



## OHS acquires the Jerry L. Cornelius Photography Collection

The Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) recently acquired the Jerry L. Cornelius Photography Collection from the Cornelius family. The collection contains more than 19,000 photo negatives and digital images. The photographs are primarily of people and places in Tulsa and the surrounding area from the 1950s through the early 21st century. The collection will be archived by the OHS, and through OKPOP the collection will remain with the Tulsa community. The OHS eventually will digitize and catalog the negatives, making the collection searchable on The Gateway to Oklahoma History website at [gateway.okhistory.org](http://gateway.okhistory.org).

Jerry L. Cornelius, a professional photographer in Tulsa for more than 50 years, owned and operated Cornelius Photography and Cornelius Photocraft. He was a third-generation professional photographer, and his family spanned more than 100 years of professional photography in Oklahoma. His father, Meyers A. Cornelius, and his great-uncle, Z. P. Meyers, were commercial photographers. The Z. P. Meyers/Barney Hillerman Photographic Collection is one of the largest photography collections currently archived by the OHS.

Cornelius was a graduate of Tulsa's Will Rogers High School and the University of Oklahoma. At age 29, Cornelius became the youngest president of the Oklahoma chapter of the Professional Photographers of America (PPA). He also held two PPA designations, Master of Photography and Photographic Craftsman. Cornelius was a longtime member of the Tulsa Rotary Club, and he was a driving force in the Rotary's effort to acquire, preserve, and catalog the Beryl Ford Collection photographs, a significant collection of photographs of historic Tulsa. Cornelius was the executive director of the Ford Collection for several years. He passed away in 2016.

"The Jerry L. Cornelius Photography Collection will enhance the already considerable photographic legacy established by his family at the OHS, which began with the acquisition of the Z. P. Meyers/Barney Hillerman Photographic Collection in 1998. Additionally, the images will contribute to telling the story of Tulsa through a professional lens, which parallels what Cornelius's uncle, Z. P. Meyers, did for Oklahoma City," said Rachel Mosman, OHS photo and digital assets manager.

Jerry Cornelius's three daughters, Janet Carmichael, Jamie Danias, and Andrea Spencer, noted his love of history and its connection to his chosen profession.

For more information please contact Rachel Mosman at [rmosman@okhistory.org](mailto:rmosman@okhistory.org) or 405-522-5208.



## Pawnee Bill's Original Wild West Show postponed, will be held in July

On May 31 the Oklahoma Historical Society announced that Pawnee Bill's Original Wild West Show would be postponed until Friday, July 26, and Saturday, July 27. Preshow entertainment begins at 7 p.m. and the Wild West Show starts at 7:30 p.m. each evening. The show, originally scheduled for June 7-8, has been postponed due to the unprecedented rain and flooding across Oklahoma.

"It was a difficult decision to make, but the safety of our performers and spectators is our first priority," said show director Mona Denney. "The Pawnee area has received almost 21 inches of rain and more is predicted almost every day through the first week of June. This much rain makes the arena slippery and dangerous for both our human and animal performers."

According to Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum manager Ron Brown, "Staff at the ranch will be contacting those who have purchased advance tickets for the June 7-8 performances to find out if they would like a refund or if they wish to keep their tickets for the new date."

"We anticipate being able to reopen the Pawnee Bill mansion for the new show dates," continued Brown. "The mansion has been closed to the public for extensive stabilization and restoration work. The rainfall has delayed the project completion so we were not going to be able to have the mansion open for the original dates of the show."

This year's show will celebrate the theme "Women of the Wild West Shows." Through the years, many talented women were featured in Wild West Shows. They performed dangerous and daring feats on horseback, and proved to be just as good as their male counterparts. As true pioneers, they challenged the traditional roles of women in the 19th century.

Anyone holding tickets can contact the ranch for a refund or to let them know they plan to attend on the new date. The phone number at the ranch is 918-762-2513. Rain and construction have caused frequent outages of the phone service. If you are unable to reach the ranch by phone, you can contact them by email at [pawneebill@okhistory.org](mailto:pawneebill@okhistory.org).

"We want to thank our supporters and the many performers for their patience. The show will go on—just with a new date," stated Brown.

To purchase tickets or for more information, please call 918-762-2513 or email [pawneebill@okhistory.org](mailto:pawneebill@okhistory.org). No tickets can be purchased online. Advance tickets are \$14 for adults, \$12 for seniors ages 65 and older, \$10 for children ages 4-10, and free for children ages 3 and under. Groups of 20 or more qualify for a group rate of \$12 per person. For \$22 you can purchase the full package, which includes a water bottle, a program, and a ringside reserved seat. On the day of the show, tickets are \$15 for adults. Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum is located at 1141 Pawnee Bill Road in Pawnee.





