



## Oklahoma Centennial Folklife Festival to be held June 23

On June 23 the Oklahoma History Center's grounds will be filled with the music and dance that have made Oklahoma a genuinely multicultural state. The event begins at 10 a.m. and continues until 10 p.m. Admission to the festival and to the Oklahoma History Center will be free for people of all ages.

The Centennial Folklife Festival will include a sampling of much of Oklahoma's folklife. The event will host music, dance, foodways, traditional crafts, and other Oklahoma traditions. Many cultural groups will be represented, including Chinese, Vietnamese, (Asian) Indian, and other Asians. Latinos will include Mexican paper flower making, pinata making, and many other crafts. American Indian crafts will include basket making, stickball making, pinch pottery, coil pottery, and the making of "dream catchers."

Traditional dance will include Western Swing, Chinese dancing, Vietnamese dancing, Mexican folklorico, Irish step dancing, the polka, clogging, salsa, and other forms. Music will include Celtic, Western Swing, old-time fiddling, Scottish bagpipes, Mexican mariachi, Latin salsa, and much more.

Storytelling for children and for adults will also be part of the event. The Winnie Mae Cafe will offer lunch and dinner selections. The event is sponsored by the Oklahoma Folklife Council, the Oklahoma Humanities Council, the Oklahoma Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts Folklife Programs, and the Oklahoma History Center. For more information contact Rodger Harris at the OHS Research Division at 405/522-5207 or e-mail him at <rharris@okhistory.org>.

For more information see the Oklahoma Folklife Center web page, available online, at <[www.okhistory.org/folk/flc1.htm](http://www.okhistory.org/folk/flc1.htm)>.

## New Board members installed at luncheon; OHS Annual Meeting banquet honors 2006 award winners

At the annual members luncheon, held on April 12, folklorist and musician Guy Logsdon enthralled the crowd with a brief musical overview of Oklahoma's place in musical history. At the end of the luncheon, during the business meeting three board members took office: Dr. Marvin Kroeker (reelected), Dr. William Pennington (reelected), and Dr. Guy Logsdon (newly elected).

At the annual banquet, held this year on April 13, the Board of Directors announced the traditional awards for notable additions and contributions to Oklahoma's history and its public presentation. The Muriel Wright Award for the best article in the year's issues of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* was captured by Dr. David Levy of OU. The Joseph Thoburn Student Historian Award was bestowed on Hanzi Zhang of Norman



**President Logan and Bob Blackburn present Hanzi Zhang with the Student Historian Award (Steve Sisney photo).**



**Leonard Logan congratulates Dr. David Baird on his induction into the Hall of Fame (Steve Sisney photo).**

(Oklahoma) High School. The Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Inc. of Enid was named this year's Outstanding OHS Support Group, and the Oklahoma City National Memorial Museum was tapped as Outstanding Historical Museum.

The 2006 award for the Outstanding Thesis on Oklahoma History was captured by Anne E. N. Allbright for "Oscar Brousse Jacobson: A Swedish Immigrant Who Dramatically Changed Art Perception in Oklahoma." She completed her degree at the University of Central Oklahoma, with Dr. Kenny Brown as her major professor.

The award for writing 2006's Outstanding Book on Oklahoma History went to Timothy Egan for *The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl*.

Inducted into the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame were former OHS Board Member and historian W. David Baird of Pepperdine University, folklorist Guy W. Logsdon of Tulsa, former OHS Board president Martin A. Hagerstrand (posthumously), and Pendleton Woods of Oklahoma City.

Plans are presently being made to hold the next Annual Meeting in Ardmore in April 2008.

## Bennett Collection donated to Oklahoma Historical Society

The family of educator and statesman Henry Garland Bennett, Sr., has donated a collection of Bennett's papers to the Oklahoma Historical Society. Portions of the collection are displayed in a special exhibit that was unveiled and dedicated in the Oklahoma Museum of History during the Annual Meeting in April. In addition to a 1947 portrait of Bennett by L. Pendleton, the collection includes his dissertation, several of his published works, and materials related to his service to the Harry S.

Truman administration during the early Cold War years. Bennett served as president of Southeastern State College in Durant from 1919 until 1928, when he became president of Oklahoma A&M. He remained its leader for 23 years. After World War II he served as leader of a commission that implemented the "Point Four Program" to provide assistance to underdeveloped, or "third world" nations. He and his wife, Vera, died in an airplane crash in De-

cember 1951 while on an international mission.

