



Oklahoma Museum of Popular Culture project moves forward

By Jeff Moore, Director of the OKPOP Museum

The groundwork for the Oklahoma Museum of Popular Culture (OKPOP) was laid nearly twenty years ago when the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum opened in September 1995. Visitors from across the United States and as far away as Germany and Japan flocked to Clinton, Oklahoma, an immediate success created by tapping into people's shared memories of road trips, drive-ins, music, and Americana.

This experience allowed the OHS to step out with a bold effort in 2007 when development of an exhibit on Oklahoma's rock and roll history began. That exhibit opened doors not only to the music community but also other partners around the state. Oklahomans from California to Texas to Nashville and New York enthusiastically responded with donations and loans of personal collections detailing the fifty-year history of a musical genre that has defined generations since its creation.

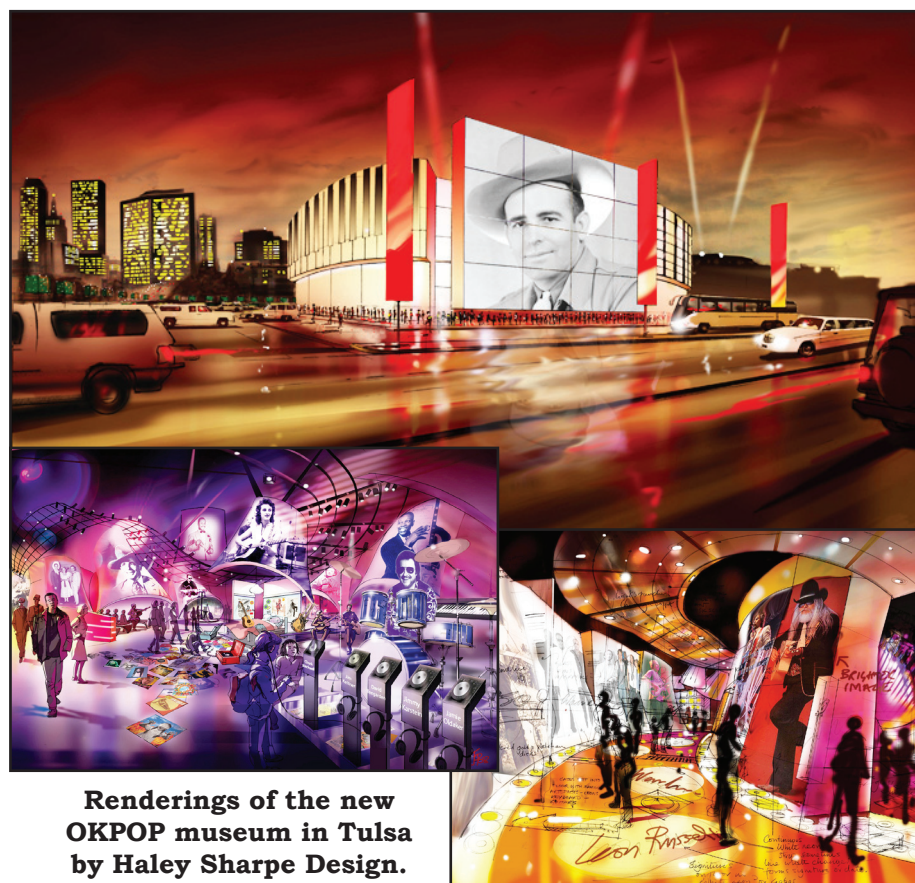
The George Kaiser Family Foundation reached out to Dr. Bob Blackburn knowing that the OHS had successfully hosted the Smithsonian Institution's Woody Guthrie exhibition several years earlier. George Kaiser had a vision of returning Oklahoma's cultural resources from across the country to a place where they could inspire and instill pride in the state where they originated. Mr. Kaiser's vision met with Dr. Blackburn's vision of creating an OHS presence in Tulsa and a partnership was forged that allowed the OHS to pursue an institutional home in Tulsa.

The idea of bringing cultural resources home to Oklahoma fits within the OHS's mission to collect, preserve, and share Oklahoma history. In the last eight years the OHS has done just that, with the effort to collect, preserve, and share Oklahoma history through exhibits on rock and roll, Jim Halsey and country music, Okie cartoonists and illustrators, the *Hee Haw* television show, Oklahoma authors, and Oklahoma and the movies. All of these projects brought collections back to the state, but they also created new relationships with the creatives and their families.

The OKPOP Museum allows the OHS a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to assemble the history, the stories, and the collections to create a one-of-a-kind museum that does not just celebrate the lives of individuals, but champions the influence and legacy of an entire state and its impact on the world. The musicians, actors, directors, illustrators, writers, and producers who have contributed so much to the culture of the nation want to give back to the state that has given them so much.

As Tulsa native and Oscar-nominated actress Alfre Woodard stated,

We need the world to know what an epicenter Oklahoma is in terms of what we-the-people, our deeds, and our accomplishments, what we've given to the country, and to the world. We need to say, "I'm here" so that in a hundred years people living on the edges will know what happened in the middle and how it affected everything and what was the beginning of it. Most importantly, all of those young people that will come to the OKPOP museum will say, "If he could do that, I can do this. That's possible?" And so it becomes our way of seeding the next generation. We're on the line in the continuum, but we have to do our part to make sure that the continuum moves forward.



Renderings of the new OKPOP museum in Tulsa by Haley Sharpe Design.

