



# Mistletoe Leaves



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## Battle of Honey Springs Memorial

Honey Springs Battlefield will hold its annual memorial service honoring the 159th anniversary of the Battle of Honey Springs near Checotah on Saturday, July 16, at 10:30 a.m.

The memorial service will be held outside on the lawn of the visitor center. Adam Lynn, site manager for Honey Springs Battlefield, will give a welcome and opening remarks, followed by the presentation of colors by the color guard, an invocation, and a special program by Dr. James Finck of the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma (USAO). After the program, the color guard will retire the colors. The Friends of Honey Springs Battlefield will host its annual meeting following the retiring of the colors.

Following the ceremony, students from USAO will serve as tour guides on the six trails that cross the 1,100-acre battlefield. The students will point out the exact locations of military actions, highlight key aspects of the engagement, and discuss its historical importance.

The service commemorates the largest of approximately 107 documented Civil War military engagements throughout Indian Territory, in present-day Oklahoma. 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.

For those interested, two additional days of USAO guided tours will take place on July 2 and 26 at the historic battlefield.

The Honey Springs Battlefield site includes more than 1,000 acres, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and is a National Historic Landmark. Honey Springs Battlefield is located east of US Highway 69 between Oktaha and Rentiesville. The visitor center is located on a hill within close proximity to the Oklahoma Blues Hall of Fame in Rentiesville. Take the second left after reaching the Oklahoma Blues Hall of Fame Museum (driving from the west). For more information regarding the memorial service and Honey Springs Battlefield, please email [honeysprings@okhistory.org](mailto:honeysprings@okhistory.org) or [alynn@okhistory.org](mailto:alynn@okhistory.org), or call 918-617-7125.

## The Oklahoma Historical Society begins rebranding

A new logo is being implemented for the Oklahoma Historical Society. In July, the OHS will officially have a new look.

Last summer, the OHS staff began working with the idea of changing the detailed imagery and hand lettering of the previous design, which was created more than 30 years ago. Initially, the team noticed that the words embedded in the design were difficult to read in small sizes and, while the design worked well in color, it did not translate well into black-and-white.

After much planning, a new logo design was chosen and shared with the OHS Executive Committee and staff in the winter of 2021. The Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors approved the new logo and identity in April 2022.

The effort is now underway to rebrand all publications, print collateral, and membership materials to create a cohesive visual identity. In this day and age of social media, it is more important than ever to have a logo that is modernized and will work on a variety of platforms. The chosen design will perform well in digital applications and in print.

One noticeable change is the separation of text and image in the new design. The OHS name is featured alongside the new logo, making it easier to read. The icon/mark features 24 extending rays, symbolic of an abstract sunrise/sunset to convey the unending passage of time. A new, vibrant color palette correlating to the State of Oklahoma's brand also will be utilized.

At the OHS, we know it is crucial that every person who views our exhibits, researches in our archives, joins in a field trip, experiences living history, attends a class, engages with historic preservation, reads our publications, discovers history on our website, or steps foot into OHS museums and historic sites understands that their experience was made possible by the Oklahoma Historical Society and its supporters.

Our new identity system will help us unify the many facets of the OHS. The modernized logo will be reflected in multiple museums and historic sites, various publications, educational programs, and online resources. Over the next few months, you will see the new OHS logo in more and more places.

Future plans include new designs for publications and on our website. *Mistletoe Leaves* will eventually adapt a new look in the coming year. Although we are updating our visual identity, be assured that the Oklahoma Historical Society will continue to collect, preserve, and share our history, just as it has since 1893.



Oklahoma  
Historical  
Society

The new logo design incorporates  
the font IvyPresto.



## Director's Column

**By Trait Thompson  
Executive Director**

Getting any bill passed through the legislature and signed by the governor usually constitutes a minor miracle. Things can go wrong at any step in the process. A key member of leadership may decide it's not the right time for what is being proposed. The legislature may have other budgetary priorities that year. The bill might get caught up in a tug-of-war between the two chambers. Jupiter might be in retrograde. You get the picture.

That is why it is no small feat that HB 4099, the OHS's legislation to invest \$46 million in bond funds at 24 museums and historic sites across the state was signed into law on May 26. It was a long road to get to this point, but it was worth the journey. Last summer, our team began hosting tours for legislators at our historic sites to show them the deferred maintenance issues that had gone unaddressed for far too long. At site after site over the next several months and into the winter, we continued to show them leaky roofs, building façades that were crumbling, porches on historic homes that had lost their structural integrity, bathrooms that were not ADA compliant, parking lots in disrepair, and on and on.

To their credit, most of the legislators were receptive to our message and pledged to help. When the bills were filed in January, we asked them to sign on as coauthors of the legislation and many of them did. Gabby Hosek, our OHS legislative liaison, and I heard throughout session that legislative leadership was both surprised and impressed by the number of coauthors who signed on to our bills.