Several members of the Bennett family attended the dedication. Creators of the exhibit include Amanda Hudson of the Higher Education Heritage Society and Elizabeth Baxter and David Davis of the Oklahoma Museum of History. The exhibit resides in the Sam Noble exhibit wing of the Oklahoma History Center. The OHS Research Division houses the rest of the Bennett Collection.







## Meetings

In **Oklahoma City** the Oklahoma Genealogical Society's monthly meeting will be held on June 4, 2007, at 6 p.m. in the Chesapeake Events Center at the Oklahoma History Center, 2401 N. Laird Avenue. OHS Research Coordinator Debra Spindle will discuss how she documented a story that her grandmother told about her own grandmother and her parents, who were attacked while traveling on an Oregon Trail wagon train. The OHS Research Center will be staffed and remain open until 7:45 p.m. that evening. (Special to ML)

## Events

The National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in **Oklahoma City** is offering its prestigious Prix de West Art Exhibition, Sale, and Seminars beginning June 8 and 9. The exhibition and sale of more than 300 Western paintings and sculptures by contemporary Western artists will continue through September 9. The opening weekend of June 8 and 9 will include art seminars and demonstrations, receptions, sale, and awards banquet. Reservations are required for opening activities. For more information, call 405/478-2250 or go to <[www.nationalcowboymuseum.org](http://www.nationalcowboymuseum.org)>. (Special to ML)

**Weatherford** is hosting its annual Cruise & Car Show on Friday and Saturday, June 15 and 16. In addition to the show, a free shuttle will take visitors to the Stafford Space Museum and to a local shopping area. For information, call the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce at 800/725-7744 or visit <[www.weatherfordchamber.com](http://www.weatherfordchamber.com)>. (Special to ML)

On June 16, 2007, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the **Depew Historical Society** will host its Patchwork Days—Stitches in Time festival. There will be games for children, American Indian dancing, rides in a horse-drawn wagon, and vendors. A portion of Main Street will be set aside for the display of

classic or antique cars. Contact Dionna at 918/324-5695 or Linda at 918/324-5535 after 6 p.m. (Special to ML)

**Clinton** will be the venue for the Route 66 Festival to be held June 21–24. For a listing of the dates and times of events go to <[www.route66festival2007.com](http://www.route66festival2007.com)>. (Special to ML)

**Colcord's** Talbot Library and Museum, 500 S. Colcord Ave., will be hosting its Annual Book and Bake Sale on Saturday, June 2. The sale is in conjunction with Colcord's Old Settlers Day, which will feature food and music. Call 918/326-4532 or go to <[www.talbotlibrary.com](http://www.talbotlibrary.com)>. (Special to ML)

**Gene Autry Oklahoma Museum**, located in the town of Gene Autry (five miles east of Interstate 35 on State Highway 53), is announcing that tickets for the Gene Autry Oklahoma Film & Music Festival, scheduled for September 26–30, 2007, have gone on sale. The Headliner Concert, featuring "Riders in the Sky," will be on Saturday, September 29, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Oklahoma balladeer Les Gilliam and actor Dale Robertson will join other entertainers who will share their cowboy and country music, cowboy poetry, and storytelling. According to Museum Director Elvin Sweeten, this year's event will be special because of Oklahoma's centennial celebration as well as the commemoration of actor and singer Gene Autry's 100th birthday. To order tickets call 580/294-3047, Mondays-Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Special to ML)

## Happenings

The **Oklahoma** Centennial Commission has announced the release of a poster honoring the state's strong Native American influence. Renowned artist Ben Harjo created the poster, "A Returning of Nations." It is available for \$16 plus \$2 for shipping. It can be obtained by completing an online form at the Commission's web site, <[www.oklahomacentennial.com](http://www.oklahomacentennial.com)>, or by sending check or money order to

Oklahoma Centennial Commission, Attn: A Returning of Nations Poster, 133 West Main Street, Suite 100, Oklahoma City, OK 73102. The poster is also available at the Oklahoma Centennial Kiosk in Penn Square Mall. For information call 405/228-2006. (Special to ML)

**Bartlesville's** Price Tower was proclaimed a National Historic Landmark by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne on April 4, 2007. The design of the Price Tower was based upon a 1929 design by Frank Lloyd Wright for the St. Marks-in-the-Bouwerie, New York City. The plans were adapted from their original all-residential plan to accommodate retail and commercial rental spaces as well. Completed in 1956 for the H. C. Price Company of Bartlesville, the tower's nineteen cantilevered stories have been returned to their multiuse origins, currently housing the Price Tower Arts Center, the Inn at Price Tower, the Copper Restaurant, the Wright Place museum store, and a few commercial tenants. (Special to ML)

