



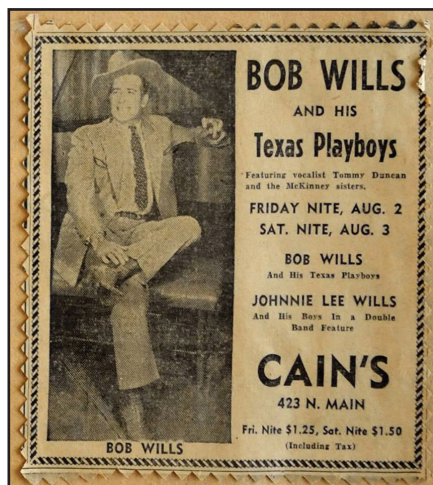
OKPOP uncovers history as museum begins to take shape



Nabholz Construction builds the footings in preparation to pour the foundation for OKPOP.

It is with excitement that the OKPOP project moved into the construction phase earlier this spring. A groundbreaking ceremony took place on October 23, 2019, followed by work to update and relocate the power lines that service two blocks of North Main Street in downtown Tulsa. The OKPOP team worked closely with Public Service Company of Oklahoma, the Tulsa Arts District Property Owners Association, the City of Tulsa, and the Tulsa Development Authority to complete the burial of power lines that benefit multiple property owners and development projects.

Nabholz Construction was selected as the general contractor for OKPOP and is coordinating efforts with the various subcon-



tractors. The project began with excavation of the site to prepare for the pouring of piers and foundation walls. One interesting development during this part of the project was the discovery of two fuel tanks that were used in a gas station, which was built in the 1920s and operated by the Harvey Young Oil Company. "It is almost certain that Bob Wills fueled his fleet of Buicks during his touring days at this service station when he began performing at Cain's Ballroom in 1935," said OKPOP Executive Director Jeffrey Moore.

A construction crane was installed on-site the first week of May. The OKPOP crane joined three other cranes in operation on other construction projects in the Tulsa Arts and Greenwood



One of two fuel tanks discovered at the OKPOP construction site as excavation began.

Districts. "Being part of the continued economic and cultural development of this area is important," said Moore. "The other efforts from private companies and cultural entities such as the Greenwood Rising History Center and the Bob Dylan Center will result in this part of North Tulsa becoming a destination for visitors from across the country."

Contractors on the project are eager to help create this space to honor Oklahoma's creative spirit. "Our excitement continues as we partner with the Oklahoma Historical Society on our state's iconic project, OKPOP," said Michael Feamster of Nabholz Construction. "The tremendous progress on-site reflects a seamless experience working with Jeff Moore and his team."

The concrete slabs were poured in early June, and by the end of August the public will have an idea of the size and scale of the building. "This project has been a dream for more than a decade, and as this structure becomes a reality, it embodies the hard work of the staff, as well as the partnership with the people of Oklahoma and Oklahoma's creatives," said Oklahoma Historical Society Executive Director Dr. Bob Blackburn. "There have been so many supporters of this project along the way: Steve Ripley, Jamie Oldaker, Garth Brooks, Wanda Jackson, Roy Clark, Mary Kay Place, Alfre Woodard, Jeanne Tripplehorn, Wes Studi, Ernie Fields Jr., Leon Russell's wife Jan Bridges, JJ Cale's wife Christine Cale, and of course the Bob Wills family. It is the mission of OKPOP to bring all of these stories and collections back to Oklahoma to showcase them in a state-of-the-art facility that all Oklahomans can be proud of. And what better place to house this history than across the street from the sacred ground of historic Cain's Ballroom," continued Blackburn.

Construction will continue into the fall of 2021, followed by several months spent installing highly immersive exhibits, public art projects, and multimedia theater experiences, culminating with an opening in the year 2022.



The concrete slab and building pillars forming the first-floor footprint of OKPOP.



Director's Column

By Dr. Bob L. Blackburn
Executive Director

After serving the Oklahoma Historical Society for 41 years, I still enjoy coming to work every day. But like the four seasons and life itself, all things must change. I just announced my retirement effective January 15, 2021.

It was not an easy decision. I like the people I work with. I enjoy the collections and projects I work on. And I even welcome the challenges that test our tenacity. Still, it is time to make a smooth transition to a new leader who can use the assets we have assembled and lead the team to even more accomplishments. We have created a strong foundation.

For the Oklahoma Historical Society, the search for a new executive director has already started. For the past year we have been analyzing the role of the executive director, a combination of what I have done and what still needs to be done.

