



## Hundreds of guests preview *Another Hot Oklahoma Night: A Rock and Roll Exhibit*

On the evening of Friday, May 1, a huge crowd gathered at the History Center for the debut of the new Oklahoma History Museum's exhibit on the history of rock 'n' roll in Oklahoma. To their surprise, they were treated to a special concert by some of the country and rockabilly stars who are the progenitors of today's rock 'n' roll tradition.

After opening remarks by Dr. Bob Blackburn, emcees Larry O'Dell and Jeff Moore of the OHS staff introduced country legend Tommy Alsup. He took the stage to play various country hits.

Then a multitude of stars, record producers, and DJs, including Wayne Coyne of the Flaming Lips, the Collins Kids, Steve Ripley, and DJs Ronnie Kaye, Don Wallace, and Danny Williams gathered at stage front for a group photo op.

After the crowd satisfied its demand for pictures, the Collins Kids were introduced and held the audience spellbound for nearly half an hour with their rockabilly hits, including "Rockin' Gypsy." Then the legendary Wanda Jackson took center stage for a rendition of her famous tune "Let's Have a Party," which drew a roaring ovation from the crowd.

The public opening, held on Saturday, May 2, drew 2,800 to hear bands, make tie-dyed bandanas, and generally celebrate Oklahoma's music history. *Another Hot Oklahoma Night* will remain on display through 2009.



The Collins Kids on stage at the Oklahoma History Center on May 1 (Bill Siemens photo).



Music legends appeared at the opening of *Another Hot Oklahoma Night: A Rock and Roll Exhibit* on Friday, May 1, at the Oklahoma History Center. Among others pictured are Tommy Alsup (fifth from left, cowboy hat), Wanda Jackson (sixth from right), and Larry and Lorrie Collins (the Collins Kids, behind Jackson and to her right). Alsup, Jackson, and the Collins Kids gave a surprise concert for the attendees that evening. Onstage are (left to right) Larry O'Dell, Jeff Moore, and Steve Hawkins (with guitar), all of the OHS staff. Hawkins backed up each of the performers (Bill Siemens photo).



Bass player David Spindle, of the OHS staff, backed up Tommy Alsup and the other stars during the May 1 concert. Larry Collins's double-necked guitar is seen at Alsup's right (Bill Siemens photo).

### Lunch & Learn at the OHS Research Center on June 27

The Research Center reprises its popular Lunch & Learn lecture series beginning on Saturday, June 27. The event begins at 11:30 a.m. and continues until 1 p.m. The Research Center is inside the Oklahoma History Center.

The first program of 2009 will explore the use of land records. Billie Fogarty, OHS Board member and Oklahoma Genealogical Society president, will present the lecture.

The registration fee is \$10, and the program includes lunch. Call the Research Center at 405/522-5225 or visit <www.okhistory.org> to download and print a registration form. Click on Research, then on Programs and Events, and then on Forms.

### Cherokee Strip Heritage Center begins lecture series on June 3

The first program of the "Come Home to the Village" summer series at the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center in Enid will feature the center's new director, Dr. Sally Soelle. Soelle will deliver an illustrated lecture on the murals created on Oklahoma post office and courthouse walls during the years of the Great Depression, with a focus on those painted in communities in the Cherokee Strip region. Her presentation, "Art for the Public: New Deal Murals in Northwest Oklahoma Communities," will take place at 1 p.m., on Wednesday, June 3, 2009, in the historic church in the Humphrey Heritage Village. The event is free and open to the public. For further information call 580/237-1907.



## Director's Column

By **Bob L. Blackburn**  
Executive Director

There are many reasons I enjoy history. I like a good story. I like satisfying my curiosity. And I like tackling a subject that allows me to conduct research and interpret the who, what, when, where, and why of history. I also enjoy expressing myself through books and speeches.

Recently, I have been reminded several times that I enjoy history when I am around people who have made that history.