## Opportunities

**Norman's** Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center at the University of Oklahoma is seeking applicants for its Visiting Scholars Program, which provides financial assistance to researchers working at the center's archives. Awards of \$500 to \$1,000 are generally granted as reimbursement for travel and lodging. The Visiting Scholars Program is open to any applicant. Emphasis is given to those pursuing postdoctoral research in history, political science, and other fields. Graduate students, interested undergraduates, and lay researchers can also apply. The center's collections are described in the publication *A Guide to the Carl Albert Center Congressional Archives* (1995), available online at <[www.ou.edu](http://www.ou.edu)>. Applications are accepted at any time. For information contact Archivist, Carl Albert Center, 630 Parrington Oval, Room 101, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK, 73019 or call 405/325-5835. (Special to ML)

### NEW MEMBERS, cont'd.

Robertson, Shirley & Donna Ambler, Chandler  
Robinson, Barbara, Tecumseh  
Rogers, Eric & Kimberly Buhrow, Midwest City  
Rogers, Jay & Shery, Yukon  
Schmidt, A. W. & Pamela, Norman  
Schrupp, David & Gretchen, Shawnee  
Scott, John L. & Marsha, Enid  
Smith, Bill & Pat, Chickasha  
\*Staggs, Dr. Barbara and Ross, Muskogee  
Staggs, Ernest E., Ada  
Stanley, Ronald & Joyce, Yukon  
Szweda, Luke & Pamela, OKC  
Teal-Harris, Mary Ann, OKC  
Thompson, Dwaine, OKC

Todd, Rhea, OKC  
Weigand, Dr. and Mrs. Dennis, Edmond  
White, Gary, Edmond  
Wilkins, Maurice & Cookie, Chickasha  
Wingfield, Judy, Yukon  
Wolf, Andrew & Helen, OKC  
**INDIVIDUAL**  
Anderson, Glenna, Owasso  
Arinwine, Kenneth, OKC  
Baker, Bonnie, Muskogee  
Beatty, Carolyn, OKC  
Brantley, Jenise T., Wichita, KS  
Brown, Mr. & Mrs. Charles, Baytown, TX  
Bullock, Laura, Tulsa  
Collins, Phillip Hugh, Antlers  
Cooper, Dorothy, Odessa, TX

Cuskey, Carolyn, Midwest City  
Deadwiley, Sean, Noble  
Eastham, Kellie, Edmond  
Eichling, Bob, Warner  
Emmett, Louise, OKC  
Foote, Nancy Frye, Tulsa  
Fore, Sharon, Bethany  
Harding, Jane, Bethany  
Harrington, Jeff, OKC  
Harris, Sandra, Chickasha  
Hellwege, Virginia, Kingfisher  
Jackson, Joyce, Midwest City  
Jarvis, Joyce, Sherman, TX  
Jones, Dr. Kathryn, OKC  
Karl, Erin, OKC  
Keegan, Ed, Rockwall, TX  
Kinser, Margaret, OKC  
Kissler, Francis R., Weatherford

Lane, Gerald R., Baton Rouge, LA  
Lawrence, Sue, Tulsa  
Lee, Larry, Muskogee  
Logan, Theodore, Midwest City  
Mallett, Ms. J. E., OKC  
McCollough, Mildred D., Yukon  
McEwen, Michael, Medicine Park  
McNutt, Ingrid, OKC  
Mims, Velma, Panama City, FL  
Myers, D. L., Tulsa  
Ninemire, Rebecca, Madill  
Peck, Betty, Shawnee  
Pennington, David B., Tulsa  
Powers, Lorine Q., OKC  
Ray, Arthur, Hartville, MO  
Ringo, Robert B., Lincoln, CA  
Rogers, Shirley Val, Muskogee  
Sapient, Janice, Stanton, CA

Simpson, Joanna, Noble  
Six, Mary, Rio Linda, CA  
Smith, Darcas B., Midwest City  
Smith, Ed, OKC  
Summers, Deborah, Midwest City  
Tate, Juanita J., Ardmore  
Thompson, Carole, OKC  
Wheeler, Jimmie R., Heavener  
Wimberly, Dan, Bartlesville  
Winterman, Vivian, OKC  
Winters, Gracie, Newkirk  
Worley, Phyllis, OKC  
**INSTITUTIONAL**  
Key Academy, McAlester  
\*Cimarron Valley Railroad Museum, Cushing  
University of Science and Art of Oklahoma, Chickasha





# ***Pawnee Bill rides again, June 16, 23, 30***

When is a new show an old show? When it is a freshly written, faithful adaptation of the Original Pawnee Bill's Wild West Show. In recognition of the Oklahoma State Centennial, the show is being 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!

