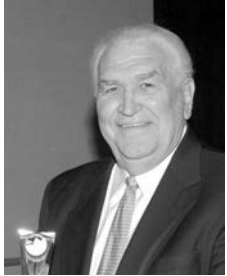




OHS Annual Meeting banquet honors 2005 award winners

At the annual banquet, held this year on April 28, the OHS Board of Directors gave special awards to three notable Oklahomans who have contributed to the successful creation of the Oklahoma History Center: Lee Allan Smith, Hollis G. Lloyd, and J. Blake Wade. The Muriel Wright Award for the



best article in the year's issues of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* was captured by Dr. Richard Lowitt of OU. The J. B.



Thoburn Student Historian Award was bestowed on Mary Hestilow, of the Classen School of Oklahoma City. The Indian Gallery Advisory Board was named this year's Outstanding OHS Support Group, and the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center, Bill Benson, Director, was tapped as Outstanding Local Historical Museum.

The 2005 Outstanding Dissertation on Oklahoma History was awarded to Rose Stremkau for "Cherokee Families: Cultural Resistance During the Allotment Era," and the year's Outstanding Thesis award went to Rhonda Ragsdale for "A Study of the Self-Segregated Community of Tatum." The award for writing 2005's Outstanding Book on Oklahoma History went to Patricia Loughlin for *Hidden Treasures of the American West: Muriel H. Wright, Angie Debo, and Alice Marriott*. Inducted into the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame were Alice Tyner Timmons, Robert F. Read, Denzil D. Garrison, and Joe C. Jackson).



Joe C. Jackson and Dr. Bob Blackburn (All photos by Fred Marvel).

Allan Houser's *Unconquered* unveiled at Oklahoma History Center

In a ceremony at the Oklahoma History Center on April 26, 2006, at 1:30 p.m., *Unconquered*, a monumental bronze sculpture by Oklahoma artist Allan Houser, was unveiled. The ten-foot-tall, 3000-pound work is situated outside the new building's main entrance, in the central plaza.

"This world-class sculpture was the last piece produced by Allan Houser before his death in 1994," said Dr. Bob Blackburn, director of the Oklahoma Historical Society. "We are privileged to have it at the entrance to the Oklahoma History Center."

The piece was purchased by means of a \$750,000 grant from the Inasmuch Foundation, created by Edith Kinney Gaylord to improve the quality of life in Oklahoma.

"We were pleased to help the Oklahoma History Center acquire the *Unconquered*," said Bob Ross, president of the Inasmuch Foundation. "This is one of the greatest pieces of art produced by one of the world's greatest artists, our own Allan Houser."

When the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian opened last fall, he was one of the two artists featured in a special exhibit. Another of his monumental sculptures, *As Long as the Waters Flow*, stands on the south plaza of the Oklahoma State Capitol.

The Houser family, including Allan's wife, Ann, and sons Phillip and Steven, attended the unveiling ceremony. Phillip, an artist in his own right, played his father's flute as a memorial to the spirit of the family and the tribe. Ann talked about her late husband's intent when he created *Unconquered*.

The work reflects the history of Houser's own family in the Southwest and Oklahoma. The artist's great-uncle was Geronimo, and his father, Sam Haozous, was also prisoner of war at Fort Sill.

Allan Houser, or Haozous, left the family's farm at age twenty to study with Dorothy Dunn at Santa Fe Indian School. By the 1940s he was working in clay and stone. By the 1970s he was recognized around the world for his art works, which ranged from representational to abstract.

In the final year of his life he refined and completed his vision for the work *Unconquered*. He created it first in clay for a twenty-one-inch-tall bronze edition. He depicted two armed Chiricahua warriors facing their enemies, defending their families and their traditional way of life. In the final months of his own life, he enlarged the form to 119 inches in height and 80 inches in width for the casting of the monumental



bronze. Allan Houser departed this life on August 22, 1994.

Also speaking at the unveiling ceremony was Cliff Hudson, who, with his wife Leslie, donated the funds for the base and interpretive features for the sculpture. "For the past seven years, we have been searching for a way to acquire this world-class sculpture for Oklahoma," said Hudson. "Through the generosity of the Inasmuch Foundation, we accomplished our mission."

Dan Provo, museum director at the Oklahoma History Center, added that *Unconquered* provides another way to share Oklahoma's unique history with the rest of the world. "Allan's story, and that of his father, mother, and extended family, opens a window into our past that is both enlightening and inspirational," he said. "It is a perfect complement to the museum galleries, where hundreds of stories blend into a sense of community."



After unveiling the sculpture, the Houser family blessed it (staff photo).



Director's Column

By **Bob L. Blackburn**
Executive Director

As any Oklahoma farmer or gardener will tell us, to harvest a crop, first you plant a seed, nurture it with care, and watch it grow.

Here, at the Oklahoma Historical Society, we have long wanted to harvest a crop of photographic sales. We have more than 5 million images in the collections. We want to share those images with people. And we need a stream of revenue to reinvest in conserving and processing the collections, most of which are negatives.

For too many years, our hopes for a bountiful harvest of sales were based on a hunting-and-gathering approach, hoping that customers would find us and walk in the door. For too many years, we knew that was not enough.

We needed to plant seeds for a better harvest.