From that conversation involving members of the OHS Board of Directors, the staff, donors, and partners, we have developed a job description that has already been distributed. The job description emphasizes three areas of strength, span-

ning the ability to generate community support, manage resources, and champion the cause of Oklahoma history.

Foremost, the new executive director must have a passion for the story of Oklahoma and its people. The search committee and the entire board of directors know that a person with the greatest organizational skills will fall short of expectations if he or she is not willing to travel the state, interact with all communities, and guide the conversation of what to collect, what to preserve, and what to share.

The board of directors will create a short list of candidates to interview on July 22, and hopefully hire my replacement at the October 28 meeting. The new executive director will report for duty on January 4, 2021.

As for me, I may not be in the administrative offices every day thereafter, but I will still be a historian writing books, giving speeches, and finding collections that fill the gaps of our diverse story. Although Debbie and I may find a vacation home in Colorado to be near our grandson, we will never leave Oklahoma. Both of us have invested too much and still have much to do.

I look forward to writing more, exploring topics that require more time to research, and, most of all, learning more about Oklahoma history. I still have a burning curiosity about your families, your communities, and the events that bind us together. Hopefully, I can continue connecting the dots of history.

Yes, like the four seasons and life itself, all things must change. What will never change is my devotion to the Oklahoma Historical Society and the quest to tell our story.

Dr. Bob

Development News

By Larry O'Dell

Due to the closures of our museums, historic sites, and affiliates this spring in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Oklahoma Historical Society pivoted to focus on providing online content. Without physical facilities in which to share exhibits and programming, the OHS wanted to share the state's story with as many people as possible using the tools available to us. Those efforts can be found on the social media pages of our museums and sites and on our website, www.okhistory.org. This work may look different from what you traditionally expect during a museum visit, but it still requires staff time and financial resources. The lack of events and admissions over the past few months has hampered funding. Purchasing memberships and making donations are ways to replenish these funds and provide not only digital exhibits and online information, but also new exhibits, programming, and events as our museums and sites reopen.

The OHS takes seriously its mission to collect, preserve, and share Oklahoma history, and with your help we can continue to fulfill this mission through this difficult time. To become an OHS member, give a gift membership, or renew a membership, visit www.okhistory.org/join or call 405-522-5242. If you are interested in donating to our Annual Giving Campaign or other fundraising opportunities, please visit www.okhistory.org/give. If you have suggestions, questions, or concerns, you can contact me at lodell@okhistory.org or 405-522-6676. The OHS appreciates your continued support.



Black history is Oklahoma history

The senseless deaths of George Floyd and so many other Black Americans, and the protests that occurred in response, have gripped Oklahomans, Americans, and the world alike. As an educational organization and a dedicated community partner, the Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) has long believed that one important step toward ending racism and injustice is a better understanding of our shared history. By providing resources that give context for the Black experience in Oklahoma, we hope to spark civil discourse and open dialogue about the role of race in the history of our state. While these conversations about our past may not be comfortable, they are necessary to understand where we have been and how we can best move forward together.

During its 127-year history, the Oklahoma Historical Society has collected and shared the story of Oklahoma. In the 1980s, the OHS began a concerted effort to engage with Oklahoma's Black community—to listen to their stories and share their experiences. While we have made both mistakes and significant strides, we will continue to do better and do more. As new voices call for change, the OHS stands committed to our mission to collect, preserve, and share the history and culture of all Oklahomans. Learn more and browse free resources related to the Black experience in Oklahoma at www.okhistory.org/blackhistory.



Protesters in June 1964 (Oklahoma Publishing Company Photography Collection, OHS).

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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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OHS Board of Directors elects new officers

The Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) Board of Directors elected Dr. Deena Fisher of Woodward as its new president at its meeting on May 20, 2020. In addition, the board elected Shirley Nero of Clearview as vice president and Karen Keith of Tulsa as treasurer.

The results of the OHS Board of Directors election were also announced. OHS members elected Southwestern Oklahoma State University President Randy Beutler, Weatherford, to the board as a member, as well as reelecting Jack Baker, Oklahoma City; Deena Fisher, Woodward; Teresa Black Bradway, Clayton; and Kenny Sivard, Idabel.

Deena Fisher, who recently retired as dean of Northwestern Oklahoma State University's Woodward Campus and professor of history, holds an EdD in higher education administration from Oklahoma State University. She is a longtime OHS member, and has served on the board since 2004. She previously served as OHS Board treasurer and vice president.