I am convinced that this show of support gave the legislation the momentum it needed to reach the finish line. In the end, our legislation passed with 37 votes in the Senate and 74 votes in the House—a testament to the work that was done to reach each legislator with our message.

I specifically want to thank our bill authors, Representative Avery Frix and Senator Darcy Jech, for carrying this legislation. They are both enthusiastic supporters of the OHS and their credibility among their colleagues is a significant reason for the measure's success. Our team in the House and Senate Appropriations Committees also deserve a great deal of recognition: Representative Kevin Wallace, Senator Roger Thompson, Representative Ryan Martinez, Senator Chuck Hall, Representative Carl Newton, and the aforementioned Senator Darcy Jech. I am very thankful to Governor Kevin Stitt for signing the bill into law.

I cannot overstate the positive impact this will have on our museums and sites. In my letter to the governor asking him to sign HB 4099, I told him I did not want the condition of our properties to distract from the incredible stories we have to tell and the lessons we can impart to those discovering our history for the first time. Thankfully, as we complete these projects over the next few years, that will no longer be the case.

*Trait Thompson*



**Jennifer Rogers Etcheverry and Director Tad Jones of the Will Rogers Memorial Museum display plans to improve the museum with funds from HB 4099.**



## Fly-In at Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch

On Saturday, August 13, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., aviation enthusiasts will mark 87 years since Will Rogers and Wiley Post died in an Alaska plane crash. 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 Rogers 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. Come early to see the first aircraft land!

There will also be special activities for children, Cherokee storytelling, a classic car show, and tours of the birthplace and the Amish-built barn. Reenactors portraying Will Rogers and Wiley Post will be a part of the festivities. Admission is free, and ample parking is available on the grounds. This event is sponsored by the Cherokee Nation.

The day before the fly-in, on Friday, August 12, at noon, the Will Rogers Memorial Museum in Claremore will host a wreath-laying ceremony and flyover to mark the anniversary of the August 15, 1935, death of Will Rogers and Wiley Post.

The public is welcome to join in viewing the flyover and the wreath laying at the site of Will Rogers's tomb. For information about both events, call 918-341-0719.

## Development News

By Larry O'Dell

Share the benefits of an OHS membership with your friends, family, and neighbors this summer! One benefit of a family membership is free entry for eight people to each of the OHS's museums and historic sites across the state. As gas prices may make out-of-state travel impractical, you can save some money by taking advantage of the events, exhibits, and programs offered by nearby OHS sites.

During the past session, the Oklahoma Legislature passed a bond providing funds to repair and improve most of these sites. This will vastly upgrade the value of OHS membership now and in the coming years. You can visit [www.okhistory.org/sites](http://www.okhistory.org/sites) to see the locations of our museums, historic sites, and affiliates and get more information on each of these unique places. To see all the benefits of OHS membership, to purchase a membership, or to renew an existing membership, please visit [www.okhistory.org/membership](http://www.okhistory.org/membership). If you have any questions, you can contact me at [lodell@okhistory.org](mailto:lodell@okhistory.org) or 405-522-6676.



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*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.



**Back row, from left to right: Tifani Darata, Pam McCarty, Jack Robertson, Lynda Ozan, Shea Otley. Seated, left to right: Marcus Young, Sara Werneke, Kristina Wyckoff, and Dr. Matthew Pearce.**

## Celebrating 55 years

The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is celebrating 55 years in operation in 2022. We would like to thank all the SHPO staff who have made an impact on preservation efforts in Oklahoma. Happy anniversary to past and present staff!

## Oklahoma State Capitol documentary

The Inasmuch Foundation has awarded \$265,000 in grant funds to the Friends of the Oklahoma History Center to produce a documentary film about the Oklahoma State Capitol. *The Voice of the People* will explore the 115-year history of the Capitol, from the controversial move from Guthrie to the recently completed building restoration and opening of the new Oklahoma State Capitol Museum on the ground floor. Featuring notable Oklahomans including activists, politicians, and artists, this film will present the compelling story of Oklahoma's most significant building and the diverse individuals who have graced its halls.

*The Voice of the People* is being produced in partnership with Pantheon Digital LLC and directed by Bryan Beasley, with writer Jaime Roman, director of photography Jon Roman, and director of animation Luke Leslie. With a running time of 15 to 20 minutes, the film will use current and archival footage, historical images, animation, and drone shots to create a dynamic and entertaining story. Production has begun, and the film is expected to be finished in time for the celebration commemorating the completion of the Oklahoma State Capitol Restoration Project.