## Director's column

**By Dr. Bob L. Blackburn**  
**Executive Director**

For the past nine years I have written a number of columns describing our efforts to absorb major budget cuts without threatening higher standards and disrupting long-range plans. It is a relief to report that we have a welcome opportunity to gain back some of the lost ground with an increase in state funding.

Several legislators and members of Governor Kevin Stitt's team stepped up to help us this year.

In the House, key advocates included Representatives Kevin Wallace and Carl Newton. In the Senate, key supporters were Senators Roger Thompson and Darcy Jech. On the governor's team, encouragement came from our Cabinet Secretary Matt Pinnell and budget director Mike Mazie. I want to say thank you to them and their colleagues.

In addition to funding critical projects, legislation created the Oklahoma Route 66 Centennial Commission to plan for the 100th anniversary of Route 66 in 2026. The seven commission members, appointed by Governor Stitt, Lieutenant Governor Pinnell, and Speaker Charles

McCall, will work with Route 66 advocates to focus efforts on historic preservation, community participation, and greater awareness of the road's significance in both economic development and popular culture.

Lieutenant Governor Pinnell, who requested language for the bill, will serve as chairman of the commission as part of his greater campaign to promote heritage tourism. Many state agencies will be involved, with staff support from the OHS and the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department.

Funding also was appropriated for the Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Commission. Based on plans coordinated by Senator Kevin Matthews, the funding will be leveraged with private grants to develop exhibits, programs, walking tours, and events to draw state and national attention to the consequences of racism and the politics of hate and fear. The OHS, which coordinated the Oklahoma Commission to Study the Tulsa Race Riot from 1997 to 2001, will provide staff support.

The Stafford Air and Space Museum is another partner receiving funds through the OHS appropriation, as part of a three-way collaboration to move the Gemini VI spacecraft to that museum and bring to the Oklahoma History Center the last Apollo spacecraft to fly to Skylab. The Apollo, flown by Okemah's Bill Pogue, has been on display in the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum since the 1970s.

Critical repair and maintenance funds were appropriated for the Will Rogers Memorial Museum and the Oklahoma History Center. The Memorial Museum was transferred to the OHS three years ago without repair funds embedded in our

base appropriation, so this action fulfills a pledge made to us at that time. Funding for the History Center will replace the roof, reseal the exterior, and repair major components in a building that is quickly approaching its 20th birthday.

Finally and most importantly, the OHS received funding to launch the Heritage Preservation Grant Program that will assist local historical societies and museums with care of collections, creation of exhibits, and development of educational programs. By building capacity at small museums, the OHS has a chance to share best practices that have been gained over the past 30 years.

Yes, I have written too many columns about budget cuts. It is a pleasure to write one that provides a map for forward progress.

*Dr. Bob*

## "Oklahoma's Medal of Honor Recipients" presentation in Altus

On Thursday, July 18, at 7 p.m. the Museum of the Western Prairie in Altus will host a presentation about Oklahoma's Medal of Honor recipients. Jody Turner of Enid, Oklahoma, will review the history of the Medal of Honor from the Civil War through the most recent military conflicts, focusing on the interesting and inspiring stories of Oklahomans who have earned the oldest US military award for bravery. Turner is a veteran of the US Air Force with 21 years of service. She is also a history buff who has done extensive research on the Medal of Honor. This program is free and open to the public, and refreshments will be served. The Museum of the Western Prairie is located at 1100 Memorial Drive in Altus. Please call 580-482-1044 for more information.

## Development News

By Larry O'Dell

The OHS will be launching our Annual Giving Campaign in the month of July. This is the season in which we hold fundraising and awareness events to support OHS exhibits, collections, and programs. The OHS will be hosting two upcoming events as part of our History OffCenter series. This series is focused on immersive and engaging experiences, so mark your calendar for these fun evenings with the OHS:

- Oklahoma Trivia Night – Thursday, July 18, at 8 p.m. – The Pump Bar, 2425 North Walker Avenue, Oklahoma City

This fun-filled evening is back by popular demand. Be sure to arrive early to sign up for Oklahoma trivia and enjoy a night fueled by great drinks and company.

- A Night in the Life: The Swinging Sixties – Friday, October 18, at 7 p.m. – Oklahoma History Center, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City

Pull out your shift dress and white lipstick, or don your love beads and tie-dye—the third annual OHS gala theme is the Swinging Sixties! Step back in time with the music, décor, clothing, and food from everyone's favorite decade. This is the can't-miss OHS event of the year.

All money raised during our Annual Giving Campaign is used to support the OHS mission to collect, preserve, and share Oklahoma history. You will receive more information in your mailbox about upcoming OHS events and our 2020 Annual Giving Campaign. If you have questions you can email me at [lodell@okhistory.org](mailto:lodell@okhistory.org) or visit our website for updates at [www.okhistory.org](http://www.okhistory.org).