"I hope to build on the legacy of President Jack Baker's success," said Fisher, "I am very honored and humbled to be elected by my colleagues as president. The new OHS officers look forward to continuing to serve its membership in a responsible and effective manner."

Shirley Nero, the new OHS Board vice president, is a retired history teacher. Born and raised in the historically All-Black town of Clearview, Nero has served on the OHS Board of Directors since 2004. She is currently chair of the OHS Black Heritage Committee and a past treasurer for the OHS Board of Directors.

Newly elected treasurer Karen Keith has served as a Tulsa County commissioner since 2008. A graduate of Oklahoma State University, she worked as a Tulsa television reporter, anchor, and host for 26 years. She has been an OHS member since 2008 and on the board since 2010.

Route 66 Museum to maintain winter hours

The Oklahoma Historical Society has announced that the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum in Clinton will not move to expanded operating hours this summer. To support the surge of summer travelers, the museum usually expands its hours of operation, opening seven days a week and including evening hours. In response to the circumstances surrounding COVID-19, the museum will maintain its winter hours of Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, please call 580-323-7866.

Recommendations sought for Historic Preservation Fund projects

The Oklahoma Historical Society's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), under the auspices of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), administers the federal historic preservation program in Oklahoma. The purpose of the program is to encourage preservation of the state's archaeological and historic resources for everyone's benefit.

The SHPO conducts surveys to identify archaeological and historic resources; nominates eligible properties to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP); comments on the effects of federal undertakings on archaeological and historic resources; develops the statewide preservation plan; administers the Certified Local Governments (CLG) Program; provides comments to the National Park Service about rehabilitation projects proposed for federal tax credits; and provides public outreach programs and technical assistance to preservation professionals, government agencies, and interested citizens. The SHPO expects to receive approximately \$879,000 from the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) for these programs and its operations. Ten percent of the HPF award is reserved for pass-through grants to CLGs.

The SHPO's Statewide Preservation Plan, now available for years 2020-24 at www.okhistory.org/shpo/stateplan, sets forth the statewide preservation community's goals and objectives. The SHPO's priorities for addressing the state plan's goals are continuation of the archaeological and historic/architectural resources survey program, with special emphasis on resources associated with underrepresented peoples and extension of survey coverage to previously unstudied areas; preparation of NRHP nominations; and continuation of public outreach and technical assistance programs. Your project ideas and recommended priorities for the SHPO's FY2021 activities will help strengthen preservation efforts in Oklahoma.

The project suggestion form will be available online through the SHPO website or hard copy by request. The form can be submitted electronically at any point during the year, but will only be considered for the next available funding cycle. Visit the SHPO website at www.okhistory.org/shpo/projectsuggestion. Contact Lynda Ozan at 405-522-4484 or lozan@okhistory.org with questions or to receive a hard copy of the form.



OHS museums, sites, and affiliates reopen

The first priority of the Oklahoma Historical Society continues to be the health and safety of our patrons, staff, and volunteers. With the guidance of local and state officials, we have developed new protocols for the safety of visitors at all of our museums and sites. Rest assured that our staff will be cleaning and sanitizing all high-touch areas at every location.

If you are visiting, please consider the following recommendations:

*Call before visiting. When you plan to visit an OHS museum or site, please remember to check with the site to confirm its visiting hours, which may be different due to current circumstances.

*Stay six feet apart. There may be limited guest capacity in some galleries and buildings to ensure visitors have ample space to practice social distancing.

*Wear a mask. Staff at OHS museums and sites will be wearing masks to protect the public. Although they are not required, we ask that visitors wear masks to protect our staff.

*If you are sick, stay home. We ask that anyone experiencing COVID-19 symptoms please refrain from visiting our museums and sites.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Canning set sparks bygone memories

On a recent visit to the Fred Drummond Home in Hominy, a patron shared a precious childhood memory that was sparked by a seemingly mundane artifact. Of the many furnishings, colorful wallpaper, and household goods original to the home, it was an antique canning set that caught her eye. The elderly guest was just a child when her grandmother told her about a man who moved to Hominy in its early days. He made canning sets by hand and sold them to almost every housewife in town. The sales kept his family fed until he found employment.

Plan a visit to the Fred Drummond Home to see many unique artifacts like that canning set. Due to precautions surrounding COVID-19, tour times have been adjusted. The new tour times are:

- Wednesday through Saturday – 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m., and 4 p.m.
- Sunday – 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

This schedule gives our staff time to clean and sanitize the home between tours. In addition to new cleaning practices, tour group sizes will be limited to nine people. We apologize for any inconvenience. For more information please call 918-885-2374.

