Stars out for “Red Dirt to Rockets” event at History Center

Oklahoma's remarkable connection to the U.S. space program was celebrated on May 25 during the “Red Dirt to Rockets” event at the Oklahoma History Center. During the evening the event date also was recognized, for it marked the fiftieth anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's speech announcing the dramatic national goal of sending a man to the moon by the end of the 1960s.

Honored guests included Governor Mary Fallin, who gave opening remarks, and many other Oklahomans who have been involved with the U.S. space program. Astronauts, engineers, Mission Control officials, and NASA and mission support personnel were recognized during the evening's festivities.

More than two hundred guests heard special speakers such as General Tom Stafford, who reflected on his space program experiences; Fred Haise and John Aaron, who described their coordination challenges with Apollo 13; and Donna Shirley and Ben Clark, who shared fascinating details about unmanned space programs.

Bill Moore, author and aviation historian, was also on hand to autograph copies of his new book, Oklahomans and Space, which highlights many of the evening's honored guests and their roles in the U.S. space program.

During the evening guests were able to witness the unveiling of an expanded and enhanced exhibit on Oklahoma aviation and space pioneers. The exhibit now features new artifacts, banners, graphics, and life-size cutouts of prominent personalities.

The evening's event and the newly expanded exhibit on Oklahoma's aviation pioneers both served as a reminder of what a fascinating history the Sooner State has to share.
Director's Column

By Bob L. Blackburn
Executive Director

It might surprise some people to know what I would consider the single most important addition to the Oklahoma Historical Society’s arsenal for collecting, preserving, and sharing history. It is not more staff, although that would help. It is not simply more money, although that too would stop the bleeding from the budget cuts. It is neither a new museum nor more space for collections, although both would open new doors of opportunity.

By my opinion the single most important advancement for history would be a grants-in-aid program for local museums and historical societies.

By some estimates there are more than one hundred organizations in the state dedicated to local history. Some, like the Waynoka Historical Society, raise money for and operate major facilities such as the Santa Fe Depot and Harvey House. Others, like the McCurtain County Historical Society, sponsor projects such as books and celebrations. All are driven by a passion for local history.

A grants program administered by the OHS and benefiting local historical organizations would serve the cause of history at both ends of the spectrum and at every point in between.

It would raise standards through consultation, training, and criteria for eligibility. It would encourage statewide cooperation among groups that are now isolated from sister organizations. And it would create a network of contacts that promote best practices and shared resources.

A grants program would take advantage of strengths and minimize the impact of weaknesses. The leaders and members of local historical societies and museums know their communities inside and out. They know who has collections, and they know who has the knowledge about local history. With a modest stream of funding these people can be encouraged to share their collections and knowledge with a wider audience.

Then there are the benefits to the larger community.

Because many of the local historical societies and museums are in rural areas, a grants program would be another tool for rural economic development. Every dollar invested in projects would quickly ripple through local economies and create jobs. Perhaps the most important benefit of a grants program would be an enhanced sense of community throughout the state. Whether it is preserving artifacts or publishing books, each project would remind people that their lives are bound together with those of their families, friends, and neighbors. This sense of community and place can be a powerful tool as we work together to overcome challenges and take advantage of opportunities.

Yes, a grants-in-aid program would make a huge impact on the efforts to collect, preserve, and share our history.

New Members, May 2011

*Indicates renewed membership at a higher level

Director

*Tom Carson, Stillwater
*Deena and Tom Fisher, Woodward

Fellow

*John Fischer, Tulsa

*Mr. and Mrs. Van Barber, Oklahoma City
*Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Barnett, Nichols Hills
*Mr. and Mrs. William Cason, Oklahoma City
*Mr. and Mrs. Mel Duvall, Eufaula
*Quinton Titcomb, Tuls
*H. Clark Hyde, Oklahoma City
*Mr. and Mrs. Max Knotts, Oklahoma City
*Al Mertens, Oklahoma City
*Waren Nicklas, Park Hill
*Mr. and Mrs. Robert Reynolds, Norman
*Dean Rinehart, El Reno
*Mr. and Mrs. Logan Sharpe, Checotah
*Mr. and Mrs. Peter Shumway, Santa Fe, NM
*Barbara and Ross Staggs, Muskogee
*Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wileman, Oklahoma City