After a flurry of activity at the Capitol during the end of May, Senate Bill 839 sponsored by Senator Brian Bingman and Representative Jeff Hickman, which authorized the OHS to create the Oklahoma Museum of Popular Culture, passed and was signed into law by Governor Mary Fallin. The bill approves the sale of \$25 million in bonds, and the OHS also will raise another \$10 million for exhibit design and fabrication.

The OHS is busy working on the next steps. The site has been selected thanks to a generous pledge of a donation of land from Bank of Oklahoma. The site sits between Boston and Cincinnati and faces north on Archer, an appropriate location in Tulsa's Brady Arts District that Bob Wills referenced in his song "Take Me Back to Tulsa" with the line, "Drop me off on Archer and I'll walk down to Greenwood."

The staff will be busy working with other state agencies to select the building design and construction team. And of course there will be oral interviews to conduct, personal collections to acquire, stories to research, and exciting educational programs to develop.

The goal for this project is to create a museum that serves as an attraction for a worldwide audience and stands as a testament to the incredibly diverse creativity that has come from, and continues to come from, this state.

As Garth Brooks told Dr. Blackburn, "I'm excited about what you are trying to do and you have my support. I don't think it's a coincidence that so many artists, entertainers, actors, and writers are from Oklahoma. We are truly at the crossroads of creativity. It's in our blood. You and I both know this, now it is time the entire world was told."

The work is only just beginning, but we would like to thank the OHS membership and the Oklahoma creatives who have supported this project from the beginning.



Director's column

By Dr. Bob L. Blackburn
Executive Director

I never get tired of saying thank you, especially when it comes to collecting, preserving, and sharing history. This year, all of us who love Oklahoma history owe a big thank you to a long list of friends at the State Capitol.

The legislative session that just ended started with the passage of a little-noticed bill that authorized a grants-in-aid program that will allow the OHS to give small but meaningful grants to local historical societies, museums, and historic sites for collections, programs, exhibits, and staff support.

Although we did not ask for or get funding to implement the program, we will start working on the rules-making process and sharing the potential of the program with our partners across the state. Hopefully, in 2018 or 2019, based on our long-range planning, we can give our first grants to those grassroots warriors for history.

Please help me thank Senator Ron Justice and Representative Earl Sears, who served as sponsors of the legislation, and the majority of senators and representatives who voted for the bill. If you want to see who voted, go to www.oklegislature.gov and look for Senate Bill 297.

In terms of funding, the OHS did take a 5 percent budget cut, which means that we will have to find ways to trim \$427,581 out of our operations. This will hurt, but other agencies were cut more, lost revolving funds, or had earmarked allocations cut or eliminated. The OHS did not suffer any of those potential disasters.

Senator Clark Jolley and Representative Earl Sears guided their appropriation teams through the complicated and painful budget process. We owe them and their staff members a thank you for listening to our needs, considering our long-range plans, and recognizing our efficient

use of resources. I have heard legislators say many times that they believe the OHS is one of the most innovative state agencies with not only a good business plan, but also a willingness to work with them to find solutions.

The icing on the legislative cake, however, was approval of a \$25 million bond issue for the Oklahoma Museum of Popular Culture.

We and our partners have been seeking state assistance for this public-private partnership for six years. Each previous year, we came up short, but we gradually won converts to the cause and developed a business plan that will be self-supporting when completed and largely self-funded during design and construction.

With a "zero down and zero payments" plan, we still bumped up against the perception that a vote for the OKPOP was making the budget problem even worse. Fortunately, enough senators and representatives had the courage to stand up for what they recognized as a good investment serving the entire state, knowing that they might be criticized back home in some circles.

I want to thank everyone who voted for the authorization, but give special recognition to Senate Pro Tem Brian Bingman, who has been our champion for five years, and House Speaker Jeff Hickman, who rallied to the cause and spoke forcefully for the project on the House floor. Standing shoulder-to-shoulder with them in a bipartisan show of unity, House Minority Leader Scott Inman and Senate Minority Leader Randy Bass worked for the bill on the floor and behind the scenes.

Finally, I want to recognize several individuals who shared their skills, powers of persuasion, and tenacity for our cause this session. They include Margaret Erling, Gwendolyn Caldwell, Fred Jordan, Skye McNiel, Jami Longacre, and Suzanne Schreiber. They will always know they made a difference.

For those who saw the potential impact of the OKPOP on our quality of life, please accept a big thank you from all of us in the historical community. We will honor your courage by building a museum that will make all Oklahomans proud.

Yes, I never get tired of saying thank you. Thank you.

Dr. Bob



New Members, May 2015

*Indicates renewed memberships at a higher level

Director's Circle

*John Fischer, Tulsa

Associate

*Paul and Karen Baclawski, Oklahoma City
*Gary Burdine and Rebecca Manevitz, Oklahoma City
*Johnnie and Kipp Crutchfield, Ardmore
John and Marilyn Feaver, Chickasha
*James Harrod, Edmond
*Dan and Donita Mitchell, Enid
*Hugh and Ann Roff, Houston, TX
J. Douglas Williams, Woodward

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*Gerald and Linda Barnett, Oklahoma City
*David and Mary Beth Busby, Washington, DC
Jeanie Caldwell, Oklahoma City
*Mason and Renee Mungle, Norman
*Reed Smith, Oklahoma City
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*William and Jane Osborn, Miami
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James and Gail Puckett, Oklahoma City
*Willard and Martha Rhynes, Ada
*John Stallings, Fairborn, OH
Glen Veal and Brad Veal, Norman
Emmalee Williamson and Sherri Bradford, Oklahoma City
*Helen Wolf, Oklahoma City

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Oklahoma Historical Society
Membership Office: Alma Moore
405-522-5242
ohsmembers@okhistory.org

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

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

By authorization of the Oklahoma Historical Society's Board of Directors, 6,000 copies are prepared at a cost of \$1,276 each month. The publication is financed in part with federal funds from the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior.