New safety measures at OHS Research Center

The Oklahoma Historical Society Research Center has reopened with its normal hours of operation, Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. The Research Center is located inside the Oklahoma History Center at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in Oklahoma City.

Due to COVID-19, the Research Center has implemented additional safety measures for the health and wellness of our patrons and staff. At least six feet of social distancing must be maintained in all areas of the Research Center. All research materials utilized by the public will be subject to a 72-hour quarantine after use. OHS staff will wear masks or face shields, and patrons are strongly encouraged to wear masks. If a patron wishes to have one-on-one assistance from OHS staff, a face mask will be required.

Research Center occupancy will be limited to 20 patrons. If there are patrons waiting due to the occupancy restriction, research time will be limited to two hours. For questions about occupancy, please contact the Research Center at 405-522-5225 or research@okhistory.org. Due to space limitations, patrons must make an appointment to view archival materials including manuscript collections, original records, photographs, maps, audio, or video. To schedule an appointment, contact Mallory Covington at mcovington@okhistory.org or 405-522-0876.

For those who are not ready to visit us in person, there are many resources that can be accessed from home. Visit www.okhistory.org/research to find out more.

In an effort to assist our researchers, the OHS Research Center will digitize microfilm from its collections at the reduced price of \$35 per reel, a 30 percent discount. This special price will be available through August 31. Contact Sarah Biller at sbiller@okhistory.org or call 405-522-0868 for more information. Some restrictions may apply.

What should I do with my treasures?

The Sod House Museum will host a workshop/seminar with Martha Ray about generational differences in keeping personal artifacts and possessions. The workshop will be held on Saturday, August 15, at 10 a.m. Participants will explore what items to donate, when tax deductions apply, and how to support local thrift shops. Before you roll up your sleeves and sort through your old photos or consider a garage sale, engage in this lively discussion! For more information contact Sod House Museum Director Renee Trindle at 580-463-2441.



Honey Springs to hold virtual memorial service

Each July, Honey Springs Battlefield holds a memorial service to observe the anniversary of the Battle of Honey Springs, which occurred on July 17, 1863. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the staff looked for a creative way to continue this tradition while keeping visitors and staff safe. In response, this year's memorial service will be held virtually. On Saturday, July 18, at 10:30 a.m., the Battle of Honey Springs Memorial Service will be broadcast on the site's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/honeysprings. You do not need a Facebook account to view the virtual memorial service.

The memorial service will include the familiar elements of past years. Site Manager Adam Lynn will welcome viewers, followed by the presentation of colors and an invocation by Reverend Jim Jones of First United Methodist Church in Checotah. OHS Executive Director Dr. Bob Blackburn will give memorial remarks, followed by the retirement of colors and taps.

The service commemorates the largest of approximately 107 documented Civil War military engagements throughout Indian Territory. Approximately 9,000 Union and Confederate troops, mostly American Indians and African Americans, were involved in the decisive Union victory at the Battle of Honey Springs. For more information about the virtual memorial service, please contact Adam Lynn at 918-473-5572 or alynn@okhistory.org.

Hunter's Home site partially open to public

While the grounds surrounding Hunter's Home have opened to the public, the interior of the home remains closed for the protection of patrons and staff. The finishes in the historic home cannot withstand the cleaning chemicals necessary to protect visitors from COVID-19. Programming continues outside on the living history farm, and the grounds are limited to 20 visitors at one time. To account for these changes, admission rates have been temporarily discounted. Visit www.okhistory.org/huntershome for more information.

August calendar

All OHS-sponsored events have been canceled or postponed through July 31, and some may be canceled beyond that date. We thank you for your cooperation and for being part of the OHS community.

- 1 History Alive! living history experience, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 6 Back to School Bash (VIRTUAL), Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 12 Brown Bag lecture series, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 15 History Alive! living history experience, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 15 Will Rogers and Wiley Post Fly-In, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah
- 15 *Bright Golden Haze: Reflections* exhibit closes, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 15 "What Should I Do with my Treasures?" presentation, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 31 Blacksmithing Demonstrations, Cherokee Strip Museum and Rose Hill School, Perry

Huey moves outdoors

Those familiar with the Oklahoma History Center (OHC) will notice a major change on their next visit. The Bell HU-1 (Huey) helicopter that was mounted to the ceiling outside the Gaylord Special Exhibit Gallery made a dramatic exit with the help of cranes and the expert planning of the OHC Exhibits Department. It is now located on the grounds outside the museum. Many hands worked together to weld the 10,000-pound chopper onto metal mounts. Pathways and other design elements with explanatory signage will be added in the future.