**Oklahoma Historical Society**  
**Membership Office**  
**405-522-5242**  
**[ohsmembers@okhistory.org](mailto:ohsmembers@okhistory.org)**

*Mistletoe Leaves* (USPS 018-315) is published bimonthly by the Oklahoma Historical Society, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7917. Periodicals postage paid at Oklahoma City, OK (ISSN 1932-0108)

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Mistletoe Leaves*, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7917.

By authorization of the Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) Board of Directors, 5,400 copies are prepared at a cost of \$1,170.57 bimonthly. 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 OHS in partial fulfillment of its mission to collect, preserve, and share the history and culture of the state of Oklahoma and its people.

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 grievance manager of the Oklahoma Historical Society, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7917, telephone 405-522-5299, and/or the director, Office of Equal Opportunity, United States Department of the Interior, Washington, DC 20240.

# AROUND OKLAHOMA

## Events

Visit the Plains Indians and Pioneers Museum in **Woodward** for a special presentation entitled “Apollo in My Rearview Mirror” by Dan Schneider on Saturday, July 20. Schneider was a key engineer on the Apollo program at NASA, and his presentation will provide keen insights and firsthand information. Introducing Schneider and providing the historical context for the events that led to the first moon landing will be Dr. Deena K. Fisher, dean of the Northwestern Oklahoma State University campus in Woodward. The Plains Indians and Pioneers Museum is located at 2009 Williams Avenue in Woodward. Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and admission is free. Please contact Director Robert Roberson at 580-256-6136 or [pipm@swbell.net](mailto:pipm@swbell.net) for more information.

Preservation Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Archeological Survey continue their free workshop and exhibit series in **Claremore** on Saturday, July 27. Visit the Claremore Museum of History from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for an interactive workshop presented by research faculty from the Oklahoma Archeological Survey. Visitors can also view the 2019 Most Endangered Places traveling exhibit. The event will feature a simulated archaeological dig, hands-on activities with Oklahoma artifacts, and a chance for children to try reconstructing pottery. For adults, there will be a brief presentation about pre-European contact Oklahoma and what someone should do if they find an archaeological site. In addition, an archaeologist will be available to help identify artifacts that you bring to the event! This program is free and open to the public. The Claremore Museum of History is located at 121 North Weenonah Avenue in Claremore. For more information please visit [www.preservationok.org](http://www.preservationok.org) or call 405-525-5325.

Beat the heat and spend the day indoors at the annual National Day of the Cowboy celebration in **Duncan**. This free event will be held on Saturday, July 27, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center. Attendees can rope a longhorn, ride a bucking bronc, and even create their own brand. Learn something new about life as a cowboy or cowgirl, enjoy the museum exhibits, and visit the 4-D Experience Theater. This year's event will also feature Oklahoma authors and an Oklahoma basketry artist. Bring the whole family out for a fun-filled day of celebrating the life and times of the cow-

boy, past and present. The Chisholm Trail Heritage Center is located at 1000 Chisholm Trail Parkway in Duncan. Please call 580-252-6692 for more information.

Join the Oklahoma Museums Association (OMA) for the 2019 OMA Annual Conference on September 18–20 at the Choctaw Casino Resort in **Durant**. This year's theme is “Museums Rock: The Best of Oklahoma Museums.” The conference will showcase great programs, collections practices, fundraising, and more. Session topics include accessibility, careers and midlife crisis, homeschoolers, community museum experience, digital media, STEM in museums, collaborations, edutainment, and board governance. New this year will be intentional networking and friendship building. To register online please visit [www.okmuseums.org/conference](http://www.okmuseums.org/conference). Early-bird registration is available through August 2. The Choctaw Casino Resort is located at 4216 South Highway 69/75 in Durant. For more information please call 405-424-7757 or visit [www.okmuseums.org/conference](http://www.okmuseums.org/conference).

A summer's worth of live music is on tap at the **Arcadia** Round Barn. Oklahoma singer-songwriters will offer Morning Music from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. every Saturday in the downstairs area of the barn, which was built in 1898 and has been operated as a museum since 1992 by the Arcadia Historical and Preservation Society. The artists will provide acoustic Americana, bluegrass, and country music. The Round Barn Rendezvous is from noon to 5 p.m. on the second Sunday of every month in the loft of the barn. On most months the Rendezvous is a jam session open to local musicians, but on June 9 the ukulele festival will return for a second year, featuring ukulele bands from across the state. The outdoor Round Barn Elm Tree Concerts are scheduled at least once a month through October, from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sundays other than the second Sunday. The lineup will include the Regular Joes, Steelwind, the Brave Amigos, Gypsy Twang, and the 4-H Music Corps. Concert dates will be posted on the Arcadia Round Barn website and Facebook page. Admission is free, but donations are accepted. For more information please call Joe Baxter at 405-833-1350.

## Exhibits

The John Ross Museum in **Park Hill** recently opened a new exhibit titled *End of the Trail Exhibit: The Founding of Park Hill*.