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

Mistletoe Leaves is published for the members and friends of the Oklahoma Historical Society in partial 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.

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AROUND OKLAHOMA

Events

Experience American Indian heritage at the 134th annual Otoe-Missouria Summer Encampment in **Red Rock**. From Thursday, July 16, through Sunday, July 19, one of the most important gatherings for the Otoe-Missouria people will take place. The event is held at the tribe's dancing grounds, located twenty miles north of Stillwater in Red Rock, Oklahoma. It is free, open to the public, and activities will include gourd dancing, social and contest dancing, a 5K run, and crowning the 2015-16 Otoe-Missouria Princess. Arts and crafts vendors and food concessions will be available throughout this four-day event. The Otoe-Missouria Encampment Grounds are located at 7500 Highway 177 in Red Rock. For more information please call 580-723-4466 or 580-307-7911.

Beat the heat and spend the day indoors at the annual National Day of the Cowboy celebration in **Duncan**. This free event will be held on Saturday, July 25, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will include entertainment, music, and games. There will be activities for all to enjoy like special performances by cowboy singers, authors and poets, a variety of games for children, showcased exhibits, face painting, storytelling, and an art contest. Attendees can rope a longhorn, ride a bucking bronc, and even create their own brand. Bring the whole family out for a fun-filled day of celebrating the life and times of the cowboy, past and present. After all, America would not be what it is today without cowboys. The Chisholm Trail Heritage Center is located at 1000 Chisholm Trail Parkway in Duncan. Please call 580-252-6692 or email info@onthechisholmtrail.com for more information.

Join the Oklahoma Museums Association (OMA) for the 2015 OMA Annual Conference in **Woodward**. Attend sessions from Wednesday, September 23, through Friday, September 25, at the Woodward Conference Center. These sessions are designed to help participants create, contemplate, and collaborate. The OMA Conference is a great time to network with colleagues and exhibitors, gain useful information, and celebrate museums. To register online please visit www.okmuseums.org/conference. Early bird registration is available through August 10, and the regular registration deadline is September 3. Also included on the website is information about pre-

conference workshops, session topics, speakers, exhibitors, hosts, sponsors, scholarships, and lodging. The Woodward Conference Center is located at 3401 Centennial Drive in Woodward. For more information please call 405-424-7757 or email info@okmuseums.org.

Meetings

The monthly meeting and program of the Oklahoma Genealogical Society (OGS) will be on Monday, July 6, at the Oklahoma History Center in **Oklahoma City**. This month, OGS will host Billie Fogarty, professional genealogist, past president of OGS, and a nationally known speaker. Fogarty will give a presentation entitled, "Early Ancestors in Arkansas, Missouri, or Illinois May Be a Clue to the War of 1812." The meeting and program will take place from 6 to 7:45 p.m., and experienced researchers will be available before the meeting at 5 p.m. to answer research questions. Monthly programs are free for all members of OGS. Non-members are welcome, but are charged \$5 to attend each program. All are invited to join, with more information available at www.okgensoc.org. General meetings of the Oklahoma Genealogical Society are held on the first Monday of each month at the Oklahoma History Center, which is located at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in the State Capitol Complex. Please call 405-637-1907 or visit www.okgensoc.org for more information.

Exhibits

The Edmond Historical Society and Museum presents thirty years of collecting, preserving, and celebrating **Edmond** history with a new exhibit that is on display now through Saturday, December 19, 2015. The exhibit includes a vintage Atari with Pac-Man, a bee smoker, and an ultra-violet light home therapy lamp; seemingly unrelated items that each represent a piece of the community of Edmond. The new exhibit entitled *Celebrating Edmond History—Thirty Years and Counting* features these among the displays that include the thirtieth artifact collected nearly every year since the museum opened in 1985. On June 5, 1985, the Edmond Historical Society and Museum opened its first exhibit in one small room of the Edmond Historic Community Center, also known as the "Old Armory," through the efforts

of a dedicated group of preservation-minded volunteers. *Celebrating Edmond History—Thirty Years and Counting* highlights many never-before-exhibited items included in the collection of more than 35,000 photographs, documents, and artifacts that detail life at the Edmond Station from its inception in 1887 through the day of the historic run, illustrate the subsequent development of the pioneer town, and illuminate the lives of the people who built and shaped the community. The Edmond Historical Society and Museum is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. Admission is free. The museum is located at 431 South Boulevard in Edmond. The 1889 Territorial School is open the first two Saturdays of each month from 1 to 4 p.m. For more information about exhibits and programs, please call 405-340-0078 or visit www.edmondhistory.org.

Visit the Plains Indians and Pioneers Museum in **Woodward** and enjoy a new exhibit of artwork by Susan Bromlow. The exhibit opens with a reception from 2 to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, July 7, and will be on display until Saturday, August 1. The exhibit will include some acrylic, dry brush oil, and feather paintings as well as a larger selection of graphite drawings. The Plains Indians and Pioneers Museum is located at 2009 Williams Avenue in Woodward. Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and admission is free. Please contact Director Robert Roberson at 580-256-6136 or pipm@swbell.net for more information.