Family

Mr. and Mrs. Wade Burleson, Enid
Jimmy Caldwell, Broken Arrow
*Anne Chamberlain, Oklahoma City
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Cochran, Choctaw
Kaci Cronkhite, Watonga
*Lawrence Dozier, Edmond
Bruce Gissrud, Seguin, TX
* Larson Kesla, Oklahoma City
Mr. and Mrs. Howard McKilister, Weatherford
Jay and Carol Merz, Enid
Mr. and Mrs. Jason Nelson, Oklahoma City
Mr. and Mrs. Billy Parker, Meeker
Mr. and Mrs. Sonny Richards, Stringtown
Betty Sexton, Oklahoma City
Randal Shadid, Edmond
* Ema Stewart, Edmond
* Leonard Sullivan, Oklahoma City
* Mr. and Mrs. Don Symcox, Norman
Anna Teel, Midwest City
Mr. and Mrs. Warren Vicht, Oklahoma City
William Waswo, Oklahoma City
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Weatherford, Tulsa
Joe Weasel and Pamela Rusco, Talihah
Otho Whitehead, Enid

Institutional

Northwest Library, Oklahoma City

Development News

By Paul F. Lambert

Last month I asked you to hold certain dates in April 2012 for the OHS Annual Meeting. Now it appears that those dates need to be changed to April 18, 19, and 20.

The location of the gathering is unchanged. Miami’s elegant Coleman Theater, a vaudeville palace built in 1929, and its new convention facilities will be the featured location. We also will use facilities on the campus of Northeastern Oklahoma A & M and at the historic Gordon Home.

I want to encourage members who have not already done so to give us their email addresses. This will let us send them our weekly e-newsletter, OHS EXTRA, and an occasional special notification of an event or activity. We will not expose your email address to any other mailer, and you will be able to have your email address removed from our files at any time. We are working on major changes to our website to make joining or renewing membership easy and quick via credit card. You may email your email address to me at plambert@okhistory.org.

If you have not visited the Oklahoma History Center within the past year, you have missed the opening of several new exhibits. These include Pickin’ and Grinnin’: Roy Clark, Hee Haw, and Country Humor; Oklahoma Driven, an exhibit celebrating the centennial anniversary of the creation of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation; The Uncanny Adventures of Okie Cartoonists; and Red Dirt to Rockets: Oklahomans and Space. New exhibits are being created on the petroleum industry in Oklahoma since World War II, the steamboat Heroine and river transportation in the West, and the African American experience in Oklahoma. I hope you will visit the History Center soon and will encourage your relatives, friends, and colleagues to do the same.

Mistletoe Leaves

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

Mistletoe Leaves is published for members and friends of the Oklahoma Historical Society as part of fulfillment of the Society’s purpose to “preserve and perpetuate the history of Oklahoma and its people, to stimulate popular interest in historical study and research, and to promote and disseminate historical knowledge.”

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

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

Any denied benefits should contact the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Historical Society, 900 North Zorul Dr., Oklahoma City, OK 73105–7917, telephone 405-521-2491, and/or the Director, Office of Equal Opportunity, United States Department of the Interior, Washington, DC 20240.
The Oklahoma Genealogical Society will hold its regular monthly meeting on July 11, at 6 p.m. at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. The topic of this month’s meeting will be “Collections of the Oklahoma Oral History Research Program at Oklahoma State University.” Assistant Professor Juliana Nykolaiszyn will present the variety of oral history collections available through the Oklahoma State University Library and will give tips for accessing the collections. Professor Nykolaiszyn’s work involves the creation of online avenues for access to the oral history collections as well as the preservation of those oral histories. She is also the host of Then & Now, a show featuring excerpts from the oral history collections, which airs on KOSU public radio each Wednesday.

Northwestern Oklahoma State University (NWOSU), the Plains Indians and Pioneers Museum, and Fort Supply Historic Site will host the Oklahoma Northwest Summer Institute. The institute will be held at the Plains Indians and Pioneers Museum in Woodward July 5 through 8. The course is available to teachers, students, and the public and will cover the history of northwestern Oklahoma. Tuition is $800 for the four-day class and notebook materials. Public lectures will be presented by Dr. Leland Bement and Dr. Alvin O. Turner in conjunction with the institute. Field trips to Fort Supply and the site of the Battle of the Washita are included in the course. For additional information, please contact Dr. Deena Fisher at NWOSU 580/256-0047 or Robert Roberson at the Plains Indian and Pioneers Museum 580/256-6136. The course is made possible by a grant from the Oklahoma Humanities Council.

