



Mistletoe Leaves



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June 2008

Cartoonists donate *Winner Williams* strips to OHS

Hall Duncan and Don Heath, illustrators and writers of the cartoon strip *Winner Williams*, have donated the original drawings to the Oklahoma Historical Society. The strip first appeared in the weekly *Black Dispatch* newspaper in 1969.

"It was unique because its hero character was an African American, Winner Williams," said Bruce Fisher, OHS Curator of Cultural Diversity. "The multiethnic supporting cast in the strip included kids who represented a cross section of personality types from different socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds."

In September of 1971 *Winner Williams* made its debut on the comics page of the *Oklahoma City Times*. The cartoon strip was a huge success. To meet the new challenges of creating six episodes a week, Hall recruited Don Heath. "Heath contributed much to the evolving hairstyles, clothing, and complexion techniques," noted Fisher.

Together Hall and Don discussed ideas with educators and community groups to keep the characters up-to-date during the time of the publication. In their book *The Gospel According to Winner, Larry and Friends*, they write, "Our common goal of creating a hero character, not only for black children but for all children, brought us together as friends." The cartoon last appeared in print in April 1973.



Bruce Fisher, Hall Duncan, Don Heath, and Dr. Bob Blackburn with an assortment of art work for the *Winner Williams* cartoon strips (T. Zinn photo).



OHS Annual Meeting luncheon honors 2007 award winners

New Board members installed

At the Annual Membership Meeting held on April 17 in Ardmore, OHS Board members took office and a new president was installed. James R. Waldo, Oklahoma City attorney and OHS Board member since 2004, succeeded Leonard Logan as Board President. Emmy Scott Stidham, Deena Fisher, and Jack Baker were reelected, and Rex Ball and Billie Fogarty are new to the Board. Oklahoma Supreme Court Justice Yvonne Kauger administered the oath to the new members.

At the Annual Awards Luncheon, held this year on April 18, the Board of Directors announced the awards for notable additions to and contributions to Oklahoma's history and public presentation.

The Muriel Wright Award for the best article in 2007's issues of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* was given to by Drs. Shirley and Wayne Wiegand for their article "Sooner

State Civil Liberties: Oklahoma's Little Dies Committee."

The Joseph Thoburn Student Historian Award was bestowed on August Isaacs of Latta High School, Latta, and the William Pennington Teacher Award went to Steve Stevens, also of Latta High School.



Outstanding Thesis Award winner Julie Bennett-Jones and new OHS Board President James R. Waldo (T. Zinn photo).

The Friends of the Oklahoma Museum of History, Inc., was named this year's Outstanding OHS Support Group. The Greater

Southwest Museum, located in Ardmore, was selected as 2007's Outstanding Historical Museum.

The award for 2007's Outstanding Thesis on Oklahoma History went to Julie A. Bennett-Jones for "A Giant in Oklahoma Politics and Public Service: The Political Life of Helen Cole." Bennett-Jones completed her master's degree at the University of Central Oklahoma. The award for Outstanding Dissertation was given to Thomas Roy for "Yisaum: Parker McKenzie's Double Vision of Kiowa Culture and Language." Roy received a doctorate from the University of Oklahoma.

The award for writing 2007's Outstanding Book on Oklahoma History went to Robert S. Weddle for *After the Massacre: The Violent Legacy of the San Sabá Mission*.

Inducted into the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame were OHS Board Member and Chisholm Trail historian Robert Klemme, Cheyenne leader Lawrence Hart, and historians Odie B. Faulk and Danney Goble (posthumously).

Plans are presently being made to hold the next Annual Meeting in Bartlesville in April 2009.



Director's Column

By **Bob L. Blackburn**
Executive Director

I have always admired people who are willing to take a chance.

Some have been willing to leave their home and settle a piece of land on the edge of the frontier. Others have risked their life savings and good name to borrow enough money to start a new business. Many have met failure time and again, yet are driven or stubborn enough to try one more time, one more dream.

One such risk taker is Troy Smith, a native of Oilton raised in the oil camps around Seminole.

Like so many men of his generation, Troy served his country during World War II and returned home looking for an opportunity. For a while he drove a dairy truck and then a bread truck. Neither satisfied his ambition.

In 1947, while running his bread route out of Shawnee, Troy bought a small restaurant on the east side of town called the Cottage Café. It had a small counter and a few booths.

For a year, he got up before daybreak to open the café and make the coffee. Then he walked to the bakery, loaded his truck, and ran the route. By mid-afternoon he was back at the café where he stayed until closing time about midnight. Then it was to bed for a few hours of sleep and the beginning of another full day.