## National History Day Boot Camp at OHC

Teachers, would you like to bring project-based learning and critical thinking skills into your classroom? Come to National History Day Boot Camp to learn about this adaptable curriculum for students in grades 6 to 12. This program will be held Thursday, July 29, from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Oklahoma History Center (OHC). National History Day Boot Camp is \$10 for OHS members and \$15 for nonmembers. Please visit [www.okhistory.org/historycenter/classregistration](http://www.okhistory.org/historycenter/classregistration) to register online. Registration closes on July 19.

## Back to School Bash planned in August

Make sure the educators in your life know about the Oklahoma Museums Association's annual Back to School Bash. This event brings organizations from across the state to the Oklahoma History Center so they can share the resources and programs they have ready to support educators throughout the state. This year's event is at the Oklahoma History Center on August 4 from 5–7 p.m. It is free to attend, but we do ask for teachers to register. There will be lots of organizations present and tons of door prizes.

Register today at [www.okhistory.org/backtoschool](http://www.okhistory.org/backtoschool).



## Early Influencers exhibit

A new exhibit, *Early Influencers: How Anna Overholser & Henry Ione Overholser Perry Set the Style for Oklahoma City Women, 1903–1929*, will open to the public on Friday, July 1.

The exhibit will feature fashions and accessories worn by/inspired by Anna and Henry Ione displayed on every floor of the historic home. A fashion timeline, as well as archival photos of the Overholser women and other trendsetters of the period, will be dotted throughout the displays.

A member preview of the exhibit will take place on the evening of Thursday, June 30, from 6 to 8 p.m. for Preservation Oklahoma and Oklahoma Historical Society members only.

The exhibit will remain open through the summer until August 31. Please call 405-525-5325 for more information.

## Home on the Range: Dallas Mayer Art Show

On Tuesday, June 28, 2022, a new exhibit titled *Home on the Range: Dallas Mayer Art Show* opened at the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, featuring the work of Oklahoma artist Dallas Mayer.

The self-named "Ranch Lady" paints figures from everyday life, inviting viewers to experience her heartfelt connections to the animals and people of the Great Plains. With painterly, soft brushstrokes and deep, saturated hues, her paintings convey a lightness of spirit. Mayer has developed her own unique style as a painter and has discovered a healthy art/life balance in the last 10 years, exploring the joys of traveling around the region and painting in plein air.

Mayer's work is known throughout the region and has shown at the Oklahoma State Capitol as well as art centers, galleries, and museums across the United States. The exhibit will remain open until July 30, 2022.

The Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center is located at 507 South Fourth Street in Enid. For more information, please call 580-237-1907 or visit [www.csrhc.org](http://www.csrhc.org).



## Selections from In Citizen's Garb: Native Americans on the Southern Plains, 1889–1891

Beginning on Tuesday, July 5, the exhibit *Selections from In Citizen's Garb: Native Americans on the Southern Plains, 1889–1891*, a selection of modern gelatin silver prints made from glass plate negatives from the photography studio of Lenny and Sawyers, will be on display in the Noble Gallery, located on the third floor of the Oklahoma History Center. The Lenny and Sawyers Studio was in operation for a short period of time, from 1889 to 1891. Many of the photographs taken by William Lenny and William Sawyers in that time period depicted Indigenous people in the Lawton and Fort Sill area. The tribes represented include the Comanche, Kiowa, Apache, Wichita, Delaware, and Cad-do.

The Oklahoma Historical Society Research Center was recently gifted the original glass plate negatives and the traveling exhibit entitled *In Citizen's Garb: Native Americans on the Southern Plains, 1889–1891*. The donors of the collection are Joe and Frances Swalwell. The original exhibition was organized by the Museum of the Great Plains in Lawton, and was previously toured by Exhibits USA.

## OHS Calendar of Events

### July

- 1 *Early Influencers* exhibit opens, Henry and Anna Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City
- 2 Pawnee Bill Cannon Dedication, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 2 Guided tours, Honey Springs Battlefield, Checotah
- 2 History Alive! on the Cherokee Strip, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 5 *Selections from In Citizen's Garb: Native Americans on the Southern Plains, 1889-1991*, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 8 Overnight at the Chuck Wagon, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 9 Oklahoma Route 66 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, Oklahoma Route 66 Museum, Clinton
- 9 *Route 66 Transitions, 1981-1991: Jerry McClanahan's First Decade of Route 66 Photography* exhibit opens, Oklahoma Route 66 Museum, Clinton
- 9 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 16 Will's Cowboy Trader Days at the Ranch, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah
- 16 Guided tours, Honey Springs Battlefield, Checotah
- 16 Battle of Honey Springs Memorial, Honey Springs Battlefield, Checotah
- 16 History Alive! on the Cherokee Strip, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 16 Family Day at the Birthplace Ranch, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah
- 16 Heritage Plants lecture, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 16 Let's Talk About It: *Cowboy Life: Reconstructing an American Myth* (1975) by William W. Savage Jr., Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 20 Oklahoma Historical Society Executive Committee meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 21 Historic Preservation Review Committee meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 21 Thursday Night Lecture Series featuring Pawnee Bill Ranch's Anna Davis, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 23 Guided tours, Honey Springs Battlefield, Checotah
- 26 OCSS Summer Social Studies Conference, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 27 Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 28 National History Day Boot Camp, (IN-PERSON and VIRTUAL), Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 29 Movie Night featuring *Where the Red Fern Grows* (1974), Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 30 *Home on the Range: Dallas Mayer Art Show* closes, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 31 *Family Album: Photographs by Pierre Tartoue* exhibit closes, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee

### August

- 4 Back to School Bash, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City



- 6 Family Fun Day, Cherokee Strip Museum and Rose Hill School, Perry
- 6 History Alive! on the Cherokee Strip, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 12 Wreath-laying and flyover, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 12 Museum After Dark: Village Sounds featuring Kalyn Fay Barnoski, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 13 Will Rogers and Wiley Post Fly-In and National Day of Remembrance, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah
- 13 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 16 Oklahoma Route 66 Centennial Commission meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 17 Oklahoma Historical Society Executive Committee meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 18 Thursday Night Lecture Series featuring the Oklahoma Capitol Restoration Project presentation by Trait Thompson, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 20 Will's Cowboy Trader Days at the Ranch, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah
- 20 History Alive! on the Cherokee Strip, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 20 Family Day at the Birthplace Ranch, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah
- 20 Let's Talk About It: *The Virginian* (1902) by Owen Wister, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 26 Movie Night featuring Will Rogers Jr. in *The Story of Will Rogers* (1952), Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 30 "Shut the Door!" Barns in Oklahoma: Signs of Ethnicity and Adaption in Oklahoma Barns" webinar (VIRTUAL), State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City
- 31 *From Institution to Inclusion: The History of disAbilities in Oklahoma* exhibit closes, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 31 *Early Influencers* exhibit closes, Henry and Anna Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City

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



## OK Route 66 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Transitions opening

On Saturday, July 9, 2022, the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum will host the Oklahoma Route 66 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and the opening of a new exhibit, *Route 66 Transitions, 1981-1991: Jerry McClanahan's First Decade of Route 66 Photography*.

Beginning at 2 p.m., the Oklahoma Route 66 Association will induct two special Oklahomans into the Oklahoma Route 66 Hall of Fame. Inductions are held every two years for individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the promotion or preservation of Route 66. The winners' plaques will be unveiled with the others on display in the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum's Hall of Fame, located in the WOW! exhibit room.

Immediately following the induction, the museum will hold an opening for the *Route 66 Transitions, 1981-1991: Jerry McClanahan's First Decade of Route 66 Photography* exhibit. McClanahan is a noted Route 66 authority, artist, and photographer. He first began photographing and mapping the route in 1981, on a trip from Texas back to visit his boyhood home in Southern California. McClanahan captured many lost and forgotten scenes during this decade of decline and revival, some of which are presented in this exhibit for the first time. For information call 580-323-7866.



### Overnight at the Chuck Wagon

Pack your sleeping bag, pajamas, toothbrush, and toothpaste for Overnight at the Chuck Wagon at the Will Rogers Memorial Museum. This overnight event will take place from 5 p.m. on Friday, July 8, to 9 a.m. on Saturday, July 9.

This event is for children ages 5-12, accompanied by at least one adult. Participants will bed down in various parts of the museum for a night of 19th-century activities, movies, arts and crafts, games, and storytelling, with a chuck wagon dinner and breakfast.

Registration is required and is \$45 for nonmembers and \$35 for members. Both children and adults are required to pay the registration fee. Call 918-341-0719 for more information.



## Call for vendors

On Saturday, October 15, the Oklahoma History Center (OHC) will host its annual Folklife Festival. Registrations are currently being taken for vendors and exhibitors for this event.

The Folklife Festival is an annual event designed to engage visitors with opportunities to experience other cultures and traditions. This is a participatory event that encourages visitors to take part in the world of cultures in Oklahoma.

The festival's goals are to spark curiosity; catalyze intercultural exchange; create participatory experiences; and collaborate with cultural practitioners, communities, and heritage professionals.

To register your organization as a vendor or exhibitor for this fall event, please go to [www.okhistory.org/historycenter/folklifesignup](http://www.okhistory.org/historycenter/folklifesignup) to fill out the application form, and a member of the Oklahoma History Center Education Department staff will contact you.

Admission for the event will be free to the public, and the event will be held predominately outdoors on the OHC grounds. The OHC is located at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in Oklahoma City. The 2022 Folklife Festival is an education-focused event.