Do you want your organization's meeting, event, or exhibit included in the "Around Oklahoma" section of the *Mistletoe Leaves*? The "Around Oklahoma" section features Oklahoma history and heritage-related activities or programs sponsored by entities other than the Oklahoma Historical Society. To submit news items, please contact Evelyn Brown, assistant editor, by email at eebrown@okhistory.org or by mail at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73105, during the first week of the month before you wish a news item to appear. For example, if you wish an item to appear in the August issue, you must submit by the first week of July.

OHS Activities and Exhibits

Every effort has been made to list accurate information as 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 office or museum is located.

Please visit the “Calendar of Events” tab on the OHS website, www.okhistory.org, or contact the listed site to verify dates, hours, exact location, admission fees, and other relevant information.

July

- 1-31 *Patti Page: An Oklahoma Treasure* exhibit, Oklahoma Route 66 Museum, Clinton
- 1-31 “Tour De Museums” across Oklahoma, T. B. Ferguson Home, Watonga
- 1-31 *Grant County: From Stockade to Strip, 1865–1895* exhibit, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 1-31 *The Highway Patrol: Regulating Route 66 and Oklahoma’s Highways* exhibit, Oklahoma Route 66 Museum, Clinton
- 1-31 *Carl Mays: From Kingfisher to the Big Leagues* exhibit, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 1-18 *Patti Page: An Oklahoma Treasure* exhibit, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 1 Pioneer Kids summer activities, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 1 Okietales, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 4 Fourth at the Fort, Fort Gibson Historic Site, Fort Gibson
- 6-10 History Pioneers Junior Curator Camp, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 8 Brown Bag Lunch and Learn program, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 8 Pioneer Kids summer activities, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 8 Okietales, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 10-11 Summer Sale at the OHC Museum Store, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 11 Public lecture about Carl Mays, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 15 Pioneer Kids summer activities, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 15 Okietales, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 15-17 Indian Removal Teachers’ Institute, George M. Murrell Home, Park Hill
- 15-31 *Oklahoma and the Great Depression: Photographs from the Farm Security Administration* exhibit, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City

- 16 Historic Preservation Review Committee meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 16 National History Day Boot Camp, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 18 Honey Springs Memorial Service, Honey Springs Battlefield, Checotah
- 18 Third Saturday living history program, George M. Murrell Home, Park Hill
- 18 Tatting lace making workshop, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 18 Southeastern Fingerweaving I, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 22 “Mining Obituaries for Family Research” Lunch and Learn, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 22 Pioneer Kids summer activities, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 22 Okietales, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 25 *Women of the Wild West Shows* exhibit opening, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 25 *Hometown Teams: How Sports Shape America* exhibit opening and pep rally, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 29 Pioneer Kids summer activities, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 29 Okietales, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 29-31 Research Center Book Sale, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 31 “Resources From Around the State” genealogy workshop, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City

August

- 1-31 *Hometown Teams: How Sports Shape America* exhibit, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 1-31 *Women of the Wild West Shows* exhibit, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 1-31 *Carl Mays: From Kingfisher to the Big Leagues* exhibit, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 1-31 *The Highway Patrol: Regulating Route 66 and Oklahoma’s Highways* exhibit, Oklahoma Route 66 Museum, Clinton
- 1-31 “Tour De Museums” across Oklahoma, T. B. Ferguson Home, Watonga
- 1-31 *Oklahoma and the Great Depression: Photographs from the Farm Security Administration* exhibit, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 1-15 *Grant County: From Stockade to Strip, 1865–1895* exhibit, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 1 Research Center Book Sale, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 1 “Put It All Together for Your Family to Share” genealogy workshop, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 1 Back to School kid’s crafts and scavenger hunt, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher

- 8 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 8 “Let’s Talk About It, Oklahoma!” book discussion group, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 12 Brown Bag Lunch and Learn program, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 15 “Once Upon a Stream” Park Hill Branch Creek Tour presented by the Oklahoma Conservation Commission, George M. Murrell Home, Park Hill
- 15 Tatting lace making workshop, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 15 Advanced Basket Weaving class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 22 Pop-Up Cards workshop, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 26 “Secrets of the OHS Manuscripts Collections” Lunch and Learn, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 27-29 Arts Council Oklahoma City’s annual Storytelling Festival, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 29 “Althea Gibson’s Quest for Gender and Racial Equality” public lecture with Dr. Amy Carreiro, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City

September

- 1-30 *Drummond Family Heirlooms* exhibit, Fred Drummond Home, Hominy
- 1-30 “A Day at Rose Hill School” program, Cherokee Strip Museum, Perry
- 1-30 *Carl Mays: From Kingfisher to the Big Leagues* exhibit, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 1-30 *Oklahoma and the Great Depression: Photographs from the Farm Security Administration* exhibit, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 1-30 *The Highway Patrol: Regulating Route 66 and Oklahoma’s Highways* exhibit, Oklahoma Route 66 Museum, Clinton
- 1-7 “Tour De Museums” across Oklahoma, T. B. Ferguson Home, Watonga
- 1-5 *Hometown Teams: How Sports Shape America* exhibit, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 1 OHC Education Department’s “Back to School Bash,” National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, Oklahoma City
- 4 “Spangles and Speakeasies” sixth annual Cherokee Strip Days Gala, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 5 “Carl Mays: From Kingfisher to the Big Leagues” event, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 9 Brown Bag Lunch and Learn program, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 11 Public Meeting for the SHPO’s FY 2016 Historic Preservation Fund Grant Application, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City