The exhibit explores what happened after the Trail of Tears, when the Cherokee people began arriving in Indian Territory. It includes information about how Park Hill got its name, who the original inhabitants were, how missionaries came to the area, and how many of the Cherokee elite ended up settling in the community. The exhibit will be on display through January 1, 2020. Housed in former Rural School 51, the museum gives visitors a glimpse into the life and leadership of the great Cherokee leader John Ross. He was principal chief of the Cherokee Nation for more than 30 years during some of the tribe's most trying times, including the Trail of Tears. The John Ross Museum is located at 22366 S 530 Road in Park Hill. Regular hours of operation are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information please call 918-431-0757.

## Announcements

On June 12 the new Ben Johnson Cowboy Museum opened in **Pawhuska**. The museum features exhibits about Ben Johnson Jr., who was a rodeo cowboy, Hollywood stuntman, actor, and rancher. Johnson, one of Oklahoma's favorite sons, was born on June 13, 1918, near Foraker, Oklahoma. He won the title of 1953 World Champion Cowboy and the 1972 Academy Award. The museum will also showcase exhibits about world champion rodeo cowboys that hail from Osage County—there are more than 20! There will be displays of world-class art and sculptures, interactive exhibits, and a gift shop. There's something for everyone. Regular hours for the museum are Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Ben Johnson Cowboy Museum is located at 201 East 6th Street in Pawhuska. It is right around the corner from the world-famous Pioneer Woman Mercantile. Please call 918-287-9922 for more information.



Do you want your organization's event, exhibit, or announcement included in the “Around Oklahoma” section of *Mistletoe Leaves*? This section features Oklahoma history- and heritage-related programming sponsored by entities other than the Oklahoma Historical Society. To submit news items, please contact Evelyn Moxley by email at [emoxley@okhistory.org](mailto:emoxley@okhistory.org). If you wish a news item to appear in the September/October issue, you must submit it by Monday, August 5.

## July events

- 2 *Oklahoma Landscapes: Watercolors by Derald Swineford* exhibit opens, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 10 “Political Intrigue and Print Making” Brown Bag Lunch and Learn program by Dick Morgan, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 10 Okietales, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 12–13 Overnight at the Chuck Wagon, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 13 Battle of Honey Springs Memorial Service, Honey Springs Battlefield and Visitor Center, Checotah



- 13 “Choctaw Beadwork” Second Saturday Demo, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 13 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 15 “Salute to America” Kilgen Organ performance by Dave Wickerham, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 15–19 Junior Curator Camp, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 17 “Treasures of the State Archives” program by Jan Davis, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 17 Okietales, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 18 Oklahoma Trivia Night presented by History OffCenter, The Pump Bar, Oklahoma City
- 18 “Oklahoma’s Medal of Honor Recipients” presentation by Jody Turner, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 18 Historic Preservation Review Committee meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 18 Mysteries of the Mansion tour, Henry Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City
- 20 “Carpentry” Family Day at the Ranch, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah
- 20 *The Day We Walked on the Moon* (2019) film screening, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 24 Okietales, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 25 National History Day Boot Camp, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 26 Will Rogers Movie Night, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 26–27 Pawnee Bill’s Original Wild West Show, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee

- 27 “The Revolutionary War Your Mother Didn’t Tell You About” living history program by Mike Sheriff, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 27 “My Family Tree” Family Fun Day, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 27 National Day of the Cowboy celebration, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 29 Blacksmithing Demonstrations, Cherokee Strip Museum, Perry
- 31 Okietales, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 31 *Rodgers and Hammerstein’s Oklahoma!: The Origin of Modern Musical Theatre* exhibit closes, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus



## August events

- 1 *Vintage Snack Sets* exhibit opens, Fred Drummond Home, Hominy
- 1 Back to School Bash, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 2 Historical Timeline Candlelight Tour, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 3 “Finding the Girls” genealogy program by Dr. Debra Spindle, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 10 Will Rogers and Wiley Post Fly-In, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah
- 10 “Civil War Weapons and Artillery” Second Saturday Demo, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 10 Victorian Tea Party at Horizon Hill, Chisholm Trail Museum and A. J. Seay Mansion, Kingfisher
- 10 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 14 “Aviation and Vance Air Force Base” Brown Bag Lunch and Learn program, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 15 Mysteries of the Mansion tour, Henry Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City
- 15 *Oklahoma Landscapes: Watercolors by Derald Swineford* premiere program, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
- 16 Living History Interpreter Training class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City



- 16 *Sign of the Times: The Great American Political Poster, 1844–2012* exhibit closes, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 17 Aviation Day, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 17 “Judge Parker’s Court” presentation by Dr. Aaron Mason, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 17 “Corn Husk Dolls” Family Day at the Ranch, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah
- 21 “UCO: The Best-Kept Secret in the OKC Metro Area” program by Nicole Willard, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 26 Blacksmithing Demonstrations, Cherokee Strip Museum, Perry
- 27 *50 Years of Photojournalism at The Oklahoman* exhibit opens, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 30 Will Rogers Movie Night, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 31 Traditional Trades Day, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 31 “Digital Photography” Family Fun Day, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 31 *Vintage Snack Sets* exhibit closes, Fred Drummond Home, Hominy



Please visit [www.okhistory.org/events](http://www.okhistory.org/events) for additional information about OHS events, programs, and exhibits.