Despite the hard work, the café never turned a profit. His only return was from the jukebox where oil-field workers played the most recent tunes by Hank Williams.

Although short on profit, the Cottage Café gave Troy the lessons needed for his next enterprise, a little larger café called Troy's Grill. Located in a better part of Shawnee, it made a slim profit selling a popular dish, "Troy's Panful of Chicken."

That experience led to an even more ambitious investment in an upscale restaurant called the Log House, where Troy and his partner specialized in steaks. Like the other restaurants, he found himself working long hours with inconsistent returns.

In 1953 Troy took one more chance. He converted a little root beer stand into a drive-in that sold hot dogs, drinks, and ice cream. Soon, he noticed that the drive-in earned him a twenty percent return on gross revenues, while the steak house was doing well to bring a 5 percent return.

He invested more in the drive-in. He hired carhops and added controlled parking spaces, canopies, music, and an innovative two-way speaker system that allowed customers to order from their car. With an expanded menu, he named the place Top Hat.

In 1959, with a new partner and an ambitious plan to franchise his drive-ins, Troy Smith took another chance. He changed the name. His new drive-in chain would be called Sonic.

Yes, I have always admired people who are willing to take a chance. I admire people like Troy Smith.

New Members, April 2008

*Members who renewed at a higher level

Benefactor

Wachovia Securities, Oklahoma City
C2 Productions, LLC, Oklahoma City
Groendyke Transport, Inc., Enid
Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association, Oklahoma City
*Mr. and Mrs. M. D. Jirous, Oklahoma City
The Merrick Foundation, Oklahoma City
BancFirst, Oklahoma City

Fellow

*Melvin R. and Jasine Moran, Seminole

Associate

*Phil and Millie Kliever, Cordell
Mike and Karen Samis, Oklahoma City

Friend

Michael and Susan Dunham, Oklahoma City
Catherine Freede, Edmond
*Jane Goodwin, Albuquerque, NM
*Dianne Hernandez, Edmond
*Louis and Charlotte Trost, Nichols Hills
Phillip and Mary Truss, Oklahoma City
*Tom and Marilyn Walker, Ardmore
*Maurice & Cookie Wilkins, Chickasha

Family

Burck and Sandra Bailey, Chandler
*John E. Elliott, Oklahoma City
Rodney and Patsy Goddard, Oklahoma City
Alan Green, Oklahoma City
Tommy Jay Heanue, Oklahoma City
Steven Hendrickson, Tulsa
Neil and Patricia Hill, Oklahoma City
*Lucien and Barbara Jones, Oklahoma City
Cheryl K. Key, Ardmore
*Barbara Klein and James Weaver, Oklahoma City
Theresa Lokites, Silverdale, WA
*David and Mary Loveless, Enid
*Toni and Erin Lusk, Oklahoma City
John Marshall, Oklahoma City
Constance Murray-Goble, Tulsa
Sally Edwards Parker, Honolulu, HI
Homer and Ramona Paul, Edmond
*Vera Pauline Rodke, Paoli
Mr. and Mrs. Jim V. Smith, Frederick
Al and Shirley Snipes, Oklahoma City
Jeffrey Stuckey, Oklahoma City
Andy and Lauren Sullivan, Nichols Hills

Cont'd. on page 3

Development News

By Tim Zwink

This month I would like to announce that the Oklahoma Historical Society has been provided a very attractive opportunity to increase two of our endowment funds at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation.

The Kirkpatrick Family Fund and the Oklahoma City Community Foundation are offering to organizations like the OHS dollar-for-dollar matching grants up to \$5,000. This matching grant program has been established to honor the 100th anniversary of John Kirkpatrick's birth. The program is called the John Kirkpatrick Centennial Endowment Challenge.

We have two endowment funds at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation that qualify for these grants. One is the Oklahoma Historical Society Endowment Fund, and the other is the Guthrie Carnegie Library Endowment Fund.

Contributions from individuals, foundations, and corporations qualify for the match. Donations must be made directly to the Oklahoma City Community Foundation, must be designated for one of these two endowment funds, and must be received by December 31, 2008. The address for the Oklahoma Community Foundation is: P.O. Box 1146, Oklahoma City, OK 73101.



Oklahoma Historical Society Publications Division

Dianna Everett, Ph.D., Editor
Linda D. Wilson, Assistant Editor
William E. Siemens, Graphic Artist
Membership Office: Alma Moore
405/522-5242
<ohsmembers@okhistory.org>

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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.