Thanks to Chesapeake Energy Corporation, we have planted a seed that is already showing great promise. That seed was a \$25,000 grant to purchase an Epson 9800 Digital Printer capable of producing either black-and-white or four-color images in a variety of sizes on a variety of surfaces.

The printer will produce art-quality images up to 44 inches wide and as long as

the roll of fabric or the amount of memory available on the computer. Prints can be made on flat, matte, or high-gloss paper, on canvas, or on vinyl.

Using this printer, OHS graphic artists Bill Siemens and Cynthia Manning have been producing incredible images that range from oversized banners to be used for the Pawnee Bill Wild West Show this summer to reproductions of maps from the OHS collections.

Amazingly, when the four-color maps are held up next to the originals, it is hard to tell the difference.

Thus far, we have made approximately 20 prints from the collections, including images of steam-powered trains from the Preston George Collection, images of downtown Oklahoma City in the 1960s from the Jim Argo Collection, and maps of the proposed State of Sequoyah, the Indian Territory, and the early statehood era with all major railroad lines.

Some of the images are already framed and hanging in the LeRoy H. Fischer Board Room. All are available for purchase in the Oklahoma History Center Gift Shop.

In addition to creating items for sale, the printer will be used to produce exhibit displays with better quality control and at a reduced price. This, in turn, will allow us to be much more aggressive in developing new exhibits across the state.

Yes, as any Oklahoma farmer or gardener will tell us, we need to plant seeds before we reap the harvest. Thanks to the grant from Chesapeake Energy Corporation and the creativity of our staff, we will soon harvest a bountiful crop of Oklahoma history.

New Annual Members

Bowman, Sigrid A., Edmond
DeMoss, Robert W., Cleveland
Goforth, Richard, Welling
Johansson, Dr. M. Jane, Pryor
Loughlin, Patti, Stillwater
Parker, Pat, Duncan
Rodke, Vera Pauline, Paoli
Sadler, Martha A., Green Valley, AZ
Smalley, Jeri, Norman
Tyson, Dr. Barbara J., Hodgen

New Family Members

Brown, Dudley & Sara, Tahlequah
Davis, Charles & Jane, Edmond
Heer, Dolores & Christina, Oklahoma City
Hernandez, Dianne, Edmond
Powers, Linda & Donald E., Jr., Oklahoma City
Wilson, Harry & Doris, Oklahoma City

New Institutional Members

Harvard College Library, Cambridge, MA
Minnie Slief Library, Cheyenne
Weatherford Library, Weatherford
Picher Mining Field Museum, Picher

OHC to host Oklahoma Folklife Festival on June 24

The revived Oklahoma Folklife Festival, dormant for a decade or more, will be held in Oklahoma City at the Oklahoma History Center on June 24.

The festival will include music, dance, and foodways from several Oklahoma cultures. There will be demonstrations of traditional crafts and various hands-on activities.

In addition, papers on Oklahoma folklife and popular culture will be presented at the event.

A day's family-oriented activities will begin mid-morning and continue through the afternoon.

There is no admission charge to attend. The OHC is located at 2401 North Laird Avenue in the Capitol Complex.

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

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Development News

By **Dr. Tim Zwink**



I am very pleased to announce that recently Cliff and Leslie Hudson presented the Oklahoma Historical Society a gift of \$20,000. The Hudsons' generous contribution provided sponsorship for the base of *Unconquered*, our new, impressive sculpture by Allan Houser, located at the entrance of the new Oklahoma History Center.

As you may recall, the Inasmuch Foundation, founded by Edith Kinney Gaylord, awarded the OHS a grant of \$750,000 to enable our acquisition of *Unconquered*, a world-class sculpture.

We are extremely grateful for these wonderful donations from Cliff and Leslie Hudson and the Inasmuch Foundation. Due to this support, the entrance to the Oklahoma History Center has been significantly enhanced.

Unconquered creates a special space at the History Center. If you have not yet seen *Unconquered*, I strongly encourage you to do so.

For additional information about donor opportunities, please contact me at 405/522-5217 or <tzwink@okhistory.org>.



Events

Enid will host the Tulsa Chautauqua entitled "Portraits of the Renaissance: Poets, Pirates, and Playwrights" featuring national and local scholars portraying Christopher Columbus, Lucrezia Borgia, Grace O'Malley, William Shakespeare, and Leonardo da Vinci from May 31 through June 4. From June 7 to June 11 the same Chautauqua will be presented in **Tulsa** on the grounds of OSU-Tulsa. E-mail Louise Milacek at <louisemilacek@sbcglobal.net> for information about the Enid event, and for the Tulsa event call 918/584-3333, extension 19, or e-mail <afox@ahct.org>. (*Humanities Interview*)

Perry's historic Courthouse Square's grounds will be the location for a Great Plains Chautauqua with the theme "From Sea to Shining Sea: Cultural Change and American Expansion, 1790-1850" from June 3 through June 8. The troupe will travel to **Miami** for presentations on June 10 to June 14. Portrayal of historic characters will include John Jacob Astor, Tecumseh, Sacagawea, William Clark, and York, Clark's childhood friend and servant. Dolley Madison will moderate the presentations. For more information contact the Oklahoma Humanities Council at 405/235-0280. (*Humanities Interview*)

Tulsa's Doubletree Downtown Hotel will be the venue for the 18th Annual Induction Ceremony and Banquet for the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame on Wednesday, June 21. Reception begins at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m., and awards ceremony at 8 p.m. Contact the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame at 322 N. Greenwood Ave., Tulsa, OK 74120-1026. (Special to ML)