After an EF3 multivortex tornado devastated the town of Tushka, the Confederate Memorial Museum in Atoka took on a new role. The museum has become a drop-off point for personal photographs. As families have begun cleaning up the debris on their property, they have found personal photographs, some that are theirs and some that are not. The Confederate Memorial Museum has become a lost-and-found command center for those photos. Thanks to word-of-mouth and the local newspaper, many photographs have been returned to grateful families. Unidentified photos are being taken to community meetings, church gatherings, and other local social functions in hopes of finding the owners. The museum is proud to serve the community in this way.

Exhibit

In May 2011 Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa announced plans to curate an exhibit at the Palazzo Pitti Museum in Florence, Italy, opening in July 2012 and running through January 2013. The exhibit will be drawn exclusively from the Gilcrease Museum collections. It will consist of approximately two hundred pieces of art and artifacts on American Indian history and culture and is being organized in connection with events commemorating the five hundredth anniversary of the death of Amerigo Vespucci, the Florentine navigator for whom North and South America are named. This project has been under consideration for several years, with a delegation from Florence visiting Gilcrease Museum in September 2010 to see the collections and discuss the exhibit in person. Gilcrease Museum is open Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Contact 918/596-2700 for admission details.

Opportunity

The Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center at the University of Oklahoma in Norman is seeking applicants for its Visiting Scholars program. The program provides financial assistance to researchers working at the center’s archives. Awards of $500-$1,000 are usually granted as reimbursement for travel and lodging. The center’s holdings include the papers of former members of Congress from Oklahoma as well as documents pertaining to public policy affecting agriculture, American Indian affairs, energy, foreign affairs, and the economy. A description of the collections can be found at www.ou.edu/special/Albert/Center/archives/. Graduate students researching for a publication, thesis, or dissertation are encouraged to apply. Professional researchers and writers are also invited to apply. There is no standardized application, but each applicant should submit 1) a research proposal of no more than one thousand words; 2) a personal vita; 3) an explanation of how the Carl Albert Center’s resources will aid the researcher; 4) a budget proposal; and 5) a recommendation letter from an established scholar in the researcher’s discipline attesting to the significance of the research. Applications are accepted anytime. For more information, please contact Archivist, Carl Albert Center, 630 Parrington Oval, Room 101, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK 73019. You can also call 405/325-5835 or email channeman@ou.edu for more information.

Memorial

Tom Bagwell, the first president of the McCurtain County Historical Society, passed away on March 31, 2011, at the age of ninety-two. Bagwell was instrumental in creating the McCurtain County Historical Society, building the McCurtain County Veteran’s Museum, and refurbishing Judge Spaulding’s “Magnolia Mansion” Home in Idabel. He participated in other community organizations as well. Bagwell served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. The McCurtain County Historical Society observed a week of mourning and remembrance in his honor from Sunday, June 5, to Sunday, June 12.
Every effort has been made to list correct information as it was available. Other events may be added throughout the year. Check the monthly issues of Mistletoe Leaves for additions, corrections, and expanded articles.

Some events require registration or admission fees. Registration is limited for some workshops and seminars. Some events sponsored by the OHS are held at sites other than the property on which the OHS site or museum is located.

Please visit the OHS website, www.okhistory.org, to verify date, hours, exact location, admission fees, and other pertinent information.

Click on “Calendar of Events” for additional information about the OHS events listed below.

**July**

1-31 Oklahoma Driven: Cars, Collectors, and the Birth of the Oklahoma Highway Commission, Museum of History, Oklahoma History Center, OKC

1-31 Pickin’ and Grinnin’: Roy Clark, Hee Haw, and Country Humor, Museum of History, Oklahoma History Center, OKC

1 Cowboy Day, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid

**Fred Drummond House, Hominy.**

6 Lecture, “The Holocaust,” by Dr. Eric J. Schmitz, Sod House Museum, Aline

13 Quilting Workshop, Sod House Museum, Aline

19-20 Historic Preservation Expo, “Supporting Sustainable, Livable Communities,” Cox Convention Center, OKC