In the tradition of the original Pawnee Bill's Wild West Show, the cast will assemble in downtown Pawnee and parade through town and on to the Ranch Site. Everyone is invited to follow the cast from town to the Pawnee Bill Ranch, just as generations past followed the show from the railroad unloading sites to the arenas. Cast members will be available to the public after the parade until 5:30 p.m. In addition, other historically accurate entertainment, from blacksmithing demonstrations to a gunfight and sharpshooters and a medicine man show and musicians, will be held continuously on "the hill" at the Pawnee Bill Ranch Site.



## ***Wild West Show Tickets***

Tickets are now available at the Pawnee Bill Ranch Museum, or over the phone at 918/762-2513.

### ***The Price of Admission—***

**ADULTS:** \$12

**CHILDREN:** \$6 (10 and under)

**GROUPS:** \$10 per person. Please call Ranch for details.

**SENIORS:** \$10 Tickets available at Ranch only.

**BOX SEATS:** \$80 (8 Ringside box seats) Call Ranch for reservations.

**Pawnee Bill Ranch**  
918/762-2513



### ***The Schedule of Events***

- 11:00 a.m. Ranch Site Opens
- 2:00 p.m. Parade, downtown Pawnee, ending at ranch
- 2:30 p.m. Entertainment begins on "hill" at Ranch, new show every 30 minutes
- 4:30 p.m. Midway opens at arena, BBQ begins serving
- 7:30 p.m. Grand Entry, The Original Pawnee Bill's Wild West Show, arena





## Conservators visit Overholser Mansion to assess interior restoration

Heather Seifert, Executive Director of Preservation Oklahoma, received grants from the National Trust's Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund for Historic Interiors and the Oklahoma City Community Foundation to bring conservators to the Overholser Mansion, an OHS property in Oklahoma City, to assess the original finishes and textiles.

Bryon Roselette from EverGreene Painting Studios in Chicago examined finishes such as the woodwork and the canvas wall and ceiling covers. EverGreene has recently completed restoration projects at the Skirvin Hotel in downtown Oklahoma City and the Marland Mansion in Ponca City. Deborah Bede from Stillwater Textile Conservation Studio in New Hampshire examined textiles such as upholstery and carpeting. Roselette and Bede will be completing recommended treatment plans as well as cost estimates for the needed work.

Roselette discussed some of his findings during a public program at the mansion on March 21 for approximately 30 people. Both Roselette and Bede were amazed that the mansion has so much of the original fabric intact. As Roselette pointed out during the program, "Imagine living in your house for a hundred years and never painting the walls or refinishing the woodwork!"

While they were in the mansion, Bryon Roselette cleaned sample patches on the wall canvases in the library and the parlor. The dramatic contrast shows the improvement that can be achieved with professional preservation work.

## Hidden Collections . . .

### The David L. Payne Papers

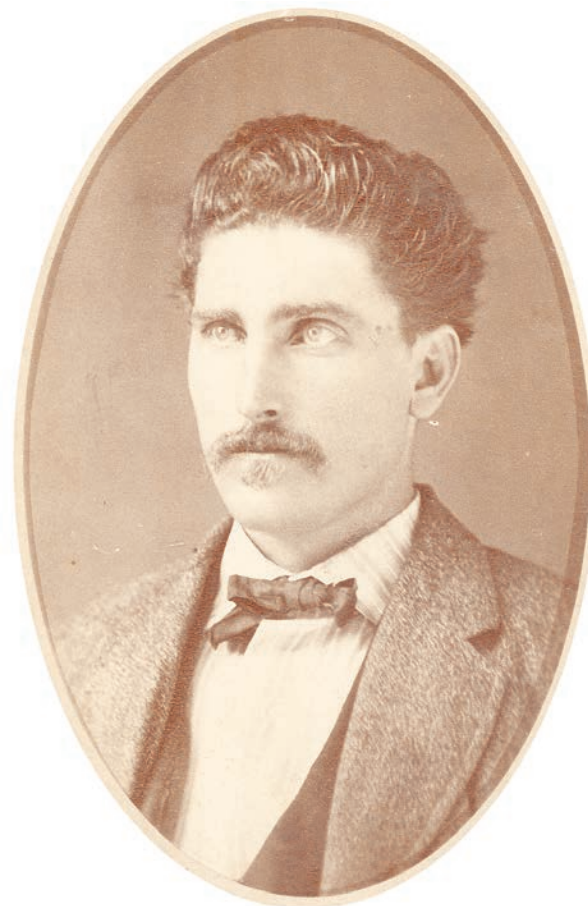
By Larry O'Dell

When a historian, researcher, or someone interested in the past has the opportunity to read and actually hold documents written by key figures in creating the present, it is truly an exciting moment. One such prospect in the Research Collections of the Oklahoma Historical Society is the David L. Payne Papers (84.16).

