postal Service, the Oklahoma Centennial Commission, and the Oklahoma Historical Society on Thursday, January 11, for the Oklahoma Centennial Stamp First Day Issue. The event begins at 9 a.m. in the Devon Great Hall of the Oklahoma History Center. Governor Henry will purchase the first commemorative postage stamp, launching the official statewide sale at all United States Post Offices.

This is the first United States Postal Service stamp to be issued in 2007, and it will commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of Oklahoma statehood. The stamp features a landscape painting by Perkins, Oklahoma, artist Mike Larsen. A number of Larsen's paintings are on permanent display inside the Oklahoma Capitol building. The painting selected for the stamp depicts a sunrise over the Cimarron River, and the words on the image are "Oh, what a beautiful mornin'," from the lyrics written by Rodgers and Hammerstein for their Broadway musical *Oklahoma!* (1943). The show's theme song, "Oklahoma," became the state's official song in 1953. Oklahoma achieved statehood on November 16, 1907.

The Postal Service's Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee selected the state to be included in the annual list. "Once again, the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee has delivered a powerful stamp program that reflects the American experience and highlights our values, heroes, history, achievements, and natural wonders in an artistic collection," said Postmaster General John E. Potter.

The Oklahoma History Center is located at 2401 N. Laird Avenue in Oklahoma City.



Other January Events

Native Words, Native Warriors and **Hidden Voices, Coded Words** continues in the Oklahoma Museum of History through January. The exhibits feature the American Indian Code Talkers who served in twentieth-century wars.

A World War II Living History program will be presented on January 20-21 at Fort Washita Historic Site, near Madill. Military history reenactors present various aspects of World War II battle actions, including gear, tactics, and motorized equipment. There is no admission fee. Fort Washita Historic Site is located on State Highway 199, thirteen miles east of Madill. For more information call 580/924-6502.