20 Family Saturday, “Back to School,” Oklahoma History Center, OKC

24 Lunch and Learn Lecture, “The Ins and Outs of Searching the Oklahoman Archives,” Oklahoma History Center, OKC

4 Fourth at the Fort, pre-Civil War Independence Day celebration, Fort Gibson Historic Site, Fort Gibson

6, 13, 20, 7 OkiTeles, Storytelling for Pre-School Children, Oklahoma History Center, OKC

9 Quilting Workshop, Sod House Museum, Aline

11-14 Oklahoma Civil War Sesquicentennial Teachers’ Institute, George M. Murrell Home, Park Hill

16 Family Saturday, “Colonial Times,” Oklahoma History Center, OKC

16 Annual Memorial Service and Friends’ Meeting, Honey Springs Battlefield, Checotah

20 Lunch and Learn Lecture, “Vital Records and Their Substitutes,” Oklahoma History Center, OKC

**August**

1-31 Oklahoma Driven: Cars, Collectors, and the Birth of the Oklahoma Highway Commission, Museum of History, Oklahoma History Center, OKC

1-31 Pickin’ and Grinnin’: Roy Clark, Hee Haw, and Country Humor, Museum of History, Oklahoma History Center, OKC

1-31 A Return to Elegance, Exhibit of Formalwear, Museum of History, Oklahoma History Center, OKC

6 Ice Cream Social and Open House, Fred Drummond House, Hominy

**Rose Hill School at the Cherokee Strip Museum, Perry.**

1 Research Division Book Sale, Oklahoma History Center, OKC

1 Fort Towson Education Days, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson

7-8 Fort Gibson Fall Encampment, Fort Gibson Historic Site, Fort Gibson

7-8 Farm Days, Oklahoma History Center, OKC

8 Quilting Workshop, Sod House Museum, Aline

**September**

1-30 Southwest and Native Art Display by Marian Goodwin, Sod House Museum, Aline

1-30 Oklahoma Driven: Cars, Collectors, and the Birth of the Oklahoma Highway Commission, Museum of History, Oklahoma History Center, OKC

1-30 Pickin’ and Grinnin’: Roy Clark, Hee Haw, and Country Humor, Museum of History, Oklahoma History Center, OKC

1-30 A Return to Elegance, Exhibit of Formalwear, Museum of History, Oklahoma History Center, OKC

1-30 A Day at Rose Hill School, Cherokee Strip Museum, Perry

1-30 SHPO Public Meeting for FY 2012 Historic Preservation Fund Grant Application, Oklahoma History Center, OKC

10 SeptemberFest, Annual Festival with the Governor’s Mansion, Oklahoma History Center, OKC

10 Quilting Workshop, Sod House Museum, Aline

16-17 Cherokee Strip Education Days, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid

17 Celebration Tea, Cherokee Strip Museum, Perry

22-24 Fort Washita Civil War Days, Fort Washita Historic Site, Madill

29-30 Research Division Book Sale, Oklahoma History Center, OKC

30 Fort Towson Education Days, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
JULY - DECEMBER 2011

15 Family Saturday, “Fall Festival,” Oklahoma History Center, OKC
15 Lecture, “Western Transportation by Trains and Planes,” Sod House Museum, Aline
22 Dutch Oven Cooking Class, Oklahoma History Center, OKC

November

1-30 Oklahoma Driven: Cars, Collectors, and the Birth of the Oklahoma Highway Commission, Museum of History, Oklahoma History Center, OKC

1-30 Pickin’ and Grinnin’: Roy Clark, “Hee Haw,” and Country Humor, Museum of History, Oklahoma History Center, OKC
1 A Day at Rose Hill School, Cherokee Strip Museum, Perry
7 SHPO Workshop, “Tax Incentives for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings,” Oklahoma History Center, OKC
7 SHPO Workshop, “The Secretary’s Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings,” Oklahoma History Center, OKC
9 SHPO Workshop, “Working with the National Register of Historic Places,” Oklahoma History Center, OKC

December

1-31 Oklahoma Driven: Cars, Collectors, and the Birth of the Oklahoma Highway Commission, Museum of History, Oklahoma History Center, OKC

Lunch and Learn Program for July

The Research Center will host its Lunch and Learn Program on Wednesday, July 20, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The topic for this session is “Vital Records and Their Substitutes” and will be presented by Dr. Debra Spindle, OHS librarian. The lectures will explore how to research family history using vital records and what to do when official records cannot be located.

The program will be held in the Oklahoma History Center classrooms. Registration is $10 per person, and lunch is included. Preregistration is required. For more information or to register, call 405/522-5225.