At the Oklahoma Historical Society Annual Meeting in Bartlesville, I joined more than two hundred people who tipped their collective hats to Senator Denzil Garrison, a public servant who has spent a lifetime working for our fellow citizens and the welfare of the State and the Oklahoma Historical Society.

I feel fortunate that I have been friends with Denny for more than thirty years, which has given me many opportunities to hear excerpts from that history writ large.

At the Annual Meeting I also heard incredible first-person accounts of history from Frank McPherson, former director of Kerr-McGee, C. J. Silas, former director of Phillips Petroleum, Doug Cummins, an independent oilman, and Melvin Moran, an independent oilman and philanthropist.

Their stories of off-shore oil rigs, international deals, and the boom-and-bust cycles of the oil patch provided a window back to another time. It was like watching history unfolding in fast forward.

The sense of being witness to first-person history continued over a week of celebrating our new exhibit on rock and roll in Oklahoma.

I had time to be with Steve Ripley, a creative genius and a guitar player who has been a major player in the evolution of rock and roll for more than forty years. He has toured with Leon Russell and Bob Dylan. He has engineered recording sessions for artists such as George Harrison and Eric Clapton. And he put together an outrageous band called the Tractors, which traced its musical heritage to Bob Wills, Hank Williams, and Chuck Berry.

I also enjoyed rubbing elbows with radio pioneers Don Wallace, Ronnie Kaye, and Danny Williams, music legends such as The Collins Kids, Tommy Allsup, and Wanda Jackson, and the godfather of booking agents, Jim Halsey.

When I am around these people, it is as if time is suspended and I am taken back to another place at another time. Through their memories, I am watching history at the most personal level.

Yes, there are many reasons I enjoy history. And working with the people who made that history is one of the most important.

## Development News

By Paul F. Lambert

Several members have asked questions about the criteria for recognizing individuals, companies, and foundations on the Annual Donor Board at the Oklahoma History Center. The Donor Board is located prominently where it is seen by virtually everyone who enters the building. In addition, the list of donors is publicized in conjunction with various exhibits and events as well as being published periodically in *Mistletoe Leaves*.

Donor Board recognition is given to those who donate a minimum of \$1,000 to the Annual Giving Campaign of the OHS. The board represents the previous fiscal year, so those who donate between July 1, 2008, and June 30, 2009, will be listed on the Donor Board starting in July 2009. In addition, Annual Giving Campaign donors who are not members of the Oklahoma Historical Society will become Honorary Director's Circle or Honorary Benefactor members for one year.

Recognition on the Donor Board also is given to individuals, companies, or foundations who are members of the OHS at the \$1,000 or \$5,000 levels. If more than one contribution is received, the total amount of the donations will be used to place the donor at the appropriate spot on the Donor Board. Thus, if a member at the \$1,000 level makes a \$4,000 contribution to the Annual Fund Campaign, he or she will be recognized at the \$5,000 to \$9,999 level on the Donor Board.

I want to emphasize that we are grateful for all memberships and contributions. Our largest memberships in terms of numbers and dollars of revenue are the Family and Individual member categories!

Please call me at 405/522-5201 or e-mail me at <plambert@okhistory.org> with any questions about membership or development matters.