Oklahoma City's National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum announces its annual Prix de West Invitational Art Exhibition and Sale on June 9 and 10. The event will feature approximately 300 works by more than 90 artists. The public is also invited to attend art-related seminars presented by noted authorities and art demonstrations conducted by Prix de West artists. For more information call the museum at 405/478-2250 or go to their web site, <www.nationalcowboymuseum.org>. (Special to ML)

El Reno's Fort Reno is offering "Ghosts of Fort Reno" tours by lantern light. Tours are scheduled on Saturday evenings this summer on June 17, July 15, and August 19. Tour-goers will hear legends and tales of haunted buildings, ghostly apparitions, murders, and lost treasure. A paranormal research team from Oklahoma City will give presentations. These tours are fund raisers for the preservation and

restoration of the fort's buildings. Cost is \$5 for adults and \$4 for seniors aged 60 and over and children aged 5 to 12. Reservations are required and may be made by calling 405/262-3987. Find more information at <<http://www.fortreno.org>>. (*El Reno Tribune*)

Writings

Friendship History Group is selling two books: *The Early Day Friendship Area: Its Settlement and Communities* and *The North Fork: A Tale of the Southwestern Frontier*. Sale proceeds will be donated to the Navajoe Cemetery Perpetual Fund and the Altus Centennial Memorial Center project. The books are available by calling Verna Johnson of the Friendship History Group at 580/482-7602. (*Altus Times*)

Wyandotte's Gregath Publishing Company announces that they have a limited quantity of the first edition of *A Brief History of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe, Book Two* (2001), by Roberta White Smith and Jennifer Logan. The 212-page, hard-bound book is indexed and includes photographs and maps. The order number is G612B2, and the cost is \$22.50. Orders can be mailed to the Gregath Publishing Company, P.O. Box 505, Wyandotte, OK 74370, or call 918/542-4148. (Special to ML)

Oklahoma Climatological Survey offers its Spring 2006 edition of its seasonal climate series *Oklahoma Climate* online at <<http://climate.ocs.ou.edu>>. Some of the questions answered in this issue include: "Are Oklahoma's weather patterns cyclical?" and "La Niña, El Niño, and ENSO: How do sea surface temperatures thousands of miles away impact Oklahoma's weather?" (Special to ML)

Happenings

Oklahoma Genealogical Society holds its monthly meetings on the first Monday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Chesapeake Events Center at the Oklahoma History Center, 2401 N. Laird Avenue, Oklahoma City. For information e-mail <okgensoc@aol.com> or go to the web site at <www.rootsweb.com/~okgs/>. (Special to ML)

Historic Fort Reno, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, received a Save America's Treasures grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, for restoration of buildings at the Fort Reno Historic District. Exterior restoration on the Officers' Duplex (Building

6) was completed in February 2006. Restoration of the Commander's Quarters is the next priority. The organization is engaged in fund-raising activities to generate matching funds. See the related event mentioned under Events at El Reno's Fort Reno. (*Preservation Oklahoma News*)

Tablequah recently renovated its historic National Guard Armory into a municipal center with space for a community theater, a banquet hall, and city administration offices. Built in the 1930s through funding from the Works Projects Administration, the stone building has 18,000 square feet. The city spent \$600,000 to purchase and repair the structure, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NR 94000488). (*Tulsa World*)

2006 Year of the Museum has received recognition from the United States Congress through Senate Resolution 437 and House Resolution 389. These resolutions support the goals and ideals of the Year of the Museum in making museums more visible and celebrating their contributions to the American public. Dr. Bob Blackburn and Kathy Dickson of the Oklahoma Historical Society asked Governor Brad Henry to declare 2006 as the Year of the Museum in Oklahoma. Find more information at the Oklahoma Museums Association web site, <www.okmuseums.org>, or visit the OHS site at <www.okhistory.org>. Click on "Outreach" for OHS museums, historic homes, and sites located near you. (Special to ML)

The Western History Association will hold its 47th Annual Conference October 3-6, 2007, in Oklahoma City to mark Oklahoma's centennial of statehood. The association invites paper and panel proposals for "Crossroads of the West: Meetings and Exchanges, Old and New." They welcome topics that explore new interpretations of the Western cultural experience, considering issues of ethnicity, race, gender, and the environment. For more information contact the Western History Association at the University of New Mexico by telephone at 505/277-5234 or by e-mail at <wha@unm.edu>. (Special to ML)

Northwest Oklahoma Veteran's Memorial at **Shattuck** has been approved as an Oklahoma Centennial Project. The memorial will be built on the southeast corner of the Shattuck school's gazebo area. Military veterans from the Shattuck area can have their name included on the memorial at a cost of \$40. The names of those killed in action will be included at no charge. Contact Dr. T. W. Miller, chair of the memorial committee, at P.O. Box 847, Shattuck, OK 73858. (*Ellis County [Arnett] Capital*)

Four Oklahoma properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places in March

By **Jim Gabbert**

On March 8, 2006, two large exhibition buildings in Ardmore, a park with a diminutive library in Olustee, and an early ranch headquarters in rural Jackson County became the latest Oklahoma properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Ardmore Municipal Auditorium and Hardy Murphy Coliseum, both Depression-era public works projects, the Olustee Public Library and Park, and the Cross S Ranch Headquarters were added to the National Register, the federal government's official list of properties significant in our history. The State Historic Preservation Office is proud to announce the addition of these four properties, bringing the total number of listings from the state to 1,080.