OHS MUSEUMS AND SITES

Cherokee Strip Museum/ Rose Hill School, 2017 W Fir, Perry, 580/336-3405
Chisholm Trail Museum/ Seavy Mansion, 605 Zellers Ave., Kingfisher 405/375-5176
Confederate Memorial Museum, US 69, ½ mi. N of Atoka, 580/889-7192
Fort Gibson Historic Site 307 N. Garrison, SH 80 n Fort Gibson, 918/478-4088
Fort Supply Historic Site Campus of W.S. Key Corr. Center, Fort Supply 580/766-3767
Fort Towson Historic Site NE of Fort Towson off US 70 580/875-2634
Fort Washita Historic Site SH 199, 13 mi. E of Madill 580/924-6502
Frank Phillips House 1107 Cherokee Ave., Bartlesville, 918/336-2491
Fred Drummund House 305 N Price, Hominy 918/885-2374
Frederick Pioneer Village, 201 N 9th St., Frederick, 580/335-5844
George M. Murrell House 1947 East Murrell Home Rd 3 mi. S of SH 82, Park Hill 918/456-2751
Healdton Oil Museum 315 E Main, Healdton 580/229-0900
Henry Overholser House 405 NW 15th St., OKC 405/221-6048
Honey Springs Battlefield 1863 Honey Springs Battlefield Rd., E of US 69, near Rantenville, 918/473-5572
Jim Thorpe House 706 E Boston, Yale 918/387-2815
Museum of the Cherokee Strip, 507 S 4th, Enid 580/237-1907
Museum of the Western Prairie, 1100 N Memorial Dr. Altus, 580/482-1044
Pioneer Woman Museum 701 Monument Rd., Ponca City, 580/765-6108
Robert S. Kerr Museum 6 mi. SW of Poteau, US 270 at Kerr Conference Center 918/647-9579
Sequoyah’s Cabin SH 101, 11 mi. NE of Sallisaw, 918/775-2413
Sod House Museum SH 8, 5½ mi. N of Cleo Springs, 580/463-2441
Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, 3 mi. E and 4 mi. N of Spiro 918/962-2002
State Capital Publishing Museum, 301 W Harrison Guthrie, 405/282-4123
T. B. Ferguson House 519 N Weigle, Watonga 580/253-5069
Tom Mix Museum 721 N Delaware, Dewey 918/534-1555
White Hair Memorial ½ mi. S of SH 20 on Blackburn Rd., Ralston 918/538-2417
State Historic Preservation Office, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Dr., OKC, 405/521-6249

On Thursday, June 9, the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) presented its 2011 Citations of Merit at the awards banquet held during Oklahoma’s 23rd Annual Statewide Preservation Conference in Guymon.

Government agencies, organizations, firms, businesses, and individuals were recognized for their accomplishments in the areas of archaeological site preservation, research, publications, public programming, leadership, and restoration/rehabilitation work. Following are the 2011 citation recipients.

The SHPO recognized the Atoka Pioneer Club Rehabilitation Project for its efforts to restore the Federated Women’s Club clubhouse that was constructed in Atoka in the early 1900s and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Redlands Community College and Mass Architects, Inc., were acknowledged for their efforts in rehabilitating the Darlington Chapel, located at Darlington Agency and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, to serve as a meeting and conference center for Redlands Community College.

The Public, Education and Public Access System Television of Enid was honored for its programming dedicated to the historic preservation efforts in Enid.

Daniel E. Womble, Jr., was recognized for his rehabilitation of a 1906 Queen Anne-style house in Enid’s Waverly Historic District.

The SHPO commended the City of Fairview for its rehabilitation and adaptive use of the Fairview Municipal Building, constructed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in 1939.

The Guthrie First United Methodist Church was honored for the congregation’s rehabilitation efforts to restore its impressive church building, which was dedicated in 1910 and is a contributing resource to the Guthrie Historic District.

The Friends of Peter Conser Historical Site Society and Mike Kertok were recognized for their efforts to restore the Conser Barn, a significant structure at the Peter Conser Home site.

The citizens of Pittsburg County, the Pittsburg county commissioners, the Pittsburg County Progress Committee, Architects in Partnership, and the Pittsburg County Economic Development Authority were honored for executing a successful $10 million rehabilitation of the Pittsburg County Courthouse, a building constructed in 1905 as the Bushy Hotel and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The SHPO was pleased to recognize Muskogee’s Soulful Storytelling Evening event as an example of excellence in public programming on local history and culture.