## Multicultural Office efforts reach out to Oklahoma's underrepresented communities

The Oklahoma Historical Society's newly developed Multicultural Office (OHS-MO) is developing programs and outreach initiatives focused on Oklahoma's diverse heritage and historically underrepresented communities. This work is being done in partnership with members of the Friends of the OHS Multicultural Office. Present members of that group include J. D. Baker, Jack Baker, Miriam Campos, Bruce Fisher, Jay Hannah, Michael Korenblit, Regina Lopez, Jerry Medina, Rick Naifeh, Dr. Donnie L. Nero Sr., Shirley Nero, and Ban Nguyen. The Friends of the OHSMO strongly supports the objective of creating bridges of communication and making opportunities for cultural exchange among the diverse communities in the state.

This May, OHS Multicultural Officer Saidy Orellana and Friends of the OHS-MO member Ban Nguyen participated in a new outreach initiative: the Asian Youth Empowerment Conference. This event brought high school students together with local Asian community groups to provide the young people with information about heritage-related activities and ways to remain active in their communities. These efforts helped to raise awareness of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month.

On the evening of June 16, a special Juneteenth Celebration was held at the Oklahoma History Center. OHS staff and the Friends of the OHSMO collaborated with members of the Black community to celebrate Juneteenth—the commemoration of emancipation following the US Civil War.

In July, a Naturalization Ceremony is scheduled to take place at the Oklahoma History Center. This event is being coordinated with the US District Court, Western District of Oklahoma; US Citizenship and Immigration Services; and the Office of US Senator James Lankford.

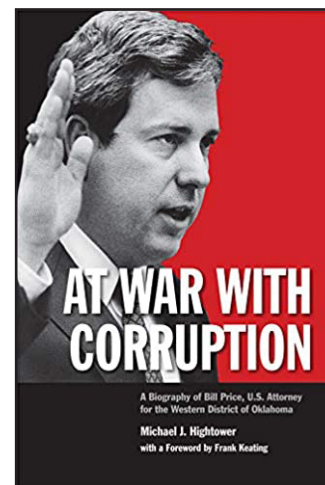
In addition to public-facing events, video interviews of several individuals are being coordinated. These will be added to a growing Diverse Profiles and Migration Stories Collection to be featured on the OHS Audio Archives YouTube channel. Friends of the OHSMO and partners from Oklahoma's diverse communities are compiling a list of potential interviews.

To be a part of the activities of the Multicultural Office, or to recommend people from your community as candidates for the Diverse Profiles and Migration Stories Project, contact Saidy Orellana, the OHS multicultural officer, at 405-522-5204.



**From left to right: Saidy Orellana, OHS multicultural officer; Ban Nguyen; and Yen Nguyen.**

## Hightower receives 2022 Oklahoma Book Award



The Oklahoma Center for the Book's 2022 Oklahoma Book Awards ceremony was held April 30, 2022, at the Embassy Suites ballroom in Oklahoma City. The winner in the Non-Fiction category was Michael J. Hightower's *At War with Corruption*.

*A Biography of Bill Price, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma* (2 Cities Press, 2021; distributed by the University of Oklahoma Press). The Friends of the Oklahoma History Center served as project administrator, and Hightower conducted much of his research in the OHS's John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick Research Center. Funding was provided by Inasmuch Foundation of Oklahoma City.

Hightower describes *At War with Corruption* as a dual narrative in which Price's career in law and politics opens a portal into a history of corruption in Oklahoma.

Unsavory episodes include—but are not limited to—the theft of Native American land, bribery and extortion on the state supreme court, the rise and fall of Governor David Hall, systemic corruption in county purchasing, wild and crazy lending at Penn Square Bank leading to the energy bust of the 1980s, and undue influence peddling at the state's most powerful regulatory agency. Through his prosecutions of Oklahoma's most notorious insiders and double-dealers, Bill Price branded himself as the biggest corruption buster in Oklahoma history.

Congratulations to Dr. Hightower for this honor!

## Heritage Plants lecture

Avid gardeners and those interested in a stroll in the Oklahoma History Center (OHC) gardens are invited to attend the Heritage Plants lecture on Saturday, July 16, from 1 to 3 p.m. On that day, a presentation will be given by OHC staff members about Oklahoma's native and heritage plants for guests ages 12 and up. A tour of the beautiful gardens of the *Red River Journey* at the Oklahoma History Center will follow the presentation.

This program is free with admission to the OHC, and will take place in the Mussler Learning Lab located on the first floor of the building. It will end in a walking tour, so comfortable shoes are encouraged. Please call 405-522-0765 for more information.



## PBR's bison babies

World-renowned Wild West showman Gordon W. "Pawnee Bill" Lillie would be pleased to know the bison herd he protected at his ranch is still going strong.