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

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Meetings

The **Oklahoma Genealogical Society's** monthly meeting will be held on Monday, June 2, 2008, at the Oklahoma History Center, 2401 North Laird Ave., Oklahoma City. Oklahoma County Clerk Carolynn Caudill will give a presentation regarding the online records available from the Oklahoma County web site and her plans to add early Oklahoma County school census and cemetery records to the web site. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. in the Chesapeake Room. The OHS Research Center will be staffed and remain open until 7:45 p.m. (Special to ML)

Events

The **Lindsay Community Historical Society** will have its annual ranch roundup on the lawn of the Murray Lindsay Mansion on Saturday, June 7, 2008, starting at 5:30 p.m. The event will include an old-fashioned barbecue dinner and dessert of homemade cobblers, period games for the children, and musical entertainment by Oklahoma balladeer Les Gillium. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$7 for children. Proceeds go toward the maintenance of the mansion and the 1908 Pikes Peak School in Lindsay. For info call Shawn Bridwell at 405/756-6502. (Special to ML)

The Pawnee Indian Veterans' Homecoming and Powwow will be held at Pawnee High School Football Field Memorial Stadium at 8 p.m. in **Pawnee** on July 3 through 6. Also on those dates the Pani Indian Art Show will be displayed at the fairgrounds, and the Moses Yellow Horse softball tournament will occur that weekend. For more info call 918/762-3390. (Special to ML)

The **Cherokee Heritage Center**, located three miles south of **Tahlequah** off of U.S. Highway 62, will be the venue for the presentation of *Under the Cherokee Moon*. Performances will occur on Friday and Saturday evenings from May 30 to August 16. Seating begins at 6 p.m. with each performance starting around 7 p.m. Theatergoers may elect to have dinner at 6:30 p.m. Tickets for dinner and the theater are \$25 for adults and \$15 for children or \$15 and \$10 for the theater only. CNHS member rates are \$20 and \$12. There are discounted rates for groups and seniors. Call 1-888-999-6007, extension 245, for reservations. Seating is limited. (Special to ML)

In **Mangum** on June 27 at 11 a.m. the Greer County Commissioners and the Grand Lodge of Masons of Oklahoma will remove items placed in the the cornerstone of the Greer County courthouse in 1906 and replace them with 2007 Greer County memorabilia. The public is invited to attend. Entertainment and a hotdog lunch will be served after the opening. Telephone Judy Forehand at 580/782-2249 or 580/481-4248. (Special to ML)

Ponca City is hosting its first Herb Festival at the Cann Botanical Gardens, located at 1500 East Grand Ave., on Saturday, June 7, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The event features fresh herbs, plants, vegetables, and garden-related arts and crafts. Additional attractions will include a children's tent, samples, seminars, food, and live entertainment. For information phone 580/765-9959. For groups call 580/765-4400. (Special to ML)

Arbuckle Mountain Park, near **Davis**, Oklahoma, will be the venue for the Arbuckle Mountain Fourth of July Jam planned for June 29 through July 5, 2008. Event includes informal jamming, bluegrass gospel, a band scramble, and an open stage. For family fun enjoy the music and a pot luck dinner. Contact Rosemary Bowen at 405/665-5226 or <rosemary@brightok.net>. (Special to ML)

The Kiamichi Owa-Chito Festival, an annual three-day event, will be held at Beavers Bend Resort Park, **Broken Bow**. From June 19 through 21 attendees can

enjoy watching forestry competitions, such as double-buck sawing, pole felling, ax throwing, and jack-'n'-jill crosscut sawing. Children's activities, golf and fishing tournaments, art and photography shows, and entertainment are also planned. Phone 580/584-3393 or go to <www.brokenbowchamber.com>. (Special to ML)

Happenings

In March 2008 the Board of Directors of the Grand River Dam Authority approved construction of a 16,300-square-foot, \$3.4 million Ecosystems and Education Center in **Langley**, next to Pensacola Dam. To be completed in August 2009, the three-level facility will house GRDA offices, an ecosystems laboratory, exhibits pertaining to the area's history and ecology, a film viewing room, a 130-seat auditorium, and a seminar room for higher and continuing education classes. Currently, funds are being sought to underwrite individual filming and selected displays as well as a sustaining fund for personnel to manage the education program. For further info call D. Bruce Howell at 918/782-2706 or e-mail him at <brucehowell@dishmail.net>. (Special to ML)