The Oklahoma Anthropological Society and Oklahoma Archeological Survey were acknowledged with a Citation of Merit for their invaluable assistance to the Oklahoma Historical Society in the study of historic Fort Gibson, a National Historic Landmark.

Donald G. Wyckoff was honored for his significant influence on the study of Oklahoma’s archaeology for five decades. Dr. Wyckoff has more than one hundred publications to his credit and has received numerous awards for his work.

Mason Realty Investors and Hornbeck Blatt Architects were commended for their rehabilitation of the Gaston Cadillac Building, located in the Automobile Alley Historic District of Oklahoma City.

The SHPO was pleased to present its Citation of Merit to OETA-TV for the “Preserving History” segment of the Oklahoma News Report.

The Pawnee Business Council, Barnett L. Williamson Architects, Inc., and Builders Unlimited, Inc., were recognized for their rehabilitation of three buildings in the Pawnee Agency and Boarding School Historic District.

The Cherokee Nation, the Saline Preservation Association, and Fritz Baily Architects were honored for their partnership in the Saline Courthouse Stabilization and Springhouse Restoration Projects.

Stacey and Kelly Bayles were recognized for their collective efforts to preserve the history of the Eastern Oklahoma Tuberculosis Sanatorium.

Andrew Slaucitajs, a professional videographer and an avocational archaeologist, was acknowledged for his volunteer service to preserve and share the story of Oklahoma’s archaeological resources.

David Black of Guymon was recognized for his efforts to restore the old Ideal Grocery Store Building in which he operates Panhandle Furniture, a business his father established.

The SHPO cited Hal and Pat Clark for their rehabilitation work on the Nash Building in Guymon. Built in the mid-1940s, the historic structure unfortunately recently was devastated by fire.

Alyssa Curtis was honored as being one of the original supporters of Guymon’s Main Street Program principles, exhibiting preservation leadership by purchasing and rehabilitating a vacant building in the downtown commercial district.

Guymon Furniture was acknowledged for the preservation work of its owner, William King, who purchased and rehabilitated the Langston Buick Building in the downtown commercial district of Guymon.

Butch and Marsha Jarvis were recognized for their efforts to restore the 1930s-era building at 507 North Main in Guymon and for their leadership in improving the appearance of the downtown area.

SHPO was honored to present a Citation of Merit to Main Street Guymon for its rehabilitation work on a landmark building in Guymon at 116 N.E. Fifth Street.

David and Sharon Petty were recognized for their leadership in being two of the first property owners in Guymon to initiate changes to their downtown building, following suggestions by Oklahoma Main Street staff.

Ronda Purvines was commended for her leadership in bringing Guymon into the Main Street Program and for her rehabilitation work on her property in the downtown business district.

Chris Urias was honored for his preservation work on a building he owns at 511 North Main in Guymon and from which he operates his photography business.

The SHPO recognized Okmulgee Main Street, the City of Okmulgee Historic Preservation Commission, and the Creek Council House Museum for cosponsoring the 2010 statewide preservation conference. The Oklahoma Main Street Center and Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., also partnered with the SHPO for this annual event.

The SHPO presents 2011 Citations of Merit at annual conference in Guymon

Open house and ice cream social scheduled at Drummond Home

Members of the Friends of the Fred Drummond Home will host an open house and 1907 vintage ice cream social on Saturday, August 6, from 1 to 5 p.m.

The public is invited to enjoy an afternoon eating ice cream while also viewing the new renovations to the site. New exhibit panels also will be on display. A highlight of the ice cream social will be an ice cream-making contest, featuring many different flavors to eat and enjoy as well as a three-story cake made as a replica of the home site! A cake raffle also will be held during the day, with the proceeds going to benefit the Drummond Home. Volunteers will be dressed in period clothing from the years 1905 to the mid-1950s (the years the family lived in the home) to pay honor and tribute to the present-day Drummond family members.

So mark your calendars for an afternoon of fun at the historic Fred Drummond Home!

The Fred Drummond Home is located at 305 North Price in Hominy. For more information, please call 918/885-2374.
Fort Gibson to host Independence Day celebration

Fort Gibson Historic Site will present “The Fourth at The Fort” on Monday, July 4, from 1 to 3 p.m. This living history event will portray the annual July 4 reading of the Declaration of Independence at a pre-Civil War frontier army post.