The design for the outdoor installation was done by Cameron Eagle, an independent contractor who formerly worked for the Oklahoma Historical Society.



Workers install the Huey helicopter on its elevated mount.

Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant projects underway

Earlier this year, the Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) awarded grants to 43 historical organizations through the new Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program. Three important projects are already near completion at historic points across the state: the Okmulgee Black Hospital; the Edwards Store; and the Claremore Museum of History.



Landmark for all Generations, Inc.

The grant was used to install a historical marker at the location of the Okmulgee Black Hospital, a segregated hospital that served Okmulgee's black community from 1924 to 1956. The hospital, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, was constructed in 1922 and 1923, and is located at 320 North Wood Drive. This small hospital housed up to 25 patients, and was staffed by African American doctors and nurses. Today, the building is the oldest black hospital remaining in Oklahoma.

The project included site preparation, a concrete foundation for the marker, the engraved granite marker itself, and lighting. Landmark for all Generations, Inc. dedicated the historical marker on June 27, 2020. The marker will inform passersby of the historical importance and legacy of the building.

The nonprofit Landmark for all Generations, Inc. strives to remember historical facts regarding the medical profession and treatment of African American citizens in the city of Okmulgee.



The Edwards Store, Inc.

The Edwards Store, Inc. was awarded a grant to stabilize the 170-year-old east and west chimneys at the Edwards Store. The building is the only original structure remaining on the 192-mile segment of the Butterfield Overland Mail Stagecoach Road in Oklahoma. The Butterfield was used to transport passengers and mail from St. Louis to San Francisco from 1858 to 1861.

The store was built on the original location of the town of Red Oak. The town, named for trees in the area, was moved to be closer to the railroad. It is for this reason that the Edwards Store stands about eight miles northeast of present-day Red Oak. The store was constructed of hand-hewn logs from the nearby forest in a distinctive "dog-trot" design, built with a breezeway in the center. The store's chimneys are fragile and irreplaceable works of art made from dry-stacked native stones. The Edwards Store, Inc. used its grant funds for the protection of those chimneys through stabilization techniques. They employed a log cabin restoration expert who encased the chimneys in industrial shrink-wrap embedded with wooden lathes. The organization's long-term hope is to raise funds to have the chimneys restored. This process will preserve them until that time.

The Edwards Store, Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation to protect, preserve, restore, rehabilitate, reuse, and maintain the historic Edwards Store, its 1850s log cabin, and grounds.



Claremore Museum of History

The Claremore Museum of History (CMoH) is located in the old Will Rogers Library at Fourth Street and Weenonah Avenue in Claremore. It showcases famous people from Claremore, as well as the history of the community through artifacts and photographs.

The museum used its Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant to purchase and install a new security system. This upgrade will make the CMoH eligible for American Alliance of Museums accreditation and loans from other institutions. A reliable security system will also help staff to ensure the protection of valuable collections and traveling exhibits. Both indoor and outdoor cameras, management software, access control, smoke/heat detectors, and a burglar alarm are a part of this museum-wide improvement.

The primary goal of the Claremore Museum of History is to preserve and showcase the treasured memories of yesteryear, recognize the achievements of today, educate adults and students about the community's history, and stimulate community involvement in the promise of tomorrow.

"The Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program is proving to be an invaluable tool," stated Nicole Harvey, OHS grants administrator. "We have already seen through the projects now underway, and those in the planning stage, that they will have a transforming effect on the future of collecting, preserving, and sharing Oklahoma history in local communities across the state."

The Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program is a grants-in-aid program offered by the Oklahoma Historical Society with a goal of encouraging the collection, preservation, and sharing of Oklahoma history at the grassroots level in all parts of the state. Applications for this annual program open in the fall and award announcements are made in January. For more information visit www.okhistory.org/grants.

OHS asks Oklahomans to share COVID-19 stories

For 127 years, the Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) has worked to collect, preserve and share our history. Just as the OHS has chronicled World War I, the influenza outbreaks in 1918 and 1919, the Great Depression and Okie migration of the 1930s and 1940s, World War II, the 1980s oil bust, and other momentous events, we are dedicated to documenting the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, we ask for your help in saving our history during this extraordinary time.

"We invite all fellow Oklahomans to share their stories," said OHS Executive Director Dr. Bob Blackburn. "Firsthand accounts are invaluable to the historical record. By sharing your personal experiences, you can help future generations understand this chapter in our history." To share your story, please visit www.okhistory.org/covidstories.