The **Oklahoma Museum Association** is announcing its annual fall conference planned for September 24 through 26, at Bartlesville Community Center in Bartlesville. This year's theme is *Oklahoma Museums: It's Time for Exploring*. There will be fifteen educational sessions and keynote speaker Karen Cooper Coody will discuss how museums and American Indians can work together and how museums can better serve Native constituents. In the mean time OMA is asking for items for the annual auction to benefit their programming. If you are interested in donating an item, contact the OMA office at 405/424-7757. A conference booklet is being mailed. It is also available by calling the OMA office or downloading it from <www.okmuseums.org>. (MuseNews, Spring 2008)

In **Waynoka** Johnny Fuqua donated the original Santa Fe Railroad scale house to the Waynoka Historical Society. It was initially located in railyards north of town but was moved to Fuqua's parents' farm. Dr. Milt and Becky Lehr rehabilitated the building, and Veldon Woolley and Charles Knapp moved it to town. Heavy-duty scales donated by Mark Clarence will be placed in it. The Waynoka Cooperative provided a fork lift and employee Edwin Bergner to place the house on a pad in the Waynoka Station complex. (Special to ML)

New Members, cont'd.

Individual

Judy Abbott, Shattuck
 Joy Ahmad, Choctaw
 Suzie Baerst, Phoenix, AZ
 Jari Barnett, Stillwater
 Michael Bernard, Escondido, CA
 Marc and Carolyn A. Bonge, Norman
 C. H. Breedlove, Mount Desert, ME
 Bobbie Clinkenbeard, Richardson, TX
 Elizabeth Clubb, Tahlequah
 Donna Couch, Norman
 Reece J. Crabtree, Canadian
 Jane Denker, Enid
 Kendra Eddlemon, Seminole
 Tommy E. Graham, Chesterfield, MO
 Hugh E. Harris, Jr., Norman
 Phyllis Hester, Oklahoma City
 Dick Howard, Edmond
 Roberta E. Kuekes, Oklahoma City
 Margie Lawson Lane, Guymon
 Douglas R. Littlefield, Oakland, CA
 Ron McCoy, Emporia, KS
 John R. McKee, Oklahoma City
 Allen Poppino, Oklahoma City
 Vicki Rodgers, Oklahoma City
 Ann M. shaw, Oklahoma City
 Towana Spivey, Duncan
 Donna Stover, Oklahoma City
 Daryl Townley, Duncan
 Donald Vincent, Guthrie
 Diane Walker, Muskogee
 P. G. Wilson, Edmond

Institutions

Muscogee (Creek) Nation District, Okmulgee
 Atoka County Times, Atoka

Pawnee Bill's Wild West Show Is Coming to Town!

Pawnee Bill Ranch Historic Site is pleased to announce the 2008 Season of Pawnee Bill's Original Wild West Show, set for Saturday, June 14, 21, and 28.

This freshly written, faithful adaptation of the Original Pawnee Bill's Wild West Show has been revamped to feature acts from Gordon Lillie's successful Wild West show called "Pawnee Bill's Historical Wild West, Indian Museum and Encampment," which traveled the United States and Europe, starring May Lillie as the Champion Horseback Shot of the West.

The new show has new producers and directors who combine stage, script, and historical preservation backgrounds. The Ranch's Wild West Show is as historically accurate as modern laws and conventions allow. In the tradition of Pawnee Bill's Wild West Show, the cast will assemble in downtown Pawnee and then will parade through town and on to the Ranch. Everyone is invited to follow the cast down the road to the Ranch, just as generations past followed the show from the railroad unloading sites to the arenas.

After the parade, cast members will be available to visit with the public until 5:30 p.m., when the Side Show starts, next to the main arena. Admission to the Side Show is included with the admission ticket. Other entertainment will be held continuously on "the hill" throughout the afternoon.

Wild West Show tickets are available at the Pawnee Bill Ranch Museum. Advance orders are now available by calling 918/762-2513.

Wild West Show Tickets

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

The Schedule of Events

- 11:00 a.m. Ranch Site opens
- 1:00 p.m. Entertainment on "hill" at Ranch, new show every 30 minutes
- 2:00 p.m. Parade, downtown Pawnee, ending at ranch
- 4:30 p.m. BBQ begins serving
- 5:30 p.m. Midway opens at arena
- 7:30 p.m. Grand Entry, Original Pawnee Bill's Wild West Show, arena

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



New listings in the National Register of Historic Places

The State Historic Preservation Office is pleased to announce that two Oklahoma properties were added to the National Register of Historic Places as of March 7, 2008. The National Register is the nation's official list of places significant in our history.



The new listings from Oklahoma include the Fidelity National Building in downtown Oklahoma City and Jay Buckle Springs in rural Greer County.