Payne, a cousin of David Crockett, was born in Indiana in 1836. At a young age he relocated to the West, homesteading in Kansas, scouting for the government, and later joining the U.S. Army. His contribution to history and Oklahoma, which is sometimes vilified, came in 1879, when he organized colonists to settle the Unassigned Lands in present central Oklahoma. "Boomers," who agitated for the non-Indian settlement of Indian Territory, had begun their quest prior to Payne, but he escalated the process. Under his guidance members repeatedly intruded into the region that is the present Sooner State, only to be repelled and arrested by U.S. Army troops, including the famed "Buffalo Soldiers." In 1884 Payne unexpectedly died, leaving his trusted compatriot William Couch to persevere and eventually open the land to settlement.

The papers, which consist of two document boxes, less than a cubic foot, span Payne's Boomer years. They contain not only correspondence with contemporaries and national politicians, but his personal journal entries. Also, minutes to meetings, membership lists, application cards, press

releases, and other documents from his organization allow researchers to garner information on the group's inner workings. Other interesting items include Payne's calling cards and lecture cards. Letters of W. P. Campbell and a bibliography compiled by Carl Coke Rister are also a part of the collection. The papers can be accessed at the John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick Research Center and viewed in the Daugherty Family Rare Book Room.



## OHS Places . . .

### Honey Springs Battlefield Site

1863 Honey Springs Battlefield Road

Checotah, OK 74426-6301

Phone: 918/473-5572

Hours: Battlefield, Tues.-Sat., 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 1-5 p.m.

Interpretive Center, Tues.-Sat., 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sunday, 1-4:30 p.m.

Admission: Free; donations are accepted.

Directions: Take the Checotah/Rentiesville exit 264B off of Interstate 40; go north on U.S. Highway 69 approx. 3 miles to the second exit (Bus. U.S. 69/Checotah/Rentiesville); go north to John Hope Franklin Boulevard (Rentiesville Road) and drive east two miles to the edge of the battlefield and follow the signage to the visitor's center.

Visitors to east-central Oklahoma do not have far to travel to see a Civil War battle site. Generally, when people think of Civil War battlefields, they immediately recall Gettysburg, Vicksburg, Antietam, and Shiloh. However, the largest Civil War engagement in Indian Territory (present Oklahoma) took place on July 17, 1863, at Honey Springs, along the Texas Road, a



north-south route through the Cherokee, Creek, and Choctaw nations. At the Honey Springs Battlefield Site the visitor's center offers interpretive material that provides an overview of the battle and the historic site. Six trails, totaling approximately two miles, mark the Federal and Confederate battle lines, the Federal bivouac area, and the site of the Confederate headquarters.

Upcoming events at the historic site include the Fifth Annual Memorial Run on

July 13, 2007, and the Annual Memorial Service and Friends' Meeting on July 14. On September 15 and November 17, 2007, reenactors will depict noncombatant life during the Civil War. The Honey Springs Battlefield Site was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1970 (NR 70000848).

In 1991 the Friends of Honey Springs Battlefield Park, Inc., organized as a tax-exempt organization to promote, to assist, and to support programs and services at the historic site. Initial membership included more than

800 people from across the United States as well as Canada, England, France, Germany, and Scotland. Annual dues are \$10 for a voting membership, \$25 for a supporting membership, and \$100 for a business membership. Inquiries regarding the Friends organization should be mailed to: Friends of Honey Springs Battlefield, P.O. Box 756, Checotah, OK 74426-0756.



# National Register lists four Oklahoma properties in April



On April 4, 2007, four Oklahoma properties reflecting a variety of property types are among the latest to be added to the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is 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 1,096.

The Keel Creek Bridge, located on S.H. 31 north of Coalgate, was constructed in 1940 (J. Gabbert photo, above). Featuring two spans supported by hand-cut stone piers and abutments, the bridge was part of the county-wide infrastructure improvement program initiated by county officials. Workers and funding for the bridge were provided by the Works Projects Administration (WPA), a New Deal era work-relief program. Farm-to-market roads and street improvements were priorities for rural Coal County. County officials were convinced that an improved infrastructure would help the county rebound from the economic collapse of the coal mining and cotton farming industries.