Now called Heritage Hall, the Ardmore Municipal Auditorium (photo below by C. Savage) was completed in 1943. Local architect J. B. White designed the Art Moderne building, incorporating remnants of an earlier auditorium building. Workers and funding for the building were provided



by the Works Projects Administration (WPA), a New Deal-era work-relief program. It was the largest WPA project completed within the city limits. The nomination was prepared by Cynthia Savage for the City of Ardmore.

Hardy Murphy Coliseum in Ardmore was also initiated as a WPA project and was also designed by architect J. B. White. Work on the coliseum, constructed of locally quarried sandstone and concrete, was begun in 1941, but the building was not completed until 1949 due to material and manpower shortages caused by World War II. The large exhibition space was home to countless rodeos, fair expos, and other performances. One of the first acts booked for the arena was Gene Autry's rodeo. The coliseum was named for a time after Autry, but in 1961 the name was changed to honor local rodeo star Hardy Murphy. The City of Ardmore sponsored the nomination of the auditorium and the coliseum to the National Register. Cynthia Savage completed the nomination for the City of Ardmore.

The Cross S Ranch Headquarters building is located near Olustee, in Jackson County. The two-story, sandstone ranch house represents the earliest settlement and agricultural industry of Old Greer County. Once a part of Texas, the rich grazing lands of Old Greer County attracted cattlemen. The Cross S Ranch, established



by the Eddleman brothers of Texas in 1880, was one of the largest in the area. Court disputes about the jurisdiction of Oklahoma Territory and Texas concerning Old Greer County eventually led to the area being allocated to Oklahoma.

As settlers moved in, the larger free-range ranches were broken up. The Cross S shrank in size, but not importance. The Eddelmans concentrated on horses and became known for the quality of their stock. Dating to 1891, the ranch house is all that remains of this once-important ranch operation. The nomination (and photo, above) was prepared by Dr. Michael Cassity and was sponsored by the Western Trail Historical Society.

Also in Jackson County, Olustee Public Library and Park represents the efforts of the New State Womens' Club (NSC), an organization dedicated to social, cultural, and civic improvement. One of the major efforts of the NSC was the operation of a lending library for the town. Housed in various donated spaces, the library lacked a permanent home. Another long-term goal for the club was the creation of a public park for the town. The club spearheaded the drive to acquire land for a park, then undertook the responsibility of landscaping and maintaining it in the 1920s. In 1936 the NSC lobbied for an appropriation from the WPA to construct a library building in the park. The diminutive stone building was completed that year and was operated by the club until 1996. The Western Trail Historical Society sponsored the nomination, completed by Cynthia Savage.

The State Historic Preservation Office continues to strive to gain recognition for those places significant in Oklahoma's history. The SHPO's goal is to have 5 nominations from each of Oklahoma's 77 counties by the 2007 Centennial of Oklahoma Statehood. These four properties add to the compendium of the state's documented history, and the two Jackson County listings complete that county. Counties with fewer than 5 listings include Coal, Cotton, Dewey, Greer, Harmon, Love, McClain, Major, Marshall, Nowata, and Woodward. For more information on these or other National Register properties, contact Jim Gabbert at 405/522-4478 or by e-mail at <jgabbert@ok-history.mus.ok.us>.

Wave the flag at Fort Gibson on the Fourth of July!

Fort Gibson Historic Site will present "An 1840s Independence Day" on Tuesday, July 4, 2006. This living history event will show visitors how the Fourth of July was observed at an 1840s army post. Members of the Sixth Infantry Living History Association will do infantry and artillery drill, including firing demonstrations. At noon there will be a reading of the Declaration of Independence and a cannon salute. Troops will also demonstrate games and pastimes of the period. Living history activities will take place in the log fort area of the site from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., when the site closes. Later in the evening the troops will present the colors at the Fort Gibson town fireworks display. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$2.50 for seniors (65 and over), and \$1 for students (aged 6-18); children 5 and under will be admitted free. For more information call 918/478-4088.

OHS Places . . .

OKLAHOMA ROUTE 66 MUSEUM

2229 Gary Freeway
Clinton, OK 73601-5304
(North from I-40, exit 65 to Gary Freeway)
Phone: 580/323-7866
Summer Hours: Mon.-Sat. 9-7, Sun. 1-6
Admission: Adults \$3, Children \$1

If high gasoline prices are keeping you close to home this summer, you can still "get your kicks on Route 66!" Visit the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum in Clinton. Opened in 1995 by the Oklahoma Historical Society, the museum offers six galleries filled with artifacts, vintage automobiles, television and movie clips, and historic photographs that tell the story of U.S. Route 66. In *The Grapes of Wrath* author John Steinbeck applied the name "the Mother Road" to the highway.

At the museum visitors will see a 1930s International Harvester farm truck depicting the mode of travel for Oklahoma families heading for California during the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl. Representative of the dining options available to early travelers, a classic roadside diner is featured, with an AMI jukebox, vinyl café booth, and chrome fixtures. Another gallery spotlights Oklahoman Cyrus Avery, who championed the idea of a national highway system and served as vice president of the U.S. 66 Highway Association in 1927.