Commonly known as the Park Harvey Center, the Fidelity National Building was designed by the architectural firm of Sorey, Hill and Sorey and built in 1956-57. The eighteen-story building was one of the largest office complexes constructed downtown in the post-World War II era. It is the city's earliest, best example of a stand-alone International-style skyscraper.

For centuries, Jay Buckle Springs served as a vital source of potable water in Greer County. Most of the area's surface and well water was "gyppy." The water at Jay Buckle Springs, however, was safe for consumption. The springs became a social center for the community, as residents for miles around transported water for human and livestock consumption. In 1925 a local ladies' organization, the Greer County Farm Women's Club, banded together to raise funds for improvements to the natural springs. Holding a variety of fund-raisers, the ladies' group earned money necessary to construct separate reservoirs for water collection. The springs remained in use as a major water source until 1971, when a cooperative water system was developed. Today the springs primarily serve as recreation.

The State Historic Preservation Office continues to strive for recognition of places significant in Oklahoma's history. The listing of a property in Greer County brings us closer to our goal of having at least five listings from each county. For more information, contact Kelli Gaston at 405/522-2713 or e-mail <kgaston@okhistory.org>.

OHS Places . . .

No Man's Land Museum

207 West Sewell St.
Goodwell, OK 73939-0278
Telephone: 580/349-2670

Hours: June through August, Tues.-Sat.,

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

September through May, Tues.-Fri.,

10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 2 p.m.;

Sat., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Closed: Sundays, Mondays, and holidays.

Admission: Free; donations accepted.

Situated in the Oklahoma Panhandle and ten miles southwest of Guymon, the No Man's Land Museum is located at 207 West Sewell St. in Goodwell, home of Oklahoma Panhandle State University. Established in 1934, the museum is an affiliate of the Oklahoma Historical Society and is operated by the No Man's Land Historical Society. The facility offers eight exhibit rooms in ten thousand square feet. Visitors will find among the collections American Indian artifacts, stone tools, grinding stones, pottery, beadwork, a doll collection, a barbed wire display, and items used by early Oklahoma settlers.



Unique among its items are the desks used by the two Panhandle delegates to the 1906 Oklahoma Constitutional Convention, a Catlinite peace pipe presented in 1923 to a Hooker resident by Blackfoot Chief Two Guns White Calf, and one of the first printing presses (a Franklin—an early flatbed press for hand printing) to cross the Mississippi River.

In addition to historical artifacts the museum exhibits offer information about the region's geology and paleontology. Children and many adults tend to remember the two-headed calf and ask about it on return trips.

The Oklahoma Panhandle was known as No Man's Land due to the fact that it was not attached to any state or territory between 1850 and 1890. When the Organic Act passed on May 2, 1890, the Panhandle became part of Oklahoma Territory. Once a part of the area claimed by Spain, it has witnessed the travels of Plains Indians, cattle drives, cattlemen who grazed their livestock there, and squatters before the arrival of permanent settlers.

Annual Meeting scenes



From the balcony of a Fort Washita building, photo above, OHS members viewed military demonstrations and reenactments, photo below (T. Zinn photos).



Bob Blackburn and Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame inductee Robert Klemme (T. Zinn photo).

Murrell Home Lawn Social is June 7

The historic George Murrell Home in Park Hill, Oklahoma, will hold its fifteenth annual Lawn Social on Saturday, June 7, 2008, from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

The Lawn Social evokes the beauty, color, music, and dancing of the Cherokee Nation. Costumed reenactors will present living history scenes inside and outside the 1845 Greek Revival-style plantation home.

This year's event will focus on the year 1861, a tumultuous time and a turning point for the Cherokee Nation and Indian Territory. Skits performed by reenactors will reveal the dilemma the Cherokees faced when deciding whether to side with the Union or the Confederacy or remain neutral in the American Civil War.

Artisans will demonstrate skills such as spinning, weaving, embroidery, blacksmithing, bow and arrow making, and log cabin construction. Visitors are invited to participate and learn traditional dances such as the Virginia reel and the quadrille. Live music will feature "Good Comp'ny," a Cherokee country traditional string band, as well as the playing of period instruments such as dulcimer and autoharp.

Reenactors will share information on the Murrell and Ross families and on entertaining, cooking, childbirth, rearing children, death, and mourning practices of the period. Children's lawn games and storytelling will be featured along with other events.

Admission is free. Visitors are invited to bring lawn chairs and picnic lunches. The Friends of the Murrell Home will serve refreshments for donations. Visitors will have the opportunity to view recent roof restoration work on the home and the newly acquired log corn crib. Guests will also have the opportunity to visit the Daniel Cabin on the Murrell Home grounds, where interpreter Veronica Gaston will demonstrate the life of an average Cherokee in the year 1850.