The old Douglass High School, located at 600 North High Avenue in Oklahoma City, was added to the Register for its educational and social significance to the city's African American community. At a time when segregated educational facilities were mandated by law, Douglass High School was renowned for the quality of its faculty and for its importance as a center of social and cultural activity in the city. The building itself began in 1910 as Lowell School, an elementary school for white students.

The colored, or separate, school was located on East California Street, near Bricktown. By the early 1930s the existing Douglass School was dilapidated and overcrowded. Demographic changes in the city led to the conversion of Lowell into the new separate high school. In 1933 the firm of Layton, Hicks, and Forsyth was contracted to design the makeover, and with the addition of a gym, a pool, an auditorium, and more classrooms, the new campus was brought up to modern use. The name "Douglass" followed the students from East California to High Avenue for the 1934 school year, and the new facility became a hub of

activity. The school was renowned for its students' accomplishments. By hosting many events and gatherings, it solidified its place in the city's African American community.

The F. W. Meaders Residence, located at 521 S. Broadway in Ada, is listed in the National Register for its architectural significance in Ada (J. Lupkin photo, below). It is an example of Renaissance Revival-style residential architecture, atypical for the housing stock of Ada. It is noted for its arched porch and for the balance and symmetry of its design. Frank W. Meaders made his money in oil, both as a driller and as a processor. In 1929 he commissioned Albert Ross to design a new



house for him. Ross was a noted designer in the area, having designed the Ada Public Library and buildings at East Central

and Southeastern colleges, as well as many others.

The Perryman Ranch headquarters is located near Duke, in Jackson County (M. Cassity photo, below). The ranch complex contains a number of dry-laid stone resources that date from 1888 and the next decade. Most notable are the 1892 half-dugout and the corral/barn complex. The ranch headquarters is significant in terms of settlement and agriculture; the ranch dates to the earliest occupation of Old Greer County, which at the time was part of Texas. It represents the changing nature of the agricultural that occupation, as open-range ranching devolved into unit-farm, mixed agriculture. It is signifi-



cant as a rare, intact example of dry-laid stonework. This once common technique was frequently used where timber was scarce, but stone readily available. In the West it was not typically a permanent solution and often fell by the wayside when newer building materials became available. The Perryman Ranch retains a dry-laid stone half-dugout and two corrals. Although deteriorating, the headquarters still reflects its origins in Old Greer County.

The State Historic Preservation Office strives to gain recognition for places significant in Oklahoma's history.

For more information on these or other National Register properties, call Jim Gabbert at 405/522-4478 send an e-mail to <jgabbert@okhistory.org>.

## Come over and be sociable at the Murrell Home on June 2

The historic George Murrell Home in Park Hill, Oklahoma, will hold its fourteenth annual Lawn Social on Saturday, June 2, from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. This classic event evokes the beauty, color, music, and dance of yesteryear in the Cherokee Nation. Costumed reenactors will present living history scenes inside and outside the 1845 Greek Revival-style plantation house. Several will represent descendants of the celebrated Chief John Ross and Robert Bruce Ross, who lived in the house for a decade and was chair of the Cherokee delegation to the Dawes Commission.

Other reenactors will share information on entertaining, cooking, childbirth, death, and mourning customs of the nineteenth century. Children's lawn games and storytelling will be featured as well. Artisans will demonstrate spinning, weaving, embroidery, blacksmithing, bow-and-arrow making, and log cabin construction. Visitors can learn traditional dances such as the Virginia reel and the quadrille. Live music will be provided by Cherokee country traditional string band "Good Company."

Visitors may also view recent restoration work completed on the house. A National Historic Landmark, the Murrell Home is owned and operated by the OHS. It is located three miles south of Tahlequah and one mile east of S.H. 82. Call 918/456-2751 for information or e-mail <murrellhome@intellex.com>.