July – December 2015

- 12 Cancer Kids Day at the Ferguson Home, T. B. Ferguson Home, Watonga
- 12 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 12 Septemberfest, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 12 “Women of the Wild West Shows” lecture, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 12 “Let’s Talk About It, Oklahoma!” book discussion group, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 18 Living History Lantern Tours at Humphrey Heritage Village, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 19 Perry’s annual Cherokee Strip Celebration and free museum admission day, Cherokee Strip Museum, Perry
- 19 Arts in Action Festival, Pioneer Heritage Townsite Center, Frederick
- 19 Dutch Oven Cooking class, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 19 Third Saturday living history program, George M. Murrell Home, Park Hill
- 19 Tatting lace making workshop, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 22-23 Autumnal Equinox Walks, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro
- 26-27 Eleventh annual Western Heritage Celebration and Tom Mix Festival, Tom Mix Museum, Dewey

October

- 1-31 Annual Quilt Show, Pawnee Bill Ranch, Pawnee
- 1-31 “A Day at Rose Hill School” program, Cherokee Strip Museum, Perry
- 1-31 *The Highway Patrol: Regulating Route 66 and Oklahoma’s Highways* exhibit, Oklahoma Route 66 Museum, Clinton
- 1-31 *Oklahoma and the Great Depression: Photographs from the Farm Security Administration* exhibit, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 3 “The Roaring Twenties in Black and White” style show, Pawnee Bill Ranch, Pawnee
- 3 Oktoberfest, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 4 No Man’s Land Historical Society Annual Meeting, Oklahoma Panhandle State University, Goodwell
- 8 Cherokee Cultural Day, Sequoyah’s Cabin, Sallisaw
- 9-10 “Demonstrating the Art of Making Cheese” during the Watonga Cheese and Wine Festival, T. B. Ferguson Home, Watonga
- 10 Fall Encampment, Fort Gibson Historic Site, Fort Gibson
- 10 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 10 Dutch Oven Cooking class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 10 “Let’s Talk About It, Oklahoma!” book discussion group, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City

- 12 Home School Day, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 14 Brown Bag Lunch and Learn program, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 15 Historic Preservation Review Committee meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 16-17 Doaksville Candle Light Tours, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 17 Oklahoma Archaeology Month lecture and guided tour, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro
- 17 Third Saturday living history program, George M. Murrell Home, Park Hill
- 17 Tatting lace making workshop, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 23-24 Twenty-third annual Murrell Home Ghost Stories, George M. Murrell Home, Park Hill
- 24 Halloween Fun Day, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 24 “History Never Dies” event, Oklahoma Territorial Museum, Guthrie
- 24 Family Farm Day, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 24 Cemetery Symbols workshop, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 28-31 Fort Washita Ghost Stories, Fort Washita Historic Site, Durant
- 29 Civil rights music program featuring The Ambassadors, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City

- 29 Goblins on Grand, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 31 “Nightmare at the Museum” storytelling program, No Man’s Land Museum, Goodwell
- 31 Zombie Crawl, Atoka Museum and Confederate Cemetery, Atoka

November

- 1-30 *Oklahoma and the Great Depression: Photographs from the Farm Security Administration* exhibit, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 1-30 *The Highway Patrol: Regulating Route 66 and Oklahoma’s Highways* exhibit, Oklahoma Route 66 Museum, Clinton
- 1-30 “A Day at Rose Hill School” program, Cherokee Strip Museum, Perry
- 4 “Caring for Your Family Heirlooms” workshop, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 5 “Native American Spirituality” program hosted by AICP, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 7 Cotton Festival and Chili Cook Off, Pioneer Heritage Townsite Center, Frederick
- 7 Gourd-Stitch Beadwork class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 7-8 Battle of Honey Springs reenactment, Honey Springs Battlefield, Checotah
- 9-13 “Seed to Sew” education programs, Pioneer Heritage Townsite Center, Frederick

- 11 Brown Bag Lunch and Learn program, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 12 Annual Village Auction fundraiser and meeting, A. J. Seay Mansion and Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 14 Fall Bake Day, Fort Gibson Historic Site, Fort Gibson
- 14 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 14 Decorative Gourd workshop, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 14 “Let’s Talk About It, Oklahoma!” book discussion group, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 16 Oklahoma History Center Tenth Anniversary Celebration, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 16 *Crossroads of Commerce: A History of Free Enterprise in Oklahoma* exhibit opening, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 19-20 “Rushmore Four” living history presentation, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 21 “History of Cemetery Symbols” presentation, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 21 Third Saturday living history program, George M. Murrell Home, Park Hill
- 21 Tatting lace making workshop, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 21 American Indian Heritage Month celebration, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City

December

- 1-31 Holiday Decorations at the Mansion, Pawnee Bill Ranch, Pawnee
- 1-31 *Crossroads of Commerce: A History of Free Enterprise in Oklahoma* exhibit, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 1-31 *The Highway Patrol: Regulating Route 66 and Oklahoma’s Highways* exhibit, Oklahoma Route 66 Museum, Clinton
- 1-31 *Oklahoma and the Great Depression: Photographs from the Farm Security Administration* exhibit, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 1-18 *Native American Games* exhibit, Sequoyah’s Cabin, Sallisaw
- 1-18 Character-led group tours of Humphrey Heritage Village, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 1-16 “A Day at Rose Hill School” program, Cherokee Strip Museum, Perry
- 1 Clinton Festival of Lights, Oklahoma Route 66 Museum, Clinton
- 2 SHPO workshop—“Tax Incentives for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings,” Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 2 SHPO workshop—“The Secretary’s Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings,” Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City

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December, cont'd.