## New Members, April

\*Indicates renewed membership at a higher level

### Director's Circle

Jack and Sue Massey, Oklahoma City

### Fellow

Tricia Everest, Oklahoma City

### Associate

Elliott + Associates Architects, Oklahoma City

Jim and Cherrie Hampton, Oklahoma City

\*J. Douglas Williams, Woodward

### Friend

Teresa Abel, Norman

City of Guymon, Guymon

Mel Clark, Nichols Hills

Susan Feller, Oklahoma City

\*Clara Sue Kidwell, Chapel Hill, NC

\*David and Mary Loveless, Enid

\*Toni and Erin Lusk, Oklahoma City

Margaret Malloy, Nichols Hills

Marcus Garvey Leadership Charter School, Oklahoma City

Hayes and Barbara Ohler, Norman

Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Silas, Bartlesville

M. Sue Smith, Oklahoma City

### Family

W. S. Atherton, Tulsa

Robert Barnard, Shawnee

Darrell and Dwana Davis, Hazel Green, AL

Duke and Charlene Halley, Woodward

Don and Patti Leeman, Nichols Hills

Patrick Lynch, Nichols Hills

Judy Myers, Oklahoma City

Max Tankersley, Tulsa

Sue Thompson, Altus

### Individual

Lynette Bennett, Tulsa

Matthew R. Cox, Menands, NY

LTC J. C. Droke, Fort Worth, TX

Betty Jo Law, Oklahoma City

Gary Lindsey, Abilene, TX

Victoria Marquez, Collinsville

Frances Middlesworth, El Reno

Brenda Pierce, Bartlesville

Kin Pirtle, Norman

Damon Ratterree, Fruit Cove, FL

Roberta D. Robertson, Duncan

Carolyn Stewart, Bartlesville

Reyndell Stockman, Tulsa

Myra Waggoner, Prague

Marie Weekly, Oklahoma City

Jean Wetzel, Nichols Hills

Dan Wimberly, Bartlesville

### Institutional

\*Canton High School, Canton

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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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## Meetings

The **Oklahoma Genealogical Society** will hold its monthly meeting on Monday, June 1, at 6 p.m., in the Chesapeake Event Center at the **Oklahoma History Center**, at 2401 North Laird Ave., in Oklahoma City. Jan Davis, the manager of Archives and Records Administration at the Oklahoma Department of Libraries (ODL), will present "Information On Your Family Members Found In the Records of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries." The ODL building is located at 200 Northeast Eighteenth St., approximately five blocks south and west of the OHC. The Oklahoma Historical Society Research Center will be staffed and will remain open until 7:45 p.m. that evening. The meeting is open to the public. It is free to OGS members, and a suggested \$3 donation is asked from nonmembers. (Special to ML)

## Events

Experience living history at the **Lawton Renaissance Festival** which will be held on two weekends in June. The event will take place at 11101 Southeast Lee Blvd. in Lawton on Saturday and Sunday, June 6-7 and 13-14, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. There will be thirty-five daily performances on five stages. In addition to the drama, comedy, and jousting productions, there will be games, vendors, and food—fun and activities for all ages. Contact Bob Wright at 580/591-2266 for more details. (Special to ML)

Downtown **Sapulpa** will come alive with its Route 66 Blowout on Saturday, June 6, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Come and enjoy the 20th annual classic car, truck, and motorcycle show. There will be food, vendors, and a kid's zone. Admission is free. Phone 918/224-5709 or e-mail <director@sapulpamainstreet.com> for further information. (Special to ML)

On Friday and Saturday, June 5 and 6, downtown **Guymon** will be the venue for the Sunflower Art and Wine Festival. The event will feature a car show, a cast iron chef's competition, a people's choice art contest, and a wine sampling. For info call 580/338-4278. (Special to ML)

Go to **Drumright** on Saturday, June 13, and enjoy their Discovery Days event as they commemorate the town's oil-boom history. Oil-field equipment exhibits, arts and crafts vendors, antique cars and tractors, and food are slated for the celebration, which will occur from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Telephone the Drumright Histori-

cal Society Museum at 918/352-3002 for additional details. (Special to ML)

The Black Gold Park in **Glenpool** will be the venue for Black Gold Days on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, June 18-20. The festival will include a carnival, a parade, an arts and crafts show, food vendors, and a variety of music such as bluegrass, gospel, jazz, and country-western. A fireworks display and other activities will round out the event. Hours are 5 to 10:30 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturday. The park is located at 94 West 145th St. Contact Carol Campbell at 918/322-3505 for more info. (Special to ML)