The OHS is also collecting materials that commemorate the moment, such as photographs, journals, documents, posters, work schedules, distance learning curricula, signs, and other items related to the pandemic. If you are interested in donating an item, please contact Mallory Covington, archival collections manager, at 405-522-0876.



RSU Radio partners with Will Rogers Memorial Museum

By Jennifer Smith

He was a beloved philosopher, visionary, persuasive public speaker, and, above all, he had a heart for humanity. He is well known all over the world, but best known to the residents of Claremore as a humble humanitarian. Will Rogers was a man of his word, and his words of wisdom still live on today through a new radio program on RSU Radio, *The Will Rogers Minute*.

Rogers State University Radio (KRSC-FM) has partnered with the Will Rogers Memorial Museum to bring Will's voice to life. The program, which highlights his life and legacy, is produced weekly, airing every Wednesday at 7:45 a.m., 11:45 a.m., and 4:45 p.m. on RSU Radio. It is also available nationwide for stations to run via the Public Radio Exchange.

Tad Jones, executive director of the Will Rogers Memorial Museums, is excited to be working with RSU Radio to remind people of Will's wisdom to be shared.

"Will is a major figure in American history. Sharing his thoughts and experiences with a new audience and generation is exciting, and hopefully they will glean some wisdom from him," Jones said. "Everyone can learn a little something from Will. He was friends with royalty and the common man, and he spoke simply so everyone could understand."

Each radio segment looks at a theme tied to Will's life. An interpreter reenacts his voice for quotes to give a better sense of his history.

Tip Crowley, station manager at RSU Radio, is proud to collaborate with the museum to provide content and access for the community to learn about Will's heritage.

OHC photo exhibit celebrates "ordinary" life

In June, the Oklahoma History Center opened a new photographic exhibit entitled *In the Vernacular: Everyday Images of Oklahoma Life*, which celebrates everyday image-making. The exhibit is expected to run for approximately one year, and is composed of 36 black-and-white and color images curated from the Oklahoma Historical Society's photographic collections. It features fun, quirky, and sometimes odd images of Oklahomans. The photos were taken for a variety of purposes, including souvenir postcards, government archives, police case files, pin-up posters, networking websites, magazines, newspapers, and family albums.

Vernacular photography is a genre comprised of family and professional studio portraits as well as casual snapshots. These images are usually created by amateur photographers for document-

"Will has a legacy that touched people all over the world. From his radio speeches, to political discourse, to advocacy for aviation, he was one of the most influential people of his time," Crowley said. "Many of his words are just as meaningful today as they were nearly 100 years ago. Because of his tie to the area, and the amazing resources available at the Will Rogers Memorial Museum, RSU Radio is happy to keep his memory alive."

While our current economic status is not quite the level of hardship Will experienced, he would have understood.

"Will lived through the Spanish Flu, the Great Depression, and political upheaval. Some of the same types of issues we are facing today," Jones said. "Will said, 'America is the land of opportunity and don't ever forget it,' 'Live your life so that whenever you lose, you are ahead,' and 'It's great to be great, but it's greater to be human.' He would want us to live life to the fullest and help our fellow man."

Many people may know his name, but Crowley and Jones agree it is important to understand Will Rogers's words and his legacy.

"Anyone can benefit from listening," continued Crowley. "As a short-form program, it only takes one minute to listen. He bridged gaps, and we hope this program can help do the same."



Governor Frank Frantz Collection

By Jan H. Richardson

Frank Frantz was the final territorial governor before statehood. Unlike his predecessors, Frantz was a resident of Oklahoma Territory long before he went into public service. He and his brothers moved to Medford, Oklahoma Territory,



after the opening of the Cherokee Strip in 1893. In 1898 Frantz joined the Rough Riders, and had a fortuitous introduction to then Lieutenant Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, who became a lifelong friend. After fighting in Cuba with the Rough Riders, Frantz left the US Army and returned to Oklahoma. He and his brothers relocated to Enid and opened the Frantz Brothers Hardware and Tin Shop. In 1901 President William McKinley was assassinated and Theodore Roosevelt became president of the United States. As president, Roosevelt turned to Frantz, an ally in Oklahoma Territory, to undertake the position of territorial governor on January 5, 1906. Frantz embraced the opportunity and was instrumental in acquiring the Oklahoma Panhandle—formerly labeled No Man's Land—and establishing the requirement for oil and gas companies to purchase mineral rights when drilling on public lands. Frantz won the Republican nomination for governor in 1907, but ultimately lost the election to Charles N. Haskell. His only other foray into public service was in 1932 when he unsuccessfully ran for US Congress in the First Congressional District.