Past events at the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum have included a special exhibition and book signing by Hiroshy Ohtsuka of Japan in June 2005.

In celebration of "2006 Year of the Museum" visit the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum and other OHS museums, historic homes, and sites. While in Clinton, locate the Y Service Station and Café at 1733 Neptune Drive. The station served Route 66 motorists and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NR 04000523) in 2004.

Research Division offers

new resources on CD

OHS Research Division has a new finding aid available on CD. "The African American Experience in Oklahoma" includes bibliographies, the Tulsa Race Riot Report, a Guide to the Freedman Records, an oral history collections guide, and information on resources relating to Oklahoma's All-Black towns and newspapers that are available in the OHS library and archive. Suggestions for students, teachers, and scholars are also included. The CD costs \$14.95 and is available for purchase in the Research Center at the Oklahoma History Center.

Another CD resource, titled "Celebrating Oklahoma's Centennial with Oral History Projects," is also available. This research and planning tool covers topics such as methods for oral history, a checklist for interviewers, creating a questionnaire for an interview, legal and ethical considerations, oral history for exhibits planning, and approaches to oral history in ethnic communities. It also provides an overview of the Oral History Collections of the OHS Research Center. The CD costs \$4.95 for in-state patrons (postpaid) and \$6.95 for out-of-staters.

Purchasing information may be obtained by contacting Rodger Harris, Oral Historian, at 405/522-5207 or by e-mail at <rharris@okhistory.org>.

Also visit <www.okhistory.org> and click on "Research."

Pioneer Woman Museum opens basketry exhibit on June 11

In conjunction with the Basket Weavers Guild of Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Native American Basketweavers, the Pioneer Woman Museum will display *Baskets Woven in Oklahoma* from June 11 through August 6. The exhibit pays tribute to the diversity of Native, non-Native, traditional, and contemporary styles of basketry that are presently being made in Oklahoma. The exhibit also includes an explanation of methods of construction and materials used for basket making and an historical display of Native baskets spanning the nation. An opening reception for *Baskets Woven in Oklahoma* will be held on June 11, 2006, from 1 to 5 p.m. The public is welcome, and refreshments will be served.

From June 26 through June 30 Gloria Galasso, of Tres Hermanas Fiber Shop in Ponca City, will present a Weaving Kamp for Kids. The sessions are open to children aged 8 to 14. They will learn how to weave on small, picture-frame looms that they may take home. Classes will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. each afternoon. The \$60 registration fee includes supplies. Space is limited to 10 students. Call or come to the Pioneer Woman Museum, 701 Monument Road in Ponca City to register. Payment is required at that time, but credit cards will be accepted over the telephone at 580/765-6108.

Hidden Collections . . .

The Frederick Douglass Moon Collection

By **Larry O'Dell**

The Frederick Douglass Moon Collection (97.16), located in the Oklahoma Historical Society's Research Division, provides a keen glimpse into the development and organization of African American education prior to and after the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, which prompted integration. Moon, born at Fallis, Oklahoma Territory, on May 4, 1896, attended high school and two years of college at the Oklahoma Colored Agricultural and Normal University (later called Langston University). He finished his academic work at the University of Chicago, attaining a master of arts degree. He had a long and distinguished career in Oklahoma education. In 1921 he obtained his first teaching position, at Crescent. By 1929 he held the presidency of the Oklahoma Association of Negro Teachers (OANT). Moon became principal of the Wewoka separate school, and in 1940 he took the same job at Oklahoma City's Douglass High School.

In 1972 Moon began serving on the Oklahoma City Board of Education, becoming the first African American president in 1974. He also was prominent in civic affairs, including leadership roles in the YMCA, Urban League, Langston Alumni Association, Urban Renewal Authority, and Oklahoma City's Human Relations

Commission. F. D. Moon died on December 16, 1975.

The collection mirrors Moon's career, focusing on education. The correspondence includes several familiar names, including Roscoe Dunjee, Gov. E. W. Marland, Gov. Leon Phillips, and Rev. Nicholas Comfort. There are papers written by Moon during college, as well as a rough draft of his master's thesis on the organization and administration of accredited secondary schools for Negroes in Oklahoma. The numerous records and letters related to his principal positions include a large faculty record book that contains notes from meetings and other information for Oklahoma City's Douglass. Also included are copies of the Wewoka students' newspaper, the *Douglass Tribune*. Moon also retained other interesting newspaper clippings, primarily from the *Black Dispatch* and the *National Black Monitor*. Other important history can be found in folders related to accrediting Oklahoma high schools and his letters and business conducted as head of the Langston Alumni Association and the OANT. The latter files contain a copy of the *1929 Official Proceedings of the Oklahoma Association of Negro Teachers*. On a more personal note, the collection also holds letters between and on behalf of former students and F. D. Moon. Scholars of Oklahoma education or African American and 20th-century history would be well served to study this small (1.3 cubic feet) compilation.

OHS Faces . . .

Melvina Heisch,

Deputy State Historic

Preservation Officer

She's a lifer. Melvena Thurman Heisch has marked thirty years of service with the OHS. Originally from Reydon, she graduated from Oklahoma State University with bachelor's and master's degrees in history.