- 3 SHPO workshop—"The Section 106 Review Process: A Workshop for Agency Officials and Cultural Resource Management Consultants," Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 4 SHPO workshop—"Working with the National Register of Historic Places," Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 4 Christmas in the Village, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 5 Quilting workshop and Show and Tell, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 5 Christmas Open House and "Santas From Around the World," Sod House Museum, Aline
- 5 "Let's Talk About It, Oklahoma!" book discussion group, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 5 "Deck the Halls," Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 9 Brown Bag Lunch and Learn program, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 11-12 Holiday Happening, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 12 Candle Light Tour, Fort Gibson Historic Site, Fort Gibson
- 12 Drummond Christmas Festivities, Fred Drummond Home, Hominy
- 12 Santas of the World Tour and annual Holiday Open House, Pawnee Bill Ranch, Pawnee
- 12 Territorial Christmas Victorian Homes Tour, Carnegie Library at the Oklahoma Territorial Museum, Guthrie
- 12 Fifteenth annual Christmas Open House, George M. Murrell Home, Park Hill
- 19 Tatting lace making workshop, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher
- 19 Third Saturday living history program, George M. Murrell Home, Park Hill
- 21 Winter Solstice Walks, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro
- TBD Santas from Around the World, T. B. Ferguson Home, Watonga
- TBD Santas from Around the World Tour, A. J. Seay Mansion, Kingfisher
- TBD Second annual Holiday Market at the Museum, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus

Oklahomans and Space documentary receives Emmy nomination

The *Oklahomans and Space* documentary series has been nominated for a Heartland Chapter Emmy Award. The chapter includes five states: Oklahoma, Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, and Wyoming. The Emmy winners will be announced at a banquet on Saturday, July 18. These award nominations include all programming from 2014. All seven episodes of *Oklahomans and Space* aired on OETA last summer, making the series eligible for the Emmy award.

Bob Wills album available

On Monday, May 18, the OHS hosted a release party for a new album by Bob Wills and his Texas Playboys. The evening marked the end of a years-long project that has included the Oklahoma Historical Society and the OKPOP Museum creating a new record label, 46 Star Records, to release the limited edition, 180-gram collector's vinyl recording entitled *Let's Play, Boys! Rediscovered Songs from Bob Wills' Personal Transcriptions*.

The original transcriptions came from Bob Wills' personal collection and were recorded in January 1949. Bob Wills and his Texas Playboys recorded songs for a radio series sponsored by the Crosley Automobile Company. Not a lot is known about the specifics of these particular recording sessions.

During the 1960s more than one hundred sixteen-inch aluminum acetates were given to former Playboys drummer Casey Dickens for safekeeping by Bob and his wife, Betty Wills. Drawing from influences such as folk, blues, Dixieland, traditional Mexican, and jazz, the music represents the Western swing style Bob is so famous for helping to create.

In 2010 Dickens gave the Bob Wills Master Transcription Collection to the Bob Wills Heritage Foundation. The following year the foundation donated the collection to the OKPOP Museum. The OHS then hired Grammy-nominated musician and engineer Steve Ripley to digitally restore and remaster these songs.

46 Star Records, a new endeavor of the OHS, will produce and release albums related to the history and culture of the Sooner State. *Let's Play, Boys!* is its inaugural release. In conjunction with OKPOP, 46 Star Records will release more historically important records from Oklahoma artists and other historical recordings from the OHS collections.

This record, *Let's Play, Boys! Rediscovered Songs from Bob Wills' Personal Transcriptions*, is now available for purchase through the Oklahoma History Center Museum Store and members receive a special discount. Please visit www.ok.gov/okhistory/store/app/index.php to purchase the record. For telephone orders, please call the Oklahoma History Center Museum Store at 405-522-5214.



Celebrate Independence Day at Fort Gibson

Fort Gibson Historic Site will host Fourth at the Fort on Saturday, July 4. This free event will be held in the air-conditioned barracks and attendees will learn more about the fort's history.

Fort Gibson Historic Site is located at 907 North Garrison in Fort Gibson. Please call 918-478-4088 for more information.

Commerce history tour

In April and May, Dr. Michael J. Hightower's travels took him to Broken Arrow, Midwest City, and Texhoma to promote his books—*Banking in Oklahoma Before Statehood* (OU Press, 2013) and *Banking in Oklahoma, 1907–2000* (OU Press, 2014)—and to publicize the OHS's upcoming exhibit, *Crossroads of Commerce: A History of Free Enterprise in Oklahoma*.

The Broken Arrow Historical Society hosted Michael's visit on Wednesday, April 29. As the society's executive director, Lori Lewis, explained, Broken Arrow is home to two banks whose charters date back to territorial days. Several area bankers showed up for the brown bag lunch to hear what Michael had to say about banking in northeastern Oklahoma and to schedule oral history interviews. For the next two days, Michael met librarians and signed books at the Oklahoma Library Association's annual conference in Midwest City.

On Monday, May 4, Hightower and his wife, Judy, traveled to Texhoma at the invitation of the Texhoma Historical Society to describe banking adventures in the Oklahoma Panhandle. Participants braved a storm roaring in from New Mexico to hear Michael speak from the pulpit of a beautiful Methodist church across the street from the Anchor D Bank. On his way through Guymon, Michael conducted an oral history interview with Jason and Chris Hitch who represent the fifth generation of their family to manage Hitch Enterprises, Inc., arguably the Panhandle's most successful homegrown company. Hitch Enterprises will figure prominently in *Crossroads of Commerce*.