## Victorian Tea Party at Horizon Hill

Visit Kingfisher on Saturday, August 10, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. for a Victorian Tea Party at Horizon Hill, the home of Oklahoma Territorial Governor A. J. Seay. Guests will be treated to a variety of traditional teas and snacks in the parlors of Horizon Hill. During the event, Dr. Lindsey Churchill, associate professor in the Department of History and Geography at the University of Central Oklahoma, will speak on the topic of women’s movements.



The cost for the Victorian Tea Party is \$10, and payment must be received to secure your registration. Seating is limited to 30 guests. Please contact the museum at 405-375-5176 to reserve your seat. The Chisholm Trail Museum and A. J. Seay Mansion are located at 605 Zellers Avenue in Kingfisher.

## Celebrate notable Oklahoma women

Our newest deck of OHS playing cards was recently released and is now available to purchase online. These playing cards feature historic images of notable Oklahoma women—artists, activists, astronauts, authors, ambassadors, athletes, and more! As you shuffle the deck, you can learn about the pioneering achievements of 52 Oklahoma women. The cost is only \$10 per deck. To purchase yours, please visit [bit.ly/OHSPlayingCards](http://bit.ly/OHSPlayingCards) or call 405-522-5214.



## Upcoming events at Honey Springs Battlefield

Honey Springs Battlefield and Visitor Center near Checotah will host a memorial service honoring the anniversary of the Battle of Honey Springs on Saturday, July 13, at 10:30 a.m. The event is free and open to the public.

The memorial service commemorates the largest of approximately 107 documented Civil War military engagements throughout Indian Territory. The engagement took place on July 17, 1863, just two weeks after the famous Battles of Gettysburg and Vicksburg. Approximately 9,000 Union and Confederate troops, mostly American Indians and African Americans, were involved in the Battle of Honey Springs. Of those, approximately 200 total casualties were suffered. After a decisive Union victory, Confederates lost control of Indian Territory north of the Arkansas River. The Union victory also ensured federal control of Fort Gibson in Indian Territory and Fort Smith in Arkansas.

Be sure to save the dates for the Battle of Honey Springs Reenactments at 1 p.m. on Saturday, November 2, and Sunday, November 3, 2019.

Honey Springs Battlefield and Visitor Center is located east of US Highway 69 between Oktaha and Rentiesville. The new address for the Visitor Center is 423159 E 1030 Road in Checotah. Please call 918-473-5572 for more information.

## “The Revolutionary War Your Mother Didn’t Tell You About”

The OHS and the Oklahoma Genealogical Society will present a Revolutionary War living history program on Saturday, July 27, from 1 to 3 p.m. Historian Mike Sheriff will give this presentation in two parts. It will begin with a first-person narrative of a 1783 Virginia regimental soldier talking about the American War of Independence. This will include events leading up the war, some battles, the life of a soldier, the division between people living in the colonies, and how troops were raised and fought. During the second part of the program, the presenter will refute some myths about the Revolutionary War, share little-known facts about the brutality of the war, and invite audience members to ask questions.

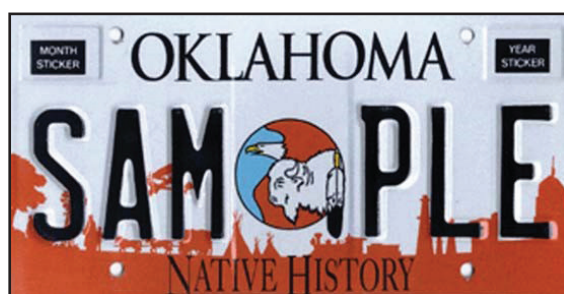
Mike Sheriff is an avid historian and is recognized as an authority on the cattle drives, the Civil War, and US marshals in Indian and Oklahoma Territories. He teaches multiple courses for the University of Oklahoma (OU) Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and is a frequent guest lecturer at OU, various schools, and civic groups. He is a docent at the Oklahoma History Center, presents multiple living history characters, and also volunteers as a curator working with various artifacts at the OHS.

Following the presentation, lemonade and light refreshments of the period prepared from Colonial Williamsburg recipes will be served.

The cost for this program is \$15 per person and advance registration is preferred. To register, please visit [okgensoc.org](http://okgensoc.org). The program will be held in the Musser Learning Lab, which is located inside the OHS Research Center on the first floor of the Oklahoma History Center.