In 1975 Heisch interned at OHS in every division, and in January 1976 she went to work for Howard Meredith in OHS's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). She soon moved up to the job of architectural historian and in 1979 became the agency's deputy SHPO. Apart from that, Heisch is the author/editor of books and articles, including *Women in Oklahoma* (1982) and *The Physical Legacy: Buildings of Oklahoma County* (1981).

Mistletoe Leaves asked Heisch to describe her duties: "I administer the federal historic preservation programs for the SHPO, including the National Register of Historic Places, survey programs, and the Certified Local Governments Program. My staff works with the National Park Service to ensure that Oklahoma's preservation program is consistent with the National Historic Preservation Act and addresses all of the state's needs. We also provide technical assistance and public outreach efforts."

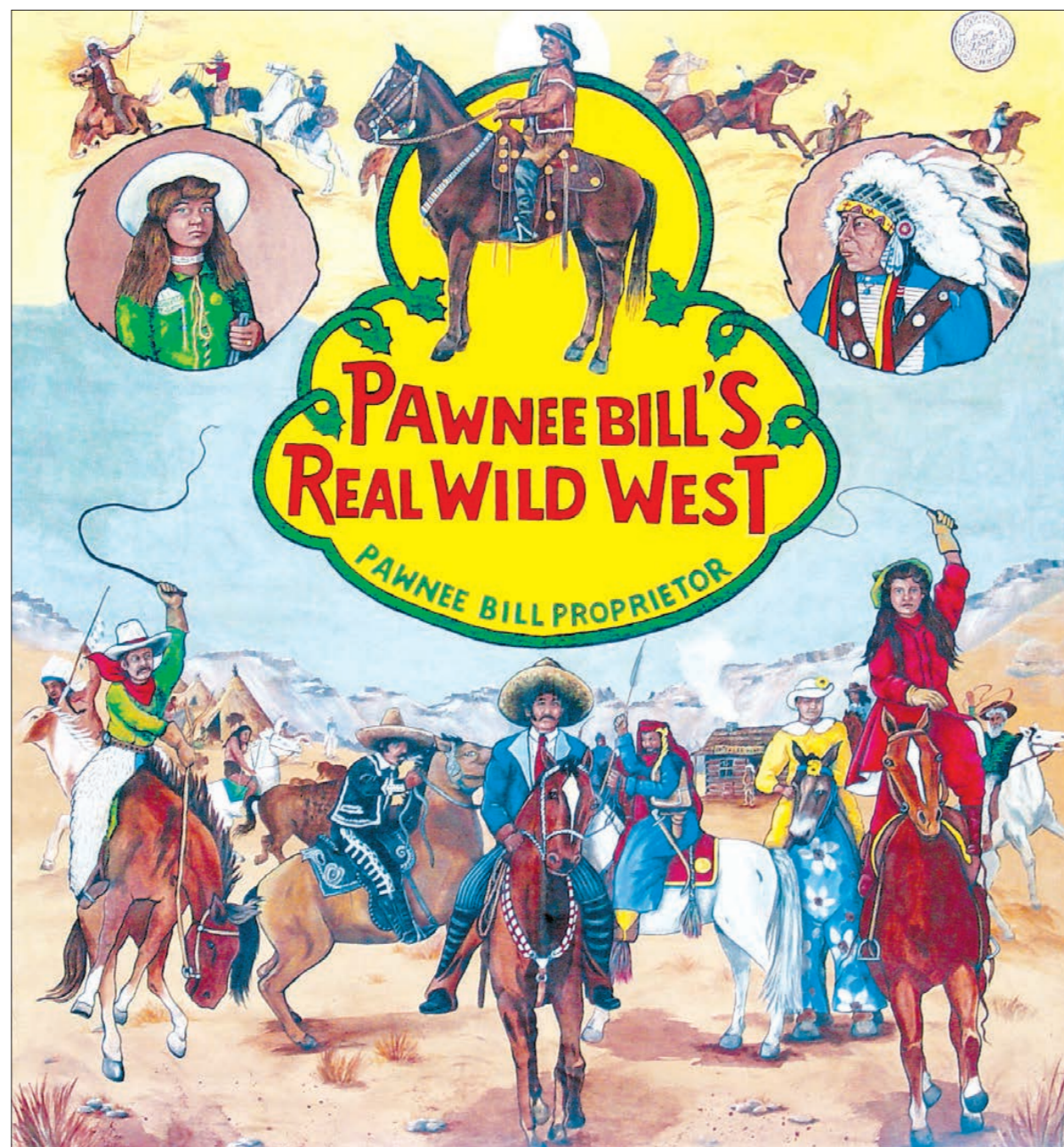
She added that "the nature of the federal preservation programs we administer is difficult to briefly describe. People often assume that the SHPO is part of a federal bureaucracy that enforces "rules and regs." Not true! Every day, we work with people and groups all around the state to learn about the buildings, structures, sites, and objects that represent their community heritage. We help them



learn about their past and provide the tools they can use to preserve their heritage and save local landmarks."

Mistletoe Leaves also asked her to tell us her most satisfying work experience: "The most satisfying are those times when I get to see the real pride an individual or group has in their community. Just hearing the sincerity in their voices when they thank us for helping with a National Register nomination makes me feel what we are doing is really important. I absolutely love putting together the program for our annual statewide preservation conference and working with local cosponsors. They are proud of their cities and want to share their heritage with all of us. It's a cliché, but it's really true. Preservation depends on public/private partnerships, and we have great partners here in Oklahoma."