Several Native American events have been scheduled in June. The **Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival** is scheduled for June 18-21 at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Omniplex in **Okmulgee**. This annual event will feature cultural exhibitions, sports tournaments, concerts, a rodeo, a parade, arts and crafts, food, and children's activities. For info call Cherokee Hicks at 918/732-7992. The **Peoria Powwow** is slated for June 26-28 in **Miami**. Visitors to this event will experience Native American food, dance, songs, and arts and crafts. Phone Annette Black at 918/540-2535 for more details. The town of **Tonkawa** will be the venue for the **Tonkawa Tribal Powwow** planned for June 26-28. This annual tribal celebration will include dancing, food, crafts, and artwork. Contact Janet White at 580/628-2220. (Special to ML)

A PRCA rodeo competition will be held at **Hugo's Rodeo Arena** on Friday and Saturday nights, June 5-6, at 8 p.m. A western dance will follow the event. Jim White at 580/317-5014 is the contact person. (Special to ML)

As warmer days descend upon the Oklahoma landscape, refresh yourself with some peach ice cream at the Peach Festival to be held in **Statford City Park** on Saturday, June 27, at 9 a.m. In addition to the availability of this cooling treat, there will be live entertainment, games, arts and crafts vendors, and an auto show. To get additional information call 580/759-3600. (Special to ML)

Payne County Expo Center in **Stillwater** will be the venue for the Oklahoma Celtic Music and Heritage Festival. It is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, June 20 and 21, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Event goers will enjoy experiencing the song and dance native to Ireland, Wales, Cornwall, Scotland, and other Celtic areas. In addition to the music, there will be livestock

and sheep dogs as well as a variety of activities. Get in touch with Roger Graham at 405/547-5070. (Special to ML)

Come join the Juneteenth Celebration at Attucks Park in **Ponca City** on June 19 and 20 from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday evening events will revolve around blues music, a barbeque, a car show, and children's activities. Scheduled for Saturday are a picnic, music, entertainment, and a storyteller for children. Phone Diane Anderson at 580/762-2499 or send e-mail to <attucks@cablone.net> for more info. (Special to ML)

The Washington County Fair Building #105 in **Dewey** will be the venue for an Antique and Collectable Show on Saturday, June 6. From 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. visitors can browse through more than 100 booths with vintage items such as books, quilts, glass, furniture, and jewelry on display. Food concessions will be available. Admission is \$2. For additional info contact Gail Inman at 918/333-5200. (Special to ML)

**Grove** is hosting its 22d annual Grovest on June 19, from 3 to 8 p.m., and on June 20, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Enjoy free admission to a weekend filled with food and activities. The scheduled events include a Smoke on the Water barbeque, a chili showdown, a carnival, a karaoke contest, and an arts and crafts show. Call Lisa Friden at 918/786-9079 for more details. (Special to ML)

## Etc.

The **Kaw City Museum** staff announces that they are continuing to receive old photographs, which are being added to the collections. However, they are still in need of Kaw City senior graduating pictures for 1926, 1927, and 1929 through 1936. If you have any of these pictures, they will copy them and return them to you. The museum is located at 910 Washungah Drive. Beginning Memorial Day weekend, the museum will be open from 1 to 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and from 2 to 5 p.m. each Sunday. Staff can be reached by calling 580/269-2085 or 580/269-2092. (Kaw City Museum News, Spring 2009)



## Pawnee Bill invites one and all to his annual amazing and amusing Wild West extravaganza! Follow the parade to the ranch on June 13, 20, 27!

Stagecoaches will roll amid the thunder of horses' hooves while the flashing of gunfire explodes around Pawnee Bill and his cohorts! The talented cast of hundreds will thrill and amaze audiences at the 2009 Wild West Show series. Pawnee Bill's Original Wild West Show takes center arena at 7:30 p.m. on June 13, 20, and 27, at the historic Pawnee Bill Ranch.

The 2009 event will feature exciting, tried-and-true acts from the original Pawnee Bill's Wild West Shows. The producers and directors have combined stage and script with the preservation of the show's historical aspects. This year's Wild West arena presentation will be one of the most historically accurate productions to date.