Hightower wishes to thank the local historical societies for including him in their programming. He continues his travels in 2015 to discuss the historic role of banks as crossroads of their communities and to publicize the *Crossroads of Commerce* exhibit, slated to open at the Oklahoma History Center on November 16, 2015. To schedule a visit to your community or to offer suggestions for research on banking and commerce in your part of the state, please contact Michael Hightower at 434-249-6043 or mhightower@okhistory.org.

SHPO presents 2015 Citations of Merit

The State Historic Preservation Office presented its 2015 Citations of Merit during a banquet on Thursday, June 4, in Bartlesville. The banquet was a highlight of Tradition and Transition: Oklahoma's Twenty-Seventh Annual Statewide Preservation Conference, held June 3–5. Twenty-one citations were presented for accomplishments in seven Oklahoma communities. The award is presented annually and recognizes those who have had a positive impact on the preservation of Oklahoma's historic properties through restoration, rehabilitation, research, planning, public programming, and other activities. The 2015 award recipients and their accomplishments included:

Seekers of Success for the adaptive reuse of the John J. Shea house for the Anchor House project, Bartlesville.

Bob Fraser for assistance in the preparation of the National Register of Historic Places nomination for Woolaroc, Bartlesville.

Kim Inman for efforts to document, share the story of, and preserve the historic White Rose Cemetery, Bartlesville.

Bartlesville Area History Museum for preservation of research collections critical to historic preservationists and making them accessible, Bartlesville.

Vasudevan and Krishnan Families for participation in the rehabilitation of the Sooner Park Play Tower, Bartlesville.

Fredda Puckett and Leyton Puckett for maintenance of their grandmother's and great-grandmother's house, a rare surviving farmhouse, Del City.

Small Architects for rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of 108 South Broadway, Edmond.

Alice Robertson Junior High School for preservation of research materials that document important aspects of Muskogee's heritage, Muskogee.

University of Oklahoma, College of Architecture and Institute for Quality Communities; City of Norman; Cleveland County Historical Society; Norman Arts Council; Norman Chamber of Commerce; Norman

Convention and Visitors Bureau; Norman Downtowners Association; and Oklahoma Archeological Survey for cosponsorship of Historic Preservation ABCs: Oklahoma's Twenty-Sixth Annual Statewide Preservation Conference, Norman.

Bruce Hall and Mike Stuart for their many preservation efforts in the Miller's Boulevard Historic District, Oklahoma City.

Dan Davis Law Firm; MODA Architecture; Preservation and Design Studio; and Titus Construction for contributions to the certified rehabilitation of Calvary Baptist Church, Oklahoma City.

Midtown Renaissance for the certified rehabilitation of the Guardian Building, Oklahoma City.

Coury Properties and Preservation and Design Studio for the certified rehabilitation of the Osler Building, Oklahoma City.

Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.; Gumerson and Associates; and Mike Kertok for contributions to the Overholser Mansion's exterior restoration, Oklahoma City.

Terry Cline for the certified rehabilitation of the historic John Roddy House, Oklahoma City.

Skirvin Partners LLC; Oklahoma City Redevelopment Authority; and Center for Economic Development Law for establishing the preservation easement for protection of the Skirvin Hotel, Oklahoma City.

Shelby Navarro and Rachel Navarro for the certified rehabilitation of 1302–1314 East Sixth Street, Tulsa.

Tim Williams for the certified rehabilitation of the 217 West Latimer Building, Tulsa.

John Snyder and Tori Snyder for the certified rehabilitation of the 1969 Tulsa City Hall, Tulsa.

Group M Investments for the certified rehabilitation of the historic Casa Loma Hotel, Tulsa.

Saint John's Episcopal Church; GH2 Architects LLC; and Magnum Construction, Inc. for efforts in the interior rehabilitation of the addition to Saint John's Episcopal Church, Tulsa.

For more information about the 2015 Citation of Merit recipients or the SHPO's awards programs, contact Melvena Heisch at 405-522-4484 or mheisch@okhistory.org.

New Members, cont'd.

Individual

Coty Allen, Eufaula
Kathy Anderson, Oklahoma City
Sherry Bishop, Cleveland
David Blackburn, Wynnewood
Christe Blackett, Warner
Donald Bly, Edmond
Jacob Brewer, Cleveland
Phillip Brown, Warr Acres
Dalton Bruce, Braggs
Mark Cody, Tulsa
Samantha Daugherty, Hulbert
Randy Door, Tulsa
Kylie Eskew, Grove
Nichol Flanagan, Haskell
Karen Ford, Wilburton
Chad Foster, Ames
Daniel Graham, Fairfax
Terri Griffith, Ada
John Hoover, Hennessey
Andres Javier-Pablo, Pauls Valley
Ryan Jefferson, Ponca City
Maxine Jernigan, Wagoner
Carol Kelison, Norman
Jessica Kitchens, Enid
Cody Mauldin, Marlow
Frank McClellan, Agra
Kaylene Means, Collinsville
Mark Miller, Duncan
Francis Moates, Paoli
Logan Morano, El Reno
Glenn Morgan, Sapulpa
Jason Morgan, Oaks
Lindsay Moser, Enid
Sharon Parnell, Muskogee
Rose Redith, Sapulpa
David Saldana, Maysville
Machelle Sanders, Lawton
Tiara Sanders, Stillwater
Alonso Santillana, Fort Sill
Diane Scraper, Stilwell
Fred Shire, Medford
Clarissa Sholly, Oklahoma City
Jerry Slawson, Cyril
George Smith, Henryetta
Johnathan Trask, Sparks
Jorge Vallejoibarra, Tulsa
Jesus Valles Ortiz, Hennessey
Aileen Walkup, Broken Bow
Joe Ward, Coalgate
Nathan Wicker, Minco
Billy Wilda, Perry
Barbie Wildrix, Fairview
Rayli Williams, Shawnee
Cindy Wilson, El Reno
Jessica Zweifel, Meno

Organizational

OKC Friday, Oklahoma City
Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame, Muskogee
The Peace House, Oklahoma City

Museum Store News

by Jera Winters

Beat the heat at the Oklahoma History Center Museum Store's Summer Sale! The sale will be held on Friday, July 10, and Saturday, July 11, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. Join us at the Museum Store to save on our great selection of Made in Oklahoma products and other items that celebrate the history



and culture of our great state!