## OHS Specialty License Plates

Support the OHS by purchasing a specialty license plate. For every plate sold, the Oklahoma Tax Commission distributes a portion of the \$39 license plate fee to the OHS. The application can be found online at [www.okhistory.org/lp](http://www.okhistory.org/lp) or at your local tag agency.



## Heirloom quilts now on display

The Cherokee Strip Museum in Perry recently opened a special exhibit featuring heirloom quilts. There are more than 40 beautifully hand-quilted items on display, some of which date back to the late 1800s. The exhibit will be on display through the end of September, and is included with regular museum admission. The Cherokee Strip Museum is located at 2617 West Fir Street in Perry. For more information please call 580-336-2405.



## Overnight at the Chuck Wagon

Pack your sleeping bag, pajamas, toothbrush, and toothpaste for a special event at the Will Rogers Memorial Museum in Claremore. Overnight at the Chuck Wagon will take place from 6 p.m. on Friday, July 12, to 9 a.m. on Saturday, July 13. Do not miss this family-friendly night at the museum! This event is for children ages 5–12, accompanied by at least one adult chaperone. Participants will bed down in various parts of the museum for a night of 19th-century activities, movies, arts and crafts, games, and storytelling. A chuck wagon dinner and breakfast will be served.

Space is limited and registration is required. The cost is \$35 for members of the Will Rogers Memorial Foundation and \$45 for nonmembers. Both children and adults are required to pay the registration fee. Each child will receive a Will Rogers book, and each child and parent will receive a t-shirt. Participants can register and pay at [www.willrogers.com/overnight-at-the-chuckwagon](http://www.willrogers.com/overnight-at-the-chuckwagon). Please call 918-341-0719 for more information. The Will Rogers Memorial Museum is located at 1720 West Will Rogers Boulevard in Claremore.

## From the OHS Archives: The World Golf Hall of Fame and Museum Collection

By Jan H. Richardson

Oklahoma governors have bestowed a variety of imaginative honorifics on notable individuals from Oklahoma and beyond, but one of the most creative was Acting Governor Leo Winters's tribute to comedian Bob Hope in 1963. Winters designated Hope an "Admiral in the Great Space Fleet of the Sovereign State of Oklahoma." More pedestrian honors were bestowed by Governor J. Howard Edmondson, who named Hope an "Honorary Colonel on the Governor's Staff" (1961), and Governor George Nigh, who honored Hope with the position of "Territorial Marshal Number One" (1983).

The World Golf Hall of Fame and Museum Collection (2018.225, two legal boxes and one oversize box) contains items from the estate of Bob Hope, including those he received during his many professional and charitable visits to Oklahoma. Manuscript items include petitions and letters from schoolchildren urging Hope to come to Oklahoma to participate in the Bicentennial Celebration in 1976, a diploma for an honorary doctorate from Oral Roberts University in 1983, and numerous certificates, proclamations, and resolutions. Two oversized scrapbooks with memorabilia, programs, and newspaper clippings recounting *The Bob Hope Show* that was staged in Oklahoma City in 1954, and the opening of the Bob Hope Eye Surgery Center at Presbyterian Hospital are also available.

The World Golf Hall of Fame and Museum Collection is available for viewing in the OHS Research Center Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. The Research Center is located on the first floor of the Oklahoma History Center. For more information please call 405-522-5225.

*Jan H. Richardson is the processing archivist in the OHS Research Division's Manuscript Archives.*



**Bob Hope arriving in Oklahoma City for the opening of the Bob Hope Eye Surgery Center at Presbyterian Hospital in 1983.**

## Disaster Preparedness and Threats to Historic Resources

By Lynda Ozan

Oklahoma's weather poses one of the largest threats to historic resources across the state; it is not an "if" statement but a "when" statement. Winter storms, flooding from torrential rains, and tornadoes destroy historic buildings and archaeological sites at an alarming and unpredictable rate. We have almost reached the end of tornado season, but the reality is that tornadoes can strike 365 days a year.



The threat of wildfires is a near constant in Oklahoma. Large expanses of flat land and high winds in the west often lead to multiday battles for firefighters working for the Oklahoma Forestry Services and local fire stations.

Earthquakes continue to plague Oklahoma as well. In 2016, Pawnee experienced a 5.8-magnitude earthquake while Cushing experienced a 5.0-magnitude earthquake. There is not complete data on how many historic resources suffered earthquake damage during these two events, but with the increase in magnitude in the earthquakes, there is no doubt that it is having a negative impact.

Of course flooding is also a concern, and often threatens historic resources across the state. Record rainfall over the past few months has been devastating.

Oklahoma Emergency Management (OEM) has the Oklahoma Emergency App that helps you prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. Within the app you can upload real-time photos and information about the disaster, which can help OEM with its planning processes. The app also includes information about preparing a plan, building a kit, where shelters are located, and much more. For more information about Oklahoma Emergency Management's app and other resources, please visit [www.ok.gov/oem](http://www.ok.gov/oem).