Listed as a National Historic Landmark, the Murrell Home is owned and operated by the Oklahoma Historical Society. The property is located three miles southwest of Tahlequah and one mile east of State Highway 82. Call 918/456-2751 or send e-mail to <murrellhome@okhistory.org> for additional information.



Oklahoma Hall of Fame inductee Chief Lawrence Hart congratulated by OHS Board President Jim Waldo (T. Zinn photo).

Hidden Collections . . .

The Blanche K. Young Collection

By Larry O'Dell

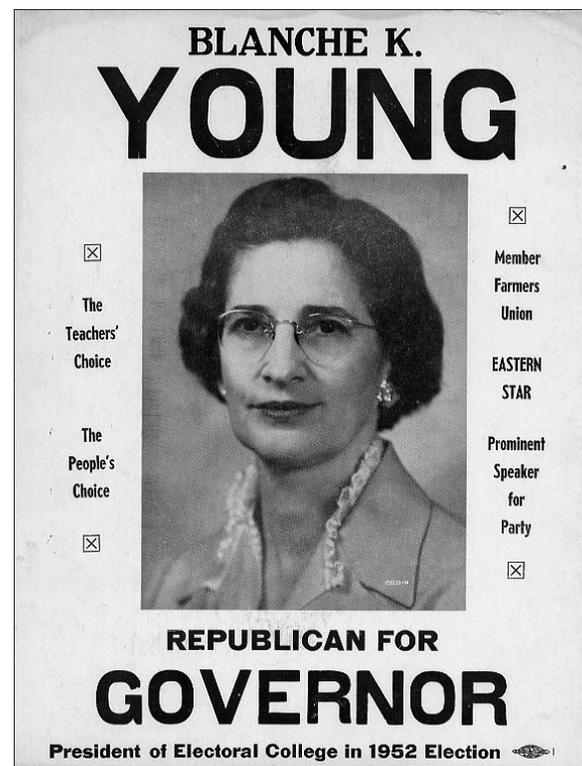
The Blanche K. Young Collection, dating from 1919 to 1969 (2007.206), illustrates the capabilities of the OHS Research Division's online catalogue. Most of the collection, acquired in 2007, has been digitized, conveniently allowing researchers to view the documents from their own computer. Although it is a small collection, the papers are important in Oklahoma politics, in women's studies, and in the history of the Republican Party.

Blanche K. Young, born in 1900 in Vici, Oklahoma Territory, taught school for forty-six years. She had attained bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Oklahoma. In the mid-twentieth century she became an important member of the Oklahoma Republican Party, serving as

Presidential Elector in 1952. In 1954 she campaigned for the governor's office, losing in the Republican Primary to Reuben Sparks. Young received almost 11 percent of the vote, placing fourth in a five-person race. In 1965 she retired from teaching. In 1988 Blanche Young died in Oklahoma City.

The collection consists of two document boxes and an oversize box, spanning the years 1919 to 1969. Among the materials are personal correspondence, campaign ephemera, and newspaper clippings. Her papers cover a variety of topics on politics, education, and history.

The Blanche Young Collection can be viewed in the Research Division's online catalogue at the Oklahoma Historical Society's website, <www.okhistory.org>. The originals can be accessed at the Oklahoma History Center in the John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick Research Center. Related material exists in the John Dunning Political Collection (2006.16).



Celebrate the beginning of summer at the Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center

It's Friday, June 20. The sun gets up before you do (and perhaps it stays up past your bedtime). It is the longest day of the year. School is out, and the kids are already getting bored. This may seem like the longest summer on record. Get the kids away from television, video games, and I-pods and let them breathe fresh air and learn something interesting. Start summer with a trip to the Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center for a special guided tour on the Summer Solstice.

On Friday, June 20, archaeologist Dennis Peterson will lead walks at 11 a.m., at 2 p.m., and at 7 p.m. and again at the same times on Saturday, June 21. Each walk will take one mile of easy walking and last about two hours. There is a \$3 per adult and \$2 per child fee for this event.

Peterson will talk about the history of the mound site and the Native Americans who built it more than ten centuries ago. He will also discuss the various explanations given for the mounds' existence, and

he'll explain the alignment of the some of the mounds to track the movement of the Sun throughout the year. He'll also discuss the history of the excavations of the site by both archaeologists and looters. The seven o'clock walks will also allow visitors to observe the sunset, which is the most important part of the event, and spot the wildlife lurks in the twilight.

The Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center is Oklahoma's only prehistoric site that is open for visitors. The interpretive center and trails are regularly open on Wednesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. and on Sunday from noon until 5 p.m. Inside, exhibits inside tell the story of the most important group of prehistoric people in Oklahoma. The center is located three miles east of Spiro, Oklahoma, on Highway 9/271 and four miles north on Lock and Dam Road. If you need further information about the Summer Solstice Walks or the center, call 918/962-2062.

See updated exhibits at Oklahoma Territorial Museum in Guthrie!

The Oklahoma Territorial Museum recently completed "Phase I" of a first-floor gallery renovation. The first-floor gallery focuses on the settlement of the Oklahoma Territory.

This new exhibit space tells the story of Native American removals to Indian Territory from the early 1800s through the time of the 1866 Reconstruction treaties with the Five Tribes. The display also focuses on removals and "relocations" of other Native American groups into Indian Territory after the Civil War. The two-fold goal was to update the story of Indian removals to be

consistent with current historical interpretation and to make the gallery more aesthetically pleasing.

Following the removal portion, the exhibit transitions into the creation of the Unassigned Lands and the government surveys of it. The interpretive text concludes with the introduction of the MK&T railroad into Indian Territory.

The OTM (as it's locally known) is situated at 402 East Guthrie Ave. in Guthrie. Telephone 405/282-1889 or e-mail Justin Lenhart at <jlennhart@okhistory.org>.

Make a Land Run in June at the Oklahoma History Center

On June 14, come to Oklahoma City and experience a pioneer's life. "Land Runs and Pioneer Life" will be the subject at hand as the Oklahoma History Center continues to offer its series of Saturday programs to bring history to life for families and visitors.

Stake a claim in the Land Run! Play old-fashioned games, learn pioneer skills and outdoor cooking, and take home your own personalized claim form. Activities will run from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and repeat from 1 to 3 p.m.

Mark the calendar and fire up the family for a hands-on excursion into the past at the Oklahoma History Center. All of the activities are free for OHS members. General visitors can participate in all of the fun by purchasing admission to the Oklahoma History Center.

Visit <www.okhistory.org> or call Jason Harris at 405/522-0785 to learn more.

Come home to Fort Towson on June 14

In conjunction with the annual Fort Towson Homecoming, an all-day event is slated for Saturday, June 14, at the Fort Towson Historic Site. A catered barbecue lunch will begin at 11:45 a.m.

The day's activities will include a pony express race as well as a long-distance horse race. Both are scheduled to occur in the afternoon.

Contact John Davis for further information about the barbecue meal and other aspects of the day. The telephone number is 580/873-2634; or send e-mail to the Fort Towson staff at <fttowson@okhistory.org>.

June events at Cherokee Strip Outreach Center

The usual June schedule of events at Enid's Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center Outreach facility has been modified. The regularly scheduled Wednesday lecture series has been postponed to avoid conflict with the yearly Chautauqua events.

The Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center is one of the cosponsors of the yearly Chautauqua program. From June 10 through June 14 Chautauqua will be presented every night in a tent in the center of the village square of the Humphrey Heritage Village.

The program starts with music at approximately 6:30, and the night's program begins at 7:30. Each night a different

scholar will present a first-person impression of a historic character. This year's theme is the 1960s; the program characters will include Julia Child and Malcolm X, along with other personalities representative of that creative and exciting decade. Each scholar will present the historical person "in character" and will also discuss issues of the 1960s that impacted the character's life. Chautauqua programs offer free admission and are open to all.

Regular programming will resume on Wednesday, June 18. Glen McIntyre will offer his monthly lecture on Oklahoma history at noon. At this session he will lecture on Eastern Oklahoma in the 1870s

and 1880s, including a discussion of outlaws who used Eastern Oklahoma as a hideout. He will also discuss mining and timber operations that began in eastern Oklahoma during this period.

At 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 28, Edana Caldwell of Woodward will offer a basket weaving demonstration.

Both the lecture and the basket weaving will take place in the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center Outreach space, which is located inside Oakwood Mall, next door to J. C. Penney.

Call Glen McIntyre at 580/237-1907 for additional information about any of these events.

Oklahoma Route 66 Museum to host Route 66 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

On the evening of June 27, 2008, the Oklahoma Route 66 Association will honor two new inductees to the Oklahoma Route 66 Hall of Fame. The ceremony comes during Clinton's 2007 International Route 66 follow-up event, *Hot Rods and Hot Dogs*. Along with the induction, Yukon's Brian Dunning will perform as Elvis Presley and Johnny Cash.