Seven new bison babies have been born so far in the year 2022. Due to frequent spring thunderstorms, a number of the new calves have been given weather-related names including Cloud, Rainy, Sunny, and Windy. One little one was given the name Siren because it was born during a tornado warning on May 3. To keep up with all the newborns at the ranch, follow the Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum on Facebook, or make a visit to the site this summer!



## OHC monthly volunteer meeting held

On Friday, May 20, the Oklahoma History Center (OHC) volunteers met to hear about OHC updates and potential exhibit changes. In addition to the meeting, several service pins were awarded to 5-, 10-, and 15-year volunteers. A potluck with the theme "Bring Your Favorite Childhood Food" yielded a variety of interesting dishes.

Mike Scanlan, director of security for the OHC, reviewed the procedures for various emergency situations including severe weather. He also discussed the equipment that the staff and volunteers may need to use in the line of duty. The volunteers were then taken to the Research Center to learn about the sensory assistance tools available at the OHC.

Service pins were awarded to Ed Alexander and Lenice Wright for 5 years of service; Bill Cunningham for 10 years of service; and Debbie Hogue-Downing, Larry Sherman, Joyce Keel, and Luann Waters for 15 years of service.

Volunteers are an active part of the mission of the Oklahoma History Center, providing invaluable resources through educational programs, helping in the daily operations of the building, and assisting with long-term goals. Are you interested in joining our volunteer team? Please call 405-522-0754 to learn about the many benefits of becoming a volunteer!

## Book Club explores theme of historical cowboy

Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum in Pawnee has partnered with Oklahoma Humanities (OH) to host OH's book discussion series "Let's Talk About It." The book club meetings will take place as monthly in-person and online gatherings at the museum on Blue Hawk Peak and will feature a different book title each month from July to November.

The book club begins on Saturday, July 16, 6:30–8 p.m. with the book *Cowboy Life: Reconstructing an American Myth* (1975) by William W. Savage Jr.

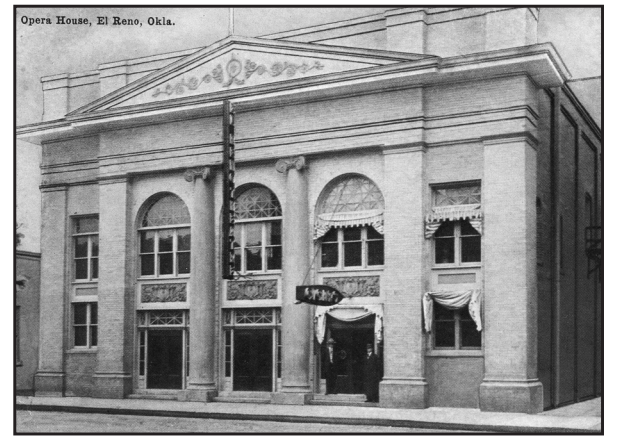


All five of the books in the program have the overarching theme of the historical cowboy—the hired man on horseback who rode the ranges and trails of the post-Civil War West. The readings for this program may help to explain the primacy of the cowboy over all other western types from the 19th century. Each month, a scholar will give a 45-minute synopsis on the chosen book. After the synopsis, the scholar will lead an open forum discussion with the participants.

Upcoming books in the "Let's Talk About It" book club series will be: *The Virginian* (1902) by Owen Wister, August 20; *The Log of a Cowboy: A Narrative of the Old Trail Days* (1903) by Andy Adams, September 15; *Monte Walsh* (1963) by Jack Schaefer, October 15; and *Lonesome Dove* (1985) by Larry McMurtry, November 19. All of the events in the book discussion series will begin at 6:30 p.m. on the dates listed above.

This program is free to the public. The museum will provide all the books, refreshments, and the venue. All participants need to bring is the desire to add to the discussion. Anyone can participate and may check out the books at the museum today. The Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum will have copies for purchase if participants wish to keep a copy of the books in the series.

The Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum is located at 1141 Pawnee Bill Road in Pawnee. For more information, call 918-762-2513 or come by the museum to sign up for the program and take home the latest book in the "Let's Talk About It" series.



Postcard image of the opera house in El Reno, which was built in the early 1900s (Jim and Carolyn Barker Collection, OHS).

## From the OHS Archives: Jim and Carolyn Barker Collection

By Jan H. Richardson

At the convergence of Interstate 40, Route 66, and the Chisholm Trail sits the city of El Reno. The locals who settled the village named it simply "Reno." Not long afterward, the community added the "El" to help distinguish it from the nearby town of Reno City, the city of Reno in Nevada, and Fort Reno, a US Army cavalry post that was established in 1874. Settled by three land runs, El Reno became an important railroad hub for the Rock Island, AT&L, and Union Pacific Railroads. The city is the county seat of Canadian County, and it is famous for its onion burgers. During World War II, Fort Reno held prisoners of war (POWs), mainly from Germany and Italy, and a POW cemetery is located at the fort.