The presentation will be in the stone barracks on Garrison Hill. The barracks and commissary (visitors center) will be open at 1 p.m. The reading will be at 2 p.m. The Sixth Infantry Living History Association will present the colors before the reading and will fire a customary salute afterward. The Friends of Fort Gibson will host a reception for visitors following the ceremony.

The event is free to the public. Fort Gibson Historic Site is located on State Highway 80 in Fort Gibson. For more information, call 918/478-4088 or email fortgibson@okhistory.org.

Living History Days at Confederate Memorial Museum a success

The Confederate Memorial Museum in Atoka hosted its 15th Annual Living History Days on May 12 and 13. More than six hundred fifty elementary and middle school students attended this successful two-day event that focused on the topic of communication.

Interactive historical stations on the museum grounds included letters from the Butterfield State Road, sign language, Braille, Choctaw code talking, the telegraph, Morse code, rotary phones, and telephone party lines. The Atoka Middle School Choir also performed a tribute to television.

Living History Days at the museum was initiated as an end of the school year field trip that offered educational value and was less expensive to the county schools than longer bus rides to more distant locations. The event is staffed by dedicated Atoka County Historical Society members and other volunteers, many of whom have participated all fifteen years.

The Confederate Memorial Museum is located one mile north of Atoka at 258 N. Highway 69. For more information, please call 580/889-7192.

Quilting Workshop at Sod House Museum

Join the Quilt Block of the Month Workshop at the Sod House Museum on Saturday, July 9, from 9 a.m. to noon. Martha Ray will instruct the workshop. The cost is $5.

During the morning quilters share their work from the month before and are assigned new quilt block patterns for the next month. Ray also gives quilting shortcuts and tips for the month, and the participants provide a show and tell about their work.

For more information call 580/463-2441 or email sodhouse@okhistory.org.

Gift Shop News

by Russ Haynes

Hello! July is here, and with it are the dog days of summer. Whether you like the outdoors or staying inside where it is cool, reading a good book is always a treat. Here are a few of the newest to hit the Gift Shop shelves. And by the way, the new coin sets we brought you in last month’s column have been a big success! Thanks for the response, and if any of you would like us to stock other coin sets from MP Coin, please let us know.

OKLAHOMANS AND SPACE: Chronicles of the Amazing Contributions of Oklahomans in the Aerospace Industry by Bill Moore. Provides an extremely thorough look at the Oklahomans who have blazed trails in America’s quest to travel in space. Includes biographical information on eight astronauts, twenty-nine engineers and scientists, six politicians, and eight other Oklahomans with ties to general aviation, journalism, or the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in varying capacities. Also includes more than two hundred color and black and white photographs. 278 pages. Hardback. $39.95

MIRACLE AT GUTHRIE: The Founding of Oklahoma by Bob Burke. With all of the different ideas about how Oklahoma should enter the United States, it is a miracle that the Constitution of Oklahoma was approved in 1906. Describes the processes that were put in motion to unite the Indian and Oklahoma Territories and how these processes have shaped Oklahoma since statehood. Includes several appendices that include letters, laws, and proclamations that influenced the movement toward statehood. 191 pages. Hardback. $19.95

ODOT 100: Celebrating the First 100 Years of Transportation in Oklahoma by Bob Burke. Provides a compelling look at the Oklahoma Department of Transportation’s past through fascinating historical photos and a definitive narrative that allows the reader to explore not only Oklahoma’s highways but also the waterways, railways, and airways. Includes more than three hundred photographs. 275 pages. Hardback. $25.00

WOODY GUTHRIE: A Life by Joe Klein. Few artists have captured the American experience of their time as wholly as folk legend Woody Guthrie. Singer, songwriter, and political activist, Guthrie drew a lifetime of inspiration from his roots on the Oklahoma frontier in the years before the Great Depression. This biography creates an unforgettable portrait of a man as gifted, restless, and complicated as the American landscape from which he came. 496 pages. Paperback. $17.00

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Gift Shop News

by Russ Haynes

Hello! July is here, and with it are the dog days of summer. Whether you like the outdoors or staying inside where it is cool, reading a good book is always a treat. Here are a few of the newest to hit the Gift Shop shelves. And by the way, the new coin sets we brought you in last month’s column have been a big success! Thanks for the response, and if any of you would like us to stock other coin sets from MP Coin, please let us know.