The Oklahoma Route 66 Association, a volunteer non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of Route 66, inducts two special Route 66 dedicated Oklahomans into the Hall of Fame every two years. Through a nomination and committee selection process, these individuals are chosen on the basis of having made outstanding contributions to the promotion and/or preservation of Route

66. Previous recipients include authors Michael Wallis and Jim Ross, and "Mr. 66" Jack Cutberth.

The induction ceremony will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Wow! Room of the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum. Admission is free and open to the public; refreshments will follow. The museum's exhibit galleries will also be open for viewing.

The museum's summer hours of operation are: Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Admission for visitors touring the galleries is \$3 for adults, \$2.50 for seniors and groups of 10 or more, and \$1 for students 6 to 18; children under 5 are free. For additional information contact Pat Smith at 580/323-7866 or e-mail <rt66mus@okhistory.org>.

Gift Shop News

By Russ Haynes

Warmer weather is here, and I hope you all are enjoying it! Here are a few of the newer books we have for sale in the store.

MORE GRACE THAN GLAMOUR: My Life as Miss America and Beyond, by Jane Jayroe with Bob Burke. This is the story of a woman who was made famous as Miss America, but since then has a lifelong record of community service as a volunteer and board member of many charitable and civic organizations. She has also written extensively about the challenges faced by women. 268 Pages. Hardback. \$4.95

HOW WE LIVED: A Pictorial History of the Places Oklahomans Have Called Home, by Holley Mangham and Dennis Shockley, PhD. Presents a compelling history of our dwellings as Oklahomans journeyed from boom to bust and back again. Includes more than 200 photographs of Oklahoma dwellings and the families who have lived in them. 191 pages. Paperback. \$24.95

FISHES OF OKLAHOMA, by Rudolph J. Miller and Henry W. Robinson. Provides the only comprehensive handbook available for identifying fishes across the state of Oklahoma. Precise keys and clear black-and-white photos or drawings of every species allow ready identification of all Oklahoma fishes. Includes maps of where each species is located within the state as well as 70 color plates of different fish species. 450 pages. Paperback. \$39.95

PRE-REMOVAL CHOCTAW HISTORY: Exploring New Paths, edited by Greg O'Brien. Brings together in a single volume ten groundbreaking essays that reveal where Choctaw history has been and where it is going. Taken together, these essays illustrate the way in which ethnohistorical approaches and the "new Indian history" have influenced modern Choctaw scholarship. 265 pages. Hardback. \$39.95

To order please call us at 405/522-5214 to check for stock availability and shipping costs. Please make checks payable to the Oklahoma Historical Society. To facilitate orders paid for by check we ask that if possible, you call or e-mail first to check for product availability. If this is not possible, we will do our best to fill any part of your order that is out of stock. Overseas members must e-mail us for a shipping quote before submitting an order. To submit questions and suggestions call or e-mail <giftshop@okhistory.org>.

Thanks once again for your patronage; we look forward to hearing from each and every one of you!

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**Statewide History Day
at the Oklahoma
History Center,
April 30**



(B. Siemens photos)

PERIODICALS

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Preservation Oklahoma's 2008 Most Endangered Historic Places

Preservation Oklahoma's Fifteenth Annual Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Places List appears below. The Endangered Places program is a joint project of Preservation Oklahoma and the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office/Oklahoma Historical Society. The 2008 Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Places includes **Archeological Sites**, Statewide; **Art Deco Apartment Building**, Oklahoma City; **Boley Historic District**, Boley; **Chilocco Indian School**, Kay County; **Fairchild Wine Vault**, Oklahoma City; **Lustron Homes**, Statewide; **Midtown Tulsa**; **Places of Worship**, Statewide; **Route 66 Motels**, from Sayre to Miami; **Santa Fe Depot, Tonkawa**; **Small Towns**, Statewide; **Wheelock Academy**, Millerton vicinity.

"It is important for Oklahomans to understand that preserving historic architecture is not a mere exercise in appreciation or nostalgia for *old things*," said John Feaver, president of Preservation Oklahoma. "It is, rather, a powerful development tool for promoting sustainable communities and economies, and for controlling the rising costs and environmental disruptions of urban sprawl," Feaver said.



Left:
A prefabricated
Lustron Home,
Bartlesville
(SHPO photo).

Below:
Fairchild Wine
Vault
(SHPO photo).



The Most Endangered List is just a sample of thousands of landmarks across Oklahoma in desperate need of attention and protection. While the list does not ensure the protection of a site or guarantee funding, the designation has been a positive tool for raising awareness and rallying resources to save these endangered places.

Previously listed Endangered Places include the Skirvin Hotel and the Gold Dome Bank Building in Oklahoma City, as well as Downtown Tulsa.