The Jim and Carolyn Barker Collection (M2020.168, 24 legal boxes), written and compiled by Carolyn Marquardt Barker, focuses on the history of El Reno and Canadian County. Carolyn was a lifelong resident of El Reno, graduating from El Reno High School in 1958. Supported by grants from the Ashbrook Foundation, she wrote and published histories of El Reno pioneers, churches, schools, railroads, correctional facilities, ghost towns, weather, elected officials, and family genealogy. Her research also includes an in-depth look at the POW camps in the area during World War II, and correspondence with several of the POWs after their return to Germany.

The Jim and Carolyn Barker Collection is available for viewing at the OHS's John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick Research Center Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Appointments are encouraged. 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](mailto:research@okhistory.org).

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

## New Oklahoma National Register listings

The Oklahoma Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is pleased to announce the National Register of Historic Places designation for the following properties in Oklahoma. The National Register of Historic Places is our nation's official list of properties significant in our past.



**Ponca City Coca-Cola Bottling Company**

The Ponca City Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Ponca City, Kay County, is locally significant for its association with Industry. The modest, one- and two-story, painted brick building was completed in a series of phases between 1923 and 1956 as the bottling plant expanded to meet the growing demands of the local community. The historic period glass block windows, drive-through service entries, and signage panels reflect the building's unique industrial uses and share common vernacular design elements with other nearby industrial complexes. Part of an integrated chain of local and regional bottling operations, the Ponca City Coca-Cola facility reflects the significant, early 20th-century industrial growth of the community and was the longest continually operated bottling works in Ponca City. While most extant industrial resources in Ponca City are dominated by agricultural and oil-related operations, the bottling works is an excellent reflection of the broad spectrum of secondary industrial operations that have supported the local economy.



**WBBZ Radio Station**

WBBZ Radio Station, Ponca City, Kay County, is locally significant for its association with Communications and Architecture. The station property is comprised of a two-story, buff-brick, Modernist radio station building and an adjacent 165-foot metal transmitter tower, all completed in 1951–52. The modest, flat-roofed station building with its distinctive corner window and glass block glazing represents

an exceptionally well-preserved local example of midcentury International style design. Ponca City does not have a large concentration of mid-20th century, International style buildings. Thus, the intact and somewhat unusual nature of the WBBZ Station building marks it an exemplary local example of International style design. The WBBZ Radio Station provided an important outlet for local and regional communications regarding news, current events, and general entertainment in an era before the widespread use of television and the Internet for social communications. The station also had a significant role in the establishment of local weather warning systems and civil defense programs in the immediate post-World War II era, a particularly important aspect given Oklahoma's notorious reputation for severe and rapidly changing weather conditions.



**Clem and Cliff Filling Station**

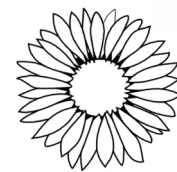
The Clem and Cliff Filling Station, Ponca City, Kay County, is locally significant for Architecture as an excellent example of a neighborhood gas and service station designed in the Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival style. Built in 1938, the station is comprised of a one-story, blond brick building ornamented with red brick trim and red ceramic tile visor roofs. Positioned prominently on a corner lot, the property provided a convenient spot for nearby residents to fill up their cars, receive regular automotive service, and grab refreshments. The Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival-inspired red tile roof, parapets, and combination blond and red brick exterior harken to the once popular house-type stations of the early 20th century.



**William L. Bradford Building**

The William L. Bradford Building near downtown Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, is locally significant for its association with Commerce and Industry. Constructed in 1909, the four-story, red brick building was developed as an investment property in Oklahoma City's burgeoning warehouse district, known today as Bricktown. A simple corbeled brick cornice adorns the top of the building in reference to the Classical Revival architectural style that was commonly seen at the turn of the 20th century. Various manufacturers and wholesalers occupied the building during its period of significance from 1909 to 1941, including the Southwestern Fountain Company, the Can't Spill Oil Can Company, and Kansas City Paper House.

Listing in the National Register of Historic Places is an honorific designation that provides recognition, limited protection and, in some cases, financial incentives for these important properties. The SHPO identifies, evaluates, and nominates properties for this special designation. For more information about the National Register of Historic Places or the SHPO, please visit [www.okhistory.org/shpo](http://www.okhistory.org/shpo).



### Oklahoma State Capitol Restoration presentation by Trait Thompson



On Thursday, August 18, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., Oklahoma Historical Society Executive Director Trait Thompson will give a presentation about the Oklahoma State Capitol Restoration Project as part of the Thursday Night Lecture Series at the Will Rogers Memorial Museum in Claremore.