In addition, the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, in conjunction with Preservation Oklahoma, will be working over the next 24 months to create a toolkit specific to historic resources regarding natural and man-made disasters. Check the websites of Preservation Oklahoma and the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office for updates and announcements as the project develops. More details will also be provided in upcoming issues of *Mistletoe Leaves*.

*Lynda Ozan is the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer in the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office.*

## Oklahoma Route 66 Centennial Commission

The 57th Oklahoma Legislature recently created a new, 21-member Oklahoma Route 66 Centennial Commission to plan, coordinate, and implement a statewide effort celebrating the 100th anniversary of Historic Route 66. Governor Kevin Stitt signed the bill on April 30, 2019.

Lieutenant Governor Matt Pinnell, who will serve as chairman of the commission, sees the effort in terms of economic development, historic preservation, and marketing.

"Through the efforts of this commission, we have a unique opportunity to pull together all of the private and public assets that have made Route 66 an iconic destination for travelers from around the world," said Pinnell. "We have the historic buildings, attractions, and roadbed. We have dedicated community leaders who recognize the significance of the route. By working together, we can add value to all of those assets."

Route 66 was officially created by federal designation on November 11, 1926, which gives the commission a little more than seven years to build momentum for the centennial celebration.

The Oklahoma Historical Society will provide support services for the commission.

"My goal is to have a kick-off symposium for all stakeholders on December 3 and 4, 2019," said Pinnell. "We will gather people from across the state to identify attractions, set goals, and develop a work plan." The symposium will be hosted at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City.

As stipulated in the authorizing legislation, the master plan will include suggestions for exhibits, programs, and events focused on Route 66; a greater awareness of the highway's cultural impact through popular culture; and opportunities to combine private investment and public policy to encourage further preservation of assets along the route.

For more information about the Oklahoma Route 66 Centennial Commission, please call Dr. Bob Blackburn, OHS executive director, at 405-522-5202.



## History Day Preservation Prizes awarded in May

On May 1 and 2, 2019, the annual Oklahoma National History Day competition was held at the Oklahoma History Center. National History Day is a year-long academic program focused on historical research, interpretation, and creative expression for students in grades 6–12. The National History Day contest encourages more than half a million students around the world to conduct historical research on a topic of their choice based on the theme of the year. The 2019 theme was “Triumph and Tragedy in History.”

Participating students conducted extensive primary and secondary research through libraries, archives, museums, and historic sites. They presented their research in various formats, including exhibits, documentaries, performances, websites, and papers. The projects presented on May 1 and 2 at the state level had previously been through a district competition. State competitors were identified from a pool of contestants at regional contests throughout the state. First- and second-place winners at the state competition level advanced to the National History Day contest on June 9–13 in College Park, Maryland.

The State Historic Preservation Office, through a private donation, continues to award a special prize for outstanding achievement in addressing the National History Day theme through historic preservation. In the Junior Division, the prize was awarded for “Tulsa Race Riot,” a group exhibit by Jayson Hair, David King, and Carson Plumb from Grove Public Schools. Their teacher was Kim Jones.



**Oklahoma History Center Director Dan Provo with Junior Division winners of the historic preservation prize, awarded for their “Tulsa Race Riot” group exhibit.**

The Senior Division prize was awarded for “The Battle of Antietam,” an individual exhibit by Tillmon Miller from Morrison High School. Miller’s teacher was Patty Sanders.



**Oklahoma History Center Director Dan Provo with Tillmon Miller, Senior Division winner of the historic preservation prize.**

## History Day winners receive national honor

Three senior division students from Classen School of Advanced Studies—Laurel Mossman, Kate Schein, and Amelia Peoples—presented their Oklahoma National History Day winning documentary at the Oprah Winfrey Theater at the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) on June 12. The title of their documentary was “Fighting for the Right to Love: The Triumph and Tragedy of *Loving v. Virginia*.” This is the second year a documentary from Oklahoma has been selected to be shown in this prestigious venue.

Typically, there are only 15 documentaries featured in this showcase from the entire national competition. After winning first place in the Group Documentary category at the state contest, the students submitted their entry to the Education Department at NMAAHC for consideration for the showcase. On June 1, they were notified by a National History Day representative that they had been chosen for one of the presentation slots.

“The honor of getting to show their documentary at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, DC, is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for these students. We are so proud of them for this accomplishment,” said Sarah Dumas, director of education for the Oklahoma History Center and state coordinator for Oklahoma National History Day (OkNHD).

For more information about OkNHD, please contact Sarah Dumas at 405-522-0785 or [sdumas@okhistory.org](mailto:sdumas@okhistory.org).