## Molly Griffis to sign books at the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum during Route 66 Festival

During the Route 66 Festival in June, author Molly Griffis will autograph books and visit with Route 66 enthusiasts along with the photographers Jim Ross and Shellee Graham on June 23, 2007, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Griffis is the author of the Route 66 favorite book *Great American Bunion Derby*, as well as other publications. *Great American Bunion Derby* was a finalist for the Oklahoma Book Award and won the Gamma State Author's Award (is the state organization of Delta Kappa Gamma Soci-

ety International). The Great American Bunion Derby is significant because it was a 3,422-mile cross-country race to promote Route 66. Of 199 original entrants, only 55 finished the grueling, 84-day race. Oklahoma native Andy Payne won and took home \$25,000. He bought his parents a new home in Foyil, Oklahoma. All of Griffis' sworks are set in Oklahoma, for she is an Oklahoma native, born in Apache. Her favorite childhood memory is listening to stories told around the stove in Levite's Handy Corner, her parents' general store. A

graduate of the University of Oklahoma, she lives in Norman.

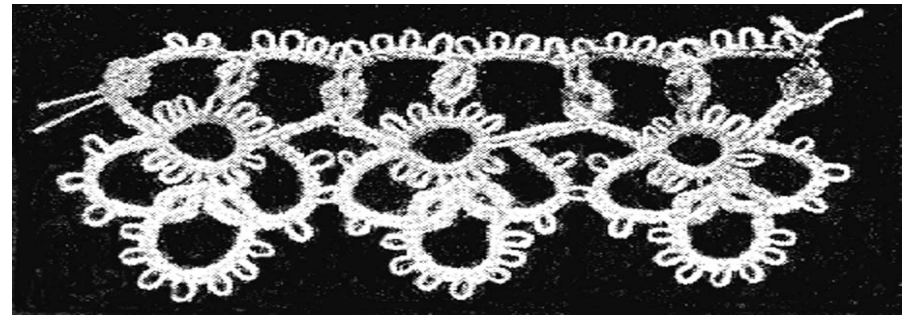
The book signing is an all-day event from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the museum's Wow! Room, free to the public. During the Festival the museum will be open on Saturday, June 23, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on Sunday, June 24, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission to the museum is \$3 for adults, \$2.50 for seniors and groups of 10 or more, and \$1 for students 6-18. Children under 5 are free. For additional information contact Pat Smith at 580/323-7866.

## Tatting, anyone? Learn how on June 16 at Kingfisher

Saturday, June 16, 2007, the Chisholm Trail Museum in Kingfisher will hold a tatting workshop. The class begins at 1 p.m. and is open to beginning, intermediate, and experienced tatters. Work continues until 4 p.m.

Say—What is tatting, anyway? If you don't know, then you're a beginner! *Webster's 3rd International Dictionary* defines it as "forming a delicate, handmade lace (as for edging, insertion, or doilies), formed usu. by looping and knotting with a single cotton thread and a small shuttle to make varied designs of rings and semicircles." That's why great-grandmother's clothes were so pretty.

Now that you know what it is, its time to learn more. Who can teach you? Judy Banashek, Irene Morgan, and Gina Butler. Call 405/375-5176 to get started.



## Awards! Kudos! Recognition!

Howard McKinnis of **Honey Springs Battlefield** was named Checotah Main Street's Member of the Year. McKinnis works for OHS at Honey Springs and is a member of the Checotah Main Street Board. Pictured at the Main Street Banquet in Checotah in March were Rep. Ed Cannaday, McKinnis, and Rep. Terry Harrison (courtesy *McIntosh County Democrat*).

Oklahoma City Beautiful has given the **Oklahoma Historical Society** an

"Exceptional" award for the landscaping used to create the Red River Journey. The Journey is located on the grounds of the Oklahoma History Center.

The Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters' Outstanding Achievement Award for Special Features was given to OETA at the OAB banquet in March for a "Stateline 'Centennial Series'" story on the **Buffalo Soldiers at Fort Gibson Historic Site**. Bill Moore and Michael Dean of the OHS staff assisted in the production.

## Gift Shop News

By Russ Haynes

Hello! The Gift Shop News column is back. Thanks to all the members who have ordered books and gifts using the OHS Catalog of Publications. Your patronage is greatly appreciated. We are almost halfway to the Centennial celebration in November, and we have been having a great time here in the new History Center. It is exciting to be part of Oklahoma history as we celebrate one hundred years as a state. Please take a moment to look at some of the new books we are carrying here in the Gift Shop, and please send us any questions or suggestions.