Before becoming executive director of the Oklahoma Historical Society, Thompson was the project manager of the Oklahoma State Capitol Restoration Project. He will discuss the history of the Oklahoma State Capitol and how this monumental restoration project was achieved.

A question and answer session will take place after the lecture. For more information, please call the museum at 918-341-0719.

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PERIODICALS

# Mistletoe Leaves

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## The old timers within us all

By Jake Krumweide

I lost both of my two remaining grandparents this past year. And one of the heavy responsibilities for our family was to go through Grandma and Grandpa's house and try to figure out just what to do with everything. Their home in Coffeyville, Kansas, had been their home since the early 1960s. And, as much as I have moved around in my life, and have had so many places that were briefly my home, Grandma and Grandpa's house in Kansas was the one constant. It was the hub where we would all gather for holidays, family gatherings, and so many other cherished moments. It also made sorting through everything an incredibly difficult task. Everything had a story. Every story triggered a cascade of memories that went in a hundred different directions.

Their home was full of artifacts that told the story of us.

The Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center (CSRHC) is a museum in Enid, Oklahoma, that also tells the story of a group of people. Our collection is made up of pieces that help tell the story of the people who make up the northwestern region of the state. I look at our collection, and I see objects that have countless stories and serve as symbols of something larger than their original purpose.

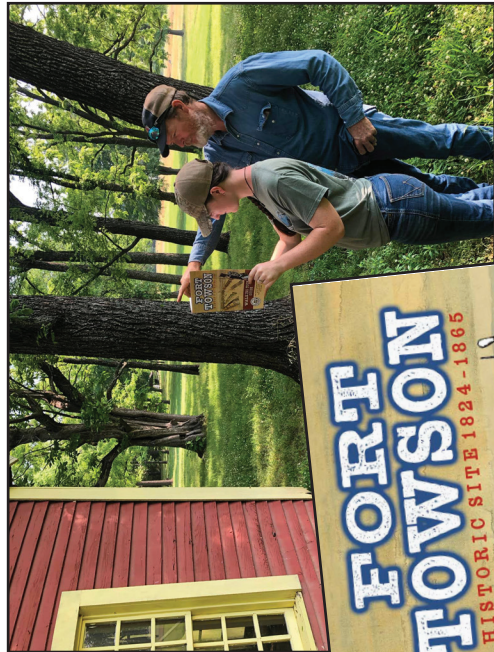
For example, my Grandpa carried simple Old Timer pocket knives. We found dozens of them in his sock drawers. They would bring back countless memories of Grandpa always keeping the blades of his knives razor sharp, or how he would always be ready to help us open boxes on dozens of different Christmas mornings throughout the years. There were enough of these for each of the boys, and some of the girls who wanted them, to have one of Grandpa's pocket knives. I still carry mine with me. In all honesty, the pocket knife is cheap. It has little to no value to anyone else as an object, outside its brief, utilitarian use. But it is one of my most prized possessions. It is not just a knife. It is a million stories. It is a symbol of everything my Grandpa was: simple, sharp, utilitarian, and, as in the memory of the Christmas story, also a very caring servant.

Our collection at the CSRHC is full of different stories just like that. They are objects that continue to exist outside their original utilitarian purpose and now exist as symbols of the people who lived in this region of the state. One of our board members always stops by one of our exhibits in the permanent exhibit gallery. In it is an old family Bible and a hymnal from his great-grandmother. These were pieces that his family cherished, generation to generation. And, as I give tours to people who visit us, I almost always have people who will share with me their stories of their own family Bibles and the many memories that follow.

We are a museum that is full of artifacts that tell the story of us.

That is one of the incredible things about museums. They tell a story of people—where we have been and where we are going. We learn about the past, and at the same time learn about ourselves, finding within that past the stories that give our own lives meaning.

*Jake Krumweide is the director of the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center in Enid. This story was excerpted from Krumweide's Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums blog post from January 2022.*



Fort Towson Historic Site has a new *Walking Tour Guide*! With this guidebook in hand you can learn the important history of the military outpost.

Fort Towson was established in 1824 to quell conflicts between lawless elements, American Indian peoples, and settlers claiming the area as part of Arkansas Territory. The fort also served as an outpost on the border between the United States and Texas, which at that time was part of Mexico. Connected to the East by road, Fort Towson served as a gateway for settlers bound for Texas during the 1830s. Those passing through the area included Sam Houston, Davy Crockett, and Stephen F. Austin. When the Choctaws and Chickasaws were forcibly removed from their lands in the southeastern United States, the fort served as a point of dispersal upon their arrival in the West.

The fort was also an important staging area for US forces during the Mexican War of 1846. You can get your copy of the new guidebook today at the Fort Towson visitor center gift shop, open Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. For more information, please call 580-873-2634.

## Hot off the press!