The Governor Frank Frantz Collection (M1969.046) contains biographical information, correspondence, discharge papers connected to his time in the Rough Riders, correspondence and invitations from the Roosevelt White House, and obituaries and articles after his death in 1941. The collection is available for viewing at the OHS Research Center, Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Due to restrictions related to COVID-19, an appointment is required. The Research Center is located inside the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. For more information call 405-522-5225 or email research@okhistory.org to request an appointment to view the collection. The collection is also available electronically through The Gateway to Oklahoma History, gateway.okhistory.org.

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





Daisy, a calf born this spring at the Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, was named by Facebook followers.

Will Rogers and Wiley Post Fly-In marks 85 years since plane crash

On Saturday, August 15, starting at 8:30 a.m., aviation enthusiasts will mark 85 years to the day since Will Rogers and Wiley Post died in an Alaska plane crash with the annual Will Rogers and Wiley Post Fly-In. To honor their memory, pilots of small planes will land on a 2,000-foot grass strip at the Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch in Oologah, adjacent to the house where Will was born in 1879.

The fly-in is an opportunity for the public to get an up-close look at vintage and late-model small aircraft and visit with the pilots. Pilots come from a four-state area to showcase their planes and renew friendships from previous years. Visitors are invited to come early to see the first aircraft land.

There will also be special activities for children, storytelling, a car and motorcycle show, food trucks, and tours of the birthplace and the Amish-built barn. Guests can see the new calves born this spring at the Birthplace Ranch and learn their names, which were chosen among submissions on Facebook.

Since reopening on June 1, both the Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch and the Will Rogers Memorial Museum in Claremore have continued to take precautions to keep visitors and staff safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The memorial has a great deal of open space to enjoy and still social distance from other visitors,” said Tad Jones, executive director of the sites. “The Birthplace Ranch also has nice, wide-open spaces for visitors ready to get out and about. We also pay special attention to follow guidelines for health and safety of employees and visitors, including frequent sanitizing of areas and availability of hand sanitizer throughout the museums.”

Admission to the Will Rogers and Wiley Post Fly-In is free, and ample parking is available on the grounds. The Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch is located at 9501 E 380 Road in Oologah.

Urban Hike Adventure Kits encourage exploration

The Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center (CSRHC) in Enid is creating new kinds of experiences for visitors. One of those experiences is the Urban Hike Adventure Kit, a package deal that includes a canvas shoulder bag, walking stick, branded water bottle, bandana to wipe your brow, and, most importantly, a tri-fold map of Enid with little bits of history about sites and buildings across town.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused museums everywhere to invent new programming that is suitable for the necessary gathering restrictions and social distancing measures, not only at museum facilities, but also in spaces where individuals can access them and remain apart from crowds.

“Experience and discovery are key components of what drives our industry’s educational programming,” said CSRHC Director Jake Krumwiede. “So, we’re focusing our efforts on programming that allows people to continue to discover and explore with more singular, self-guided experiences.” The urban hikes do just that.

The historic stops on the map allow the hiker to choose their destinations and make their own route along the way to locations stretched over an approximately two-and-a-half-mile loop.

The Urban Hike Adventure Kit is available for visitors to purchase and individually explore history at their own pace.

“Really, a walking tour is an old concept that we have modified and adapted to the modern age,” Krumwiede said. “When you have to throw out the playbook, sometimes those old ways of doing things can still work.”

Enid’s urban landscape made it easy to put together a hiking tour. Krumwiede added, “In the cool of the evening, I will go out and explore. I walk around town, never going the same way twice. I love discovering and seeing new things, and try to learn as much as I can about different places along the way.”

The adventure kits are available online or at the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center for only \$30. The kits are available for curbside pickup. For more information or to purchase a kit, please call 580-237-1907.



Urban Hike Adventure Kits are for sale at the CSRHC.

There’s a bright golden haze at the OHC

The Oklahoma History Center (OHC) is proud to announce its participation in a multiorganization collaboration exhibition entitled *Bright Golden Haze: Reflections*. This exhibition is created in conjunction with *Bright Golden Haze*, the inaugural exhibition at Oklahoma Contemporary. The OHC outdoor installation opened to the public on June 15 and will remain on display until August 15.

“Partnerships and supporting the arts and humanities in Oklahoma are very important to us,” said Lori Oden, director of exhibits at the OHC.