**Cherokee Beliefs and Practices of the Ancients: Out of the Flame** by James Adair. This excerpt from Adair's History of the American Indians includes specific information on the beliefs and customs of the Cherokee people. Considered to be the oldest source on the subject. 230 pages. Paperback. \$24.95

**Way Down Yonder in the Indian Nation: Writings from America's Heartland** by Michael Wallis. These sixteen essays reflect

Wallis's finest writing and harken to a time before fast food and malls replaced family-owned diners along Route 66. Brings to life some of Oklahoma's most memorable characters, famous and infamous, ordinary and down-home. Volume 3 in the Oklahoma Stories and Storytellers Series. 253 pages. Paperback. \$15.95

**It Happened in Oklahoma: From the Drama of the Dust Bowl to the Building of a 900-foot Jesus, Thirty Stories from Sooner State History** by Robert Dorman. A unique look at intriguing people and episodes in Sooner State history. Written in an easy-to-read, entertaining, informative style. Recounts some of the most captivating moments in Oklahoma's past and present. 162 pages. Paperback. \$9.95

**The Story of Golf in Oklahoma** by Del Lemon. Chronicles golf history of the Sooner State, from championships to courses to personalities. Previously unpublished material includes numerous color and black-and-white photographs, course layouts, detailed appendices documenting dates, locations, champions, and winning scores of every Oklahoma Open, as well as other prominent golf championships

played in Oklahoma. 400 Pages. Hardback. \$24.95

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## June happenings at OHS Places

### June 2

Murrell Home Lawn Social, Park Hill

### June 9

Fort Towson Homecoming, Fort Towson

“Two Gentlemen of the Prairie: Jessie Chisholm, Black Beaver, and the True Story of the Chisholm Trail,” Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher

### June 16, 23, 30

Pawnee Bill's Wild West Show, Pawnee Bill Ranch, Pawnee

### June 21

Summer Solstice Walks, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro

### June 21–23

Route 66 Festival, Clinton

### June 23

Oklahoma Centennial Folklife Festival, Oklahoma History Center, OKC

### through June 24

*A Drive in the Past Lane*, exhibit, in conjunction with the Route 66 Festival, Route 66 Museum, Clinton

### All month

*“Voices in the Tallgrass”*: Native Women Artists of Oklahoma  
Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City

Oklahoma Historical Society  
2401 N. Laird Avenue  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7914

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PERIODICALS



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# Mistletoe Leaves

Vol. 38, No. 6

June 2007

## Spiro Mounds heralds the dawn of summer



Celebrate the beginning of summer with a family excursion to the Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center on June 21 and 22. Site Manager Dennis Peterson will lead the Solstice walks through the ancient mounds while presenting information on the site's history. That history begins with the American Indians who constructed the earth mounds and continues with stories about excavations conducted in the twentieth century by archaeologists and “pot hunters” (looters, to be more precise).

Tours start at 11 a.m. and continue at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Each is approximately one mile of easy walking and lasts about two hours. The 7 p.m. tour will allow you to view the sunset and wildlife that ventures out at twilight.

Admission is still \$3 for adults and \$2 for children. The center is situated three miles east and four miles north of Spiro. For more information call 918/962-2062. (Art work by Donald R. Johnson.)

### “Two Gentlemen of the Prairie: Jesse Chisholm, Black Beaver, and the True Story of the Chisholm Trail” on June 9

On Saturday, June 9, at 10 a.m. Phil Pruner will portray Black Beaver, Delaware scout and translator, at the Chisholm Trail Museum in Kingfisher. Jessie Chisholm and Captain Black Beaver (Principal Chief of the Delaware Tribe of Oklahoma during the last half of the 1800s) were close friends for more than thirty years. Their acquaintance dated from the 1834 Dragoon Expedition led Col. Henry Dodge onto the plains of Oklahoma. Black Beaver and Chisholm were friends until Chisholm's unfortunate death in 1867. Closer than brothers, the two men often worked together as guides, scouts, and translators for exploratory expeditions, emigrant wagon trains, and military actions from the Indian Territory all the way to California during the turbulent frontier period of American history. Even when they were not co-workers, they lived surprisingly parallel lives, and it can honestly be said that they complemented each other's skills and were never competitors. This spirit of cooperation was never more apparent than in regard to the famous Chisholm Trail, alternately referred to as the Black Beaver Trail before Chisholm made the trip to Kansas. The true story of this famous trail is much more interesting than most people imagine.

Phil Pruner is a fifth-generation Oklahoman and a descendant of Black Beaver. Pruner draws from published records and family history to weave a fascinating tale. From his early work as a guide for artist and naturalist John James Audobon through his patriotic service during the Civil War, to being honored by the president for his peace efforts among the Indians of Oklahoma and the Southwest, Black Beaver lived a life that few men could equal. Join Phil Pruner at the Chisholm Trail Museum, 605 Zellers Avenue in Kingfisher, for a warm and intimate portrait. Call 405/375-5176 for information.