Pawnee Bill's Wild West Show revived in Pawnee on June 10, 17, 24

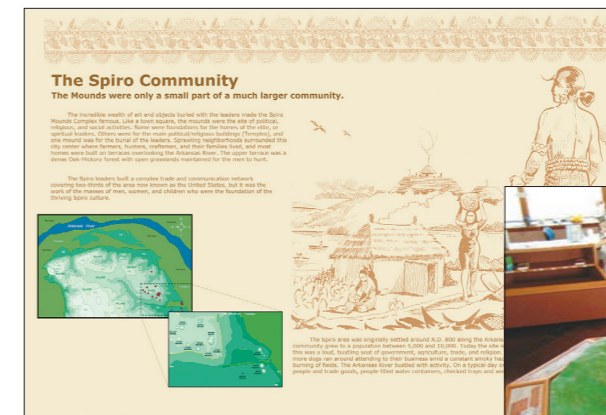


A portion of Lee Williams's central backdrop for the show.

At a glance--
 Show Tickets \$12 adults, \$6 children 10 under
 Dinner Tickets \$8 adults, \$4 children 6 under
 No credit cards, please
www.pawneebillswildwestshow.com



Unseen star of the show—Epson's 9800 printer.



Behind the scenes . . .

Creating the graphics for Pawnee Bill's Wild West Show 2006

Within the OHS Outreach Division is a well-hidden department that, in one way or another, assists in almost everything the agency's staff does and produces many of the interpretive materials that the general public sees at the sites, museums, and historic homes.

The four members of the graphics staff, with their computers, printers, scanners, and other "heavy duty" electronics, design and create the artwork for simple things like business cards as well as the huge exhibit text panels that grace our museums.

During spring 2006 graphics supervisor and team leader Bill Siemens and two of the graphic artists, Cynthia Manning and Lee Williams, faced significant tasks: Create huge banners that will decorate Pawnee Bill's Wild West Show arena and at the same time produce small "trading cards" that represent the show's past and present players.

Their jobs were made easier by the addition of the Epson 9800 printer, which makes genuine giclée (pronounced "zhee-clay") prints. The artist scans an image into a computer (or creates the image with the computer software). The images are sent to the high-resolution inkjet printer. The printer's 8 nozzles spray archival ink (capable of creating thousands of colors in continuous tone) onto any kind of surface imaginable, including tyvek, acetate, and canvas cloth. The new graphics printing capabilities were underwritten by a grant from Chesapeake Energy Corporation.

This amazing tool has already been used to produce exhibit materials designed by the fourth OHS graphic artist, Eddie Hillhouse. He created new vinyl interpretive panels for Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center exhibits as well as vinyl banners for the Research Division's upcoming James "Jimmy" Stewart exhibit. It will honor the Oklahoma City civil rights activist later this year.

For the Pawnee Bill extravaganza, and using originals from the Wild West Show era, Manning designed six 4-foot by 6-foot banners, which oozed out of the Epson printer in "four-color" brilliance, on canvas.

Manning also designed trading cards—similar to "baseball cards"—that will be traded back and forth by visitors. A complete set represents several dozen images of the "original" Wild West Show cast, such as Pawnee Bill, "Topsy Number 1," Lulu Belle Parr, and Trapper Iodine, and current cast members, such as Wayne Spears as Pawnee Bill and Peggy Coleman as "Topsy Number 1." The cards will be available at the shows in June.

Some of the graphics are being created the "old-fashioned" way. Lee Williams took an enormous piece of canvas and hand painted a visually complex, 25- by 16-foot banner that will be one of the backdrops in the arena. She created the original artwork, titled "Pawnee Bill's Real Wild West," and based its content on historical images from the turn-of-the-century Wild West Shows.

See their handiwork at the Pawnee Bill's Wild West Show later this month.



Pawnee Bill's Ranch House (OHS photo).

When is a new show an old show? When it is a freshly written, faithful adaptation of Pawnee Bill's Original Wild West Show. Featuring a cast of 100s (107, to be exact), the new show will premier in Pawnee, Oklahoma, on June 10, 2006. Co-directors and producers Martha Ray (Historic Homes Director for OHS), Jerry Brown (boot maker and former director of the show), and Kathy Barnes (Pawnee school librarian) are billing their new extravaganza as "A rip-roarin', rough-ridin', whip-poppin', shoot-'em-up wild west show."

According to Ray, the new show is being presented in recognition of the Oklahoma State Centennial. The presentation has been revamped to feature the acts from the 1906 and 1907 original Pawnee Bill's Wild West Shows. With new producers and directors combining stage, script, and historical preservation backgrounds, the Wild West Show is expected to be as historically accurate as modern laws and conventions will allow.

The festivities begin in the tradition of the original Pawnee Bill's (Gordon Lillie) show, with the entire cast on parade at 2 p.m. through downtown Pawnee and out to the ranch. The general public will follow the show out to the ranch, in the same way that people followed the performers and animals from the railroad unloading site to the arena a hundred years ago. Throughout the day, entertainments will be presented "on the Hill" at the Pawnee Bill site.

The Side Show is not to be missed: Spotted Elk and Harry Wolf will demonstrate their prowess at Ping-Pong, a game that the show's cast and crew played for fun between performances. Belly dancer Princess Olga will gyrate for your entertainment. Madame Viola Ali will tell your fortune (if you're not scared to find out what's in store), Madame Ermilla will read your palm (is there money in your future?), mermaid Annette Kellerman will be up to her usual antics, and a strong man and a clown will amaze and amuse you!