The Oklahoma History Center is one of 13 local Oklahoma City organizations to

collaborate on satellite installations, exhibitions, and performances in conjunction with Oklahoma Contemporary’s exhibition. These collaborations have been generously funded through a series of grants from the Kirkpatrick Family Fund.

Bright Golden Haze: Reflections takes on the theme of the role of light as a medium and an inspiration for contemporary artists. The Oklahoma History Center’s contribution to this effort will be a 600-foot maze of yellow fabric meandering across the grassy grounds of the OHC. The installation will include three interactives highlighting images from the musical *Oklahoma!*

Kemnitz exhibit extended in Perry

The Cherokee Strip Museum and Rose Hill School in Perry has extended its exhibit of items from the city’s iconic Kemnitz Service station through November 2020. The exhibit includes signs, gas pumps, globes, and a hand-carved Apatosaurus called “Craigasaurus” after the station owner. For more information, please call 580-336-2405.



Oklahoma History Center Education Department “breaks barriers” to serve Oklahoma students

OkNHD NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

The mission of the Oklahoma Historical Society is to collect, preserve, and share Oklahoma history. The Education Department of the Oklahoma History Center (OHC) has utilized current technology, seasoned professionals, and willing volunteers to fulfill that mission for the 2020 National History Day (NHD) competition. This event is held annually to highlight middle and high school students, both domestic and internationally, who have prepared papers, documentaries, performances, exhibits, or websites with a particular theme in mind. The theme for 2020 was “Breaking Barriers in History.” The OHC serves as the state sponsor for Oklahoma National History Day (OkNHD) and coordinates the state competition, while various local sponsors manage regional events. In past years, state winners have had the opportunity to travel to College Park, Maryland, for judging in the National History Day contest. However, the COVID-19 pandemic meant an alteration in how this event was traditionally held.

“We were committed to ensuring that students and teachers were still able to showcase their hard work in creating their OkNHD projects,” said Sarah Dumas, director of education at the Oklahoma History Center and OkNHD state coordinator. “The dedication and heart of the staff and volunteer judges for OkNHD was fully demonstrated in this learning year of conducting a virtual contest. It seems that this year’s theme, ‘Breaking Barriers,’ became a reality to all those who participated in this wonderful event.”

A major challenge was the judging of the entries from remote stations. This feat was accomplished by enlisting volunteers, on a nationwide and intercontinental basis, to evaluate and critique each entry. The performance, documentary, and website design entries are traditionally evaluated after the participant(s) offer a live presentation and answer questions from the judges. This year, all presentations and entries were uploaded to the NHD registry, then downloaded and reviewed by the judges. The judging panels were comprised of teachers, graduate students, authors, historians, and volunteers from various museums domestically, as well as seven international sites. The Smithsonian Institution, of which the OHC is an active affiliate, also contributed judges from its staff, as well as from other national affiliates.

The volunteer judges received the digital entries to review and critique on April 21. The runoff was completed on April 28 and the awards were presented on May 7. The results of the OkNHD state contest may be viewed on the OHC Education Department page on the Oklahoma Historical Society website at www.okhistory.org/historycenter/oknhdwinners.

National History Day is a nonprofit education organization based in College Park, Maryland. Established in 1974, NHD offers year-long academic programs that engage more than half a million middle and high school students around the world annually in conducting original research on historical topics of interest. NHD seeks to improve the quality of history education by providing professional development opportunities and curriculum materials for educators. For more information, visit www.nhd.org.



OHS joins Made By Us coalition

On May 23, 2020, the Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) joined a new, nationwide coalition of history and cultural organizations. This partnership is called Made By Us, and it is being led by the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of American History. The goal is to share history with younger generations in innovative and meaningful ways. As an Anchor Partner, the OHS will utilize its collections to educate and engage the next generation—with hopes that their understanding of the past will help them to shape a better future.

The OHS recognizes the opportunity presented in this transformative moment for institutions like ours to better serve the public and join the ongoing conversation about the future of our country. In mid-June, a special initiative titled “My Wish For U.S.” was launched at www.MyWishForUS.com. This interactive website encourages people to share their vision for the future of the United States of America as we approach our country’s 250th birthday. The hope is that this will start a national conversation about our shared future, with history organizations at the center. You are invited to submit your own wish or you can just explore wishes by using different filters. While browsing, you may even see a wish from OHS Executive Director Dr. Bob Blackburn! We are excited and optimistic about this project, and hope you will participate.

Learn more about the Made By Us coalition at www.HistoryMadeByUs.org. Additional updates about our participation will be featured in future issues of *Mistletoe Leaves*. Follow along in real time by joining our community on social media—just search for @okhistory on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