Members always receive a discount of 15 percent on Museum Store purchases, but will receive an additional 10 percent off regularly priced items during the sale. Employees, volunteers, and the general public also receive an additional 10 percent discount during the sale. Please contact us at 405-522-5214 with any questions about the sale or about our unique items.

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!

Duke and Linda Ligon, Oklahoma City, May 1, 1955
Vernon and Linda Pierce, Harrah, November 1, 1966
Van and Pat Barber, Oklahoma City, May 1, 1974
Lewis Culver, Little Rock, AR, May 1, 1980
Larson Keso, Oklahoma City, May 1, 1981
Jim and Burnis Argo, Edmond, May 1, 1983
Talbot Library and Museum, Colcord, May 1, 1985
James O'Malley, Richardson, TX, March 23, 1987
Neal Leader, Norman, May 7, 1987
Kenneth and Corie Delashaw, Marietta, November 3, 1987
Sac and Fox Nation Public Library, Stroud, January 24, 1989
Gary Brown, Enid, April 19, 1989
James Russell, McAlester, April 13, 1992
Logan and Donna Sharpe, Checotah, April 21, 1992
William and Jane Osborn, Miami, January 19, 1993
Jo Hall, Oklahoma City, March 12, 1993
Kenneth Nash, Oklahoma City, March 24, 1993
Cindy Rosenthal, Norman, September 8, 1993
John and Emily Gardner, Edmond, March 17, 1995

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

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PERIODICALS



Smithsonian Affiliations
Membership Program

Research Center Book Sale and Summer Sizzler Genealogy Workshop

The OHS Research Center at the Oklahoma History Center will host its annual book sale from Wednesday, July 29, through Saturday, August 1. Book sale hours are 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. The sale will offer books on a variety of topics including genealogy, Oklahoma history, US and military history, education, and biographies. Shop vinyl LPs, prints of historic photos and maps, periodicals, and much more. Proceeds from the book sale will benefit the OHS Research Center in collecting, preserving, and sharing Oklahoma's history.

On Friday, July 31, and Saturday, August 1, a two-day Summer Sizzler Genealogy Workshop will be held at the Oklahoma History Center. The workshop on Friday, July 31, is entitled "Resources From Around the State." Attendees will explore Oklahoma resources with speakers from across Oklahoma, including the Cleveland County Genealogical Society, Lawton Public Library, Muskogee Public Library, and Mahlon Erickson, creator of the online Oklahoma Death Index. The workshop on Saturday, August 1, is entitled "Put It All Together for Your Family to Share." The Oklahoma Genealogical Society will guide participants through the steps for compiling materials together into a family history, with a story that family members will enjoy. Speakers include Billie Fogarty, Rick Fogarty, Carolyn Lea, and LaNell Shores.

Registration is \$35 for one day or \$50 for both days, and lunch is included. For more information or to register online, please visit www.okgensoc.org. The workshops are cosponsored by the Oklahoma Historical Society and the Oklahoma Genealogical Society. The Oklahoma History Center is located at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in Oklahoma City.

Mistletoe Leaves

Vol. 46, No. 7

July 2015

Pioneer Woman Museum to open two new exhibits

The Pioneer Woman Museum in Ponca City will open two new exhibits on Saturday, July 25. A new exhibit entitled *Hometown Teams: How Sports Shape America* will be on display through Saturday, September 5. This traveling exhibit is from the Smithsonian's "Museums on Main Street" program and was made possible through a partnership with the Oklahoma Humanities Council. Visitors will enjoy the exhibit and are sure to experience a connection, as our love of sports begins in our hometowns. We play them on ball fields and sandlots, on courts and on ice, in parks and playgrounds, even in the street. From pick-up games to organized leagues, millions of Americans of all ages play sports. Win or lose, we yearn to compete and play another day. If we are not playing sports, we are watching them. We sit in the stands and root for the local high school team, or gather



Girls soccer team—blues and whites, c. 1913,
photo courtesy Library of Congress.

A new exhibit entitled *Women of the Wild West Shows* also will open on Saturday, July 25. Women were a vital part of the Wild West Shows story, but their roles largely have been glossed over or reduced to popular stereotype. These skilled women toured the world as ambassadors of the American spirit, influencing millions with their courage, determination, and independence. They also served as agents of change by challenging cultural expectations of what women were capable of doing. This exhibit strives to tell the stories of the amazing women who helped make Wild West history.

The Pioneer Woman Museum is located at 701 Monument Road in Ponca City. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information about upcoming exhibits or events, please contact Director Robbin Davis at 580-765-6108 or piown@okhistory.org.



Mabel Hackney Tompkins performing at a
Wild West Show with her horse Sky Rocket
in 1907 (7468, OHS Research Division).