OKLAHOMANS AND SPACE: Chronicles of the Amazing Contributions of Oklahomans in the Aerospace Industry by Bill Moore. Provides an extremely thorough look at the Oklahomans who have blazed trails in America’s quest to travel in space. Includes biographical information on eight astronauts, twenty-nine engineers and scientists, six politicians, and eight other Oklahomans with ties to general aviation, journalism, or the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in varying capacities. Also includes more than two hundred color and black and white photographs. 278 pages. Hardback. $39.95

MIRACLE AT GUTHRIE: The Founding of Oklahoma by Bob Burke. With all of the different ideas about how Oklahoma should enter the United States, it is a miracle that the Constitution of Oklahoma was approved in 1906. Describes the processes that were put in motion to unite the Indian and Oklahoma Territories and how these processes have shaped Oklahoma since statehood. Includes several appendices that include letters, laws, and proclamations that influenced the movement toward statehood. 191 pages. Hardback. $19.95

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Twenty-year members renew in May

Listed below, with the date they joined the OHS, are people and organizations that, when they renewed their memberships in May, have been members twenty or more years. Their long-term loyalty is most sincerely appreciated!

Margaret Merryman, Enid, September 1, 1972
Van and Pat Barber, Oklahoma City, May 1, 1974
Ellis County Hist. Society, Arnett, May 1, 1974
Michael McElderry, Purcell, March 1, 1979
Larson Keso, Oklahoma City, May 1, 1981
William Shaklee, Oklahoma City, May 1, 1981
Geneva Coates, Oklahoma City, April 1, 1982
Tecumseh High School Library, Tecumseh, June 1, 1984
Martha Gene Merideth, Yukon, March 14, 1986
Allen Co. Public Library, Fort Wayne, IN, June 17, 1986
Mead Ferguson, Woodward, October 27, 1986
Neal Leader, Norman, May 7, 1987
Oscar & Julie Greenlee, Tulsa, July 28, 1987
Donald W. Reynolds Comm. Ctr. & Lib., Durant, February 10, 1988
Davis Joyce, Spavinaw, May 31, 1988
Terry Mabrey, Tulsa, November 28, 1988
Barbara Klein & James Weaver, Oklahoma City, Mach 29, 1989
Marvin Franklin, Oklahoma City, March 5, 1990
Ethel Thomas, Pawhuska, February 5, 1991
Doris Lane Meyer, Bartlesville, April 15, 1991
Horace Rhodes, Oklahoma City, May 21, 1991

Oklahoma Civil War Sesquicentennial Teachers’ Institute

The Oklahoma Sesquicentennial Commission has announced a Oklahoma Civil War Sesquicentennial Teachers’ Institute, which is set for Monday, July 11, through Thursday, July 14, in Tahlequah.

The Oklahoma Historical Society, with support from the Oklahoma Humanities Council, will host the Teachers’ Institute, which is designed to explore the American Civil War one hundred fifty years after it began. The class will be held in the field at several important landmarks of the war, such as Fort Gibson Historic Site, Honey Springs Battlefield, the George Murrell Home, and the Cherokee Nation Capital Square. Facilitators for the event include educational staff from the Oklahoma Historical Society, Northeastern State University, and the Cherokee Nation Cultural Tourism Group. The teachers will explore nontraditional classroom Civil War experiences, as well as field trips, interactive activities, and other items to share with students. Each teacher will receive a resource kit including classroom activities and lesson guides. The institute will provide lodging, food, and a travel stipend for the week. Only twenty Oklahoma teachers will be selected, so please apply early!

This institute is an official education program of the Oklahoma Sesquicentennial Commission and is sponsored by a grant from the Oklahoma Humanities Council, with support from Northeastern State University, the Cherokee Nation Cultural Tourism Group, and the Oklahoma Historical Society. Visit www.okcivilwar.org to apply for the institute or call 580/237-1907, extension 227 for more information.

From 2011 to 2015 the Oklahoma Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission will commemorate the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War. The commission will focus on education, discussion, and preservation efforts to ensure history is remembered today and preserved for the future.

Find all the events and programs associated with the 150th anniversary of the Civil War in Oklahoma at http://www.okcivilwar.org. Follow us on Twitter and Facebook at OKCivilWar150.