Other afternoon entertainments, beginning every thirty minutes, will be staged at



Martha Ray, Jerry Brown, and Kathy Barnes (staff photo)

three different locations. Featured performers will include Annie Oakley and Frank Butler, Buffalo Bill, and Medicine Man Dr. Hedgethicket (alias George Hopkins), as well as gunfighters and period music.

A petting zoo and storytelling will amuse the younger folks, and period demonstrations will take place in the ranch blacksmith shop and log cabin.

All-day show tickets are \$12 for adults, \$6 for children aged 10 and under, and are available **only** on the day of the show.

At 5:30 p.m. a barbecue dinner will begin serving. Dinner tickets go on sale at 5:30 (dinner is **not** included in the show admission price). Dinner tickets are \$8 per adult and \$4 per child aged 6 and under (cash or check only, no credit cards).

For more ticket information call the Pawnee Bill Ranch at 918/762-2513. Visit www.pawneebillswildwestshow.com to get driving directions and additional history of Pawnee Bill, his Wild West Show, and the Pawnee Bill Ranch.

Schedule of Events

10:00 a.m.
Ranch Site opens

12:00 p.m.
Vendors on "the Hill" open (food, crafts)

2:00 p.m.
Parade, downtown Pawnee

2:30 p.m.
Entertainment begins on "the Hill"
A new show every 30 minutes!!

5:30 p.m.
Midway opens at the Arena
Pawnee Bill's Side Show opens at the Arena
BBQ dinner begins serving

7:30 p.m.
Pre-show, "Salute to Oklahoma," in the Arena

7:45 p.m.
Grand Entry
The Original Pawnee Bill's Wild West Show, in the Arena



The Cherokee National Youth Choir, directed by Mary Kay Henderson, entertained at the Annual Meeting awards banquet on April 28 (Fred Marvel photo).



The Indian Gallery Advisory Board, led by Jack Baker and Tim Tallchief, accepted the Society's special support group award (Fred Marvel photo).

Learn about frontier education on June 21 at Enid

At 12 noon on Wednesday, June 21, the Museum of the Cherokee Strip in Enid will host its monthly Brown Bag Lecture. The theme for June is education.

Dr. Brad Agnew, professor of history at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, will present a program titled "Education on the Oklahoma Frontier." His lecture will explore Oklahoma education in all its variations, from one-room subscription schools to tribal high schools and private academies. Agnew is the author of many articles and books, including the book *Fort Gibson, Terminal on the Trail of Tears*.

The monthly Brown Bag Lecture Series is made possible in part by a grant from the Oklahoma Humanities Council as a part of their Territory Speakers Program. Local funding was provided by the Sons and Daughters of the Cherokee Strip. Admission is free, and everyone is encouraged to bring a lunch. For more information, call Glen McIntyre at 580/237-1907.

Robert Waldmire's *Route 66 Icons: From Chicago to Santa Monica* on display in June at Route 66 Museum in Clinton

Throughout the month of June the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum will be hosting an exhibition of drawings and paintings by traveling Route 66 "Free Spirit" artist Robert "Bob" Waldmire of Springfield, Illinois. This event is a special occasion for both the museum as well as for Bob Waldmire. It is his first-ever art show. The exhibition *Route 66 Icons: From Chicago to Santa Monica* concentrates on the many Route 66 images that have become synonymous with "the Mother Road." Waldmire is also displaying his 1965 white Ford Mustang, which itself is a Route 66 icon. To commemorate the Mustang's 40th anniversary, Waldmire steered it from Chicago to Santa Monica via every driveable piece of Route 66. Along the route, more than 250 Route 66 enthusiasts, both domestic and international, signed their names on the Mustang. As a special treat to visitors, Waldmire will be at the museum from June 1 through June 5.



Waldmire has more than one reason to adore Route 66. His father, the inventor of the Cozy-Dog (also referred to as corn dog), opened a restaurant, the Cozy-Dog Drive-In, on Route 66 in Springfield, Illinois. At the age of 25 Waldmire decided to take to the road and become a traveling artist, but not until 1987 did he dedicate his career to Route 66. He drives from Chicago to Santa Monica constantly in a 1972 Volkswagen van, which he calls his "studio-home-on-wheels." He has garnered many honors over his career, but none equaled the thrill of being presented the 2004 John Steinbeck Award. Winners of this award are selected from nominations made to the National Historic Route 66 Federation and the John Steinbeck Foundation. A committee chooses the recipient based on his or her work to preserve, restore, and promote the legendary highway.

The *Route 66 Icons* exhibition is organized by the Oklahoma Historical Society, Friends of the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum, Inc., and the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum. It will be available for viewing in the museum's Wow! Room.

Summer hours of operation are Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 6 p.m. For additional information contact Pat Smith at 580/323-7866 or by e-mail at <rt66mus@okhistory.org>. The museum is located at 2229 W. Gary Boulevard in Clinton.

INSIDE: See pages 4 and 5 for information on the new Pawnee Bill's Wild West Show, June 10, 17, and 24, at the Pawnee Bill Ranch.

Spiro Mounds summer solstice walks are June 21 and 22. Call Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center at 918/962-2062 for information.

PERIODICALS

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