## Family Fun Day activities

On the last Saturday of each month, the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center will host Family Fun Day from 1 to 3 p.m. Each Saturday will feature a different theme and activity. Activities and supplies are included with admission, and all family members are encouraged to participate. The theme for July 27 will be “My Family Tree” and the theme for August 31 will be “Digital Photography.” Please call 580-237-1907 for more information. The Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center is located at 507 South 4th Street in Enid.

## Vintage Snack Sets exhibit

The Friends of the Fred Drummond Home are pleased to announce a new *Vintage Snack Sets* exhibit, to be displayed during the month of August. The exhibit will feature many examples of vintage snack sets, often used by women when entertaining or hosting guests in their homes. There will be pieces from the 1940s through the 1970s, including sets made by Anchor Hocking, Hazel-Atlas, Royal Windsor, and Queen Anne. For more information, including admission fees and hours of operation, please call 918-885-2374. The Fred Drummond Home is located at 305 North Price Avenue in Hominy.

## “Judge Parker’s Court” presentation

The Sod House Museum near Aline is excited to host a presentation titled “Judge Parker’s Court” on Saturday, August 17, at 10 a.m. It will be presented by Dr. Aaron Mason, professor of political science at Northwestern Oklahoma State University in Alva.

Isaac C. Parker was appointed as judge of the US District Court at Fort Smith, Arkansas, in 1875. The court had jurisdiction over 11 western Arkansas counties and Indian Territory. Many people recognize Judge Parker as the enforcer of law for Indian Territory, but his court played an additional role in Oklahoma history. Dr. Mason will explain the background, importance, and long-term significance of the US District Court at Fort Smith.

For more information please contact Director Renee Trindle at 580-463-2441. The Sod House Museum is located southeast of Aline on State Highway 8.

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PERIODICALS

# Mistletoe Leaves

Vol. 50, No. 4

July/August 2019

## Will Rogers Theatre renovations complete



The west wing of the Will Rogers Memorial Museum in Claremore opened nearly four decades ago. The centerpiece of this wing is Will Rogers Theatre, the fulfillment of a dream of Will Rogers Jr. to have a place to further share memories of his father’s movie career.

Last year, the 100th anniversary of Will’s first movie, the Will Rogers Memorial Foundation completed a successful Red Carpet fundraising event to renovate the 36-year-old theater.

“With the help of people from around the country sponsoring the new seats, renovations on the theater began in earnest at the beginning of 2019,” said Tad Jones, executive director of the Will Rogers Memorial Museum and Birthplace Ranch. “With the leadership of Rillis Howard from the Oklahoma Historical Society, the theater received a wonderful upgrade and a completely new look.”

New leather seats were installed, taking the total number of seats from 175 to 191. There is new flooring, new carpet on the back wall, and the walls and ceilings have been painted.

The reconstructed stage was named for Jim Hartz, former Will Rogers Commissioner, longtime television newsmen, and former *Today Show* host. It received several upgrades including a larger projector screen, new speakers, and a new backdrop.

Features added to the theater include new touch screens for controlling movies, sound, and lighting; new outlets for presentations using computers; and a new lighting system throughout the theater. The backlit vintage movie posters from the museum’s collection, many donated by former Tulsan Gordon Kuntz, complement the theater’s feel.

A beautiful organ was donated to the theater for use during silent movies to add to the experience. The theater will be able to host business and community meetings, weddings and receptions, talent shows, and maybe even video game competitions.

“Even though the theater can now handle more events and activities, the main purpose of the theater is sharing Will Rogers with people from around the world,” said Jones. “Visitors will be able to pick the documentary of their choice at the beautifully designed ticket booth, then lights will slowly dim as they make their way to their seat and become immersed in the story of Will Rogers.”

“We are so grateful for all those who helped sponsor the theater and for all the work that went in to making it a true Oklahoma jewel,” Jones added.

Mark your calendar for free Movie Nights at Will Rogers Theatre on Friday, July 26, and Friday, August 30. The Will Rogers Memorial Museum is located at 1720 West Will Rogers Boulevard in Claremore. Please call 918-341-0719 for more information.



Smithsonian Affiliations  
Membership Program

## “Finding the Girls” genealogy program by Dr. Debra Spindle

The Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) will present “Finding the Girls” on Saturday, August 3, from 1 to 3 p.m. Individuals researching their family history for any length of time have encountered the problems with researching females. In our society their names change with marriage, and in the past, females could not own property or enter into contracts, which makes locating them in legal records even more difficult. So, what’s a researcher to do? Learn how to consider the times and some of the techniques for researching the females in your family with OHS Librarian Dr. Debra Spindle.

The cost for this program is \$5 for OHS members and \$10 for nonmembers. Participants are asked to register in advance by calling the OHS Research Center at 405-522-5225. The program will be held in the Clark and Kay Musser Learning Lab, which is located inside the OHS Research Center on the first floor of the Oklahoma History Center. (Photos below are circa 1900.)