In the tradition of the original Wild West Show, the cast will assemble in downtown Pawnee at 2 p.m. each afternoon and parade through town and then on to the Ranch site. The cast and crew hereby invite everyone to follow them from downtown Pawnee to the Pawnee Bill Ranch, just as past generations followed the show from the railroad unloading chutes and platforms to the arena.

The museum and mansion will be open to the public on show days from 11 a.m. through 6 p.m. In addition, there will be historically accurate entertainment such



as blacksmithing and flint knapping demonstrations, gunfighters facing off against each other, sharpshooters who never miss a target, a medicine man show, and musicians.

All of the events outside the arena (on the ranch grounds) are open to the public free of charge and will continue throughout the afternoon until 5:30, when the sideshow opens.

A barbecue dinner will feed the hungry throng of history-lovers at 5:30 p.m. in the historic Pawnee Bill Ranch's big barn.



### TICKET PRICES

Adults \$12

Children 10 and under \$8  
(ages 3 and under are free)

Seniors (over 55) \$10

Box Seats \$100 per box

Group rates (10 people or more)  
\$10 per ticket

Call 918/762-2513 to purchase tickets or to get additional information. The ranch is located at 1141 Pawnee Bill Road (a half mile west of the town of Pawnee, on U.S. Highway 64).



## What do solstice walks and Father's Day have in common this year?

The summer solstice is the longest day of the year, and this year it also falls on the weekend of Father's Day. Bring Dad along and start your summer with a trip to the Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center for a special guided tour on the summer solstice. Archaeologist Dennis Peterson will lead the traditional "solstice walks." On Saturday, June 20, these are scheduled for 11 a.m., 2 p.m., and 7 p.m., and they'll be repeated at the same times on Sunday, June 21. Each involves one mile of easy walking and will last about two hours. There is a \$3 per adult and \$2 per child fee for this popular annual event.

Peterson will talk about the history of the mound site and the Native Americans who built it more than one thousand years ago.

He will also talk about the mounds and the reasons for the alignment of some of them to track the movement of the sun throughout the year. He'll also relate the history of the excavations of the site by both archaeologists and looters. The seven o'clock walks will also allow the observation of the sunset, the most important part of the astronomical event. Wildlife can also be seen enjoying the twilight.

On Sunday, June 21, which is also Father's Day, all of the walk participants will take part in a drawing—a chance to win a tie for Dad to wear home. The staff will not offer a clue about how "nice" the ties will be, but they guarantee that a tie will actually be given away at each of the walks. This could be the only tie that each lucky

Dad gets for Father's Day! He'll be proud to wear it!

The Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center is the only prehistoric site in Oklahoma that the public can visit. The interpretive center and trails are regularly open on Wednesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. and on Sunday from 12 noon until 5 p.m. The facility tells the story of the most important prehistoric group of people in Oklahoma.

The Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center is located three miles east of Spiro, Oklahoma, on State Highway 9/271 and four miles north on Lock and Dam Road.

For further information about the Summer Solstice Walks or about the center, call 918/962-2062.

## New Oklahoma National Register listings revealed in March 2009

The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office is pleased to announce that in March 2009 the National Register of Historic Places accepted nine new submissions from our state. The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of properties significant in the past. The newest listings from Oklahoma include four Modern architecture-styled schools in Blackwell, three Lustron houses, and two bridges.

Four schools in Blackwell (Kay County) were recognized for their association with mid-twentieth-century improvements in educational facilities and as excellent examples of mid-twentieth-century Modern architecture by the firm of Caudill, Rowlett, Scott and Associates. Constructed between 1955 and 1959, the schools include Northside, Parkside, Washington and Huston Elementary Schools. Cynthia Savage prepared the nominations for Preservation Oklahoma.

Because of its low-maintenance materials and its modern styling, the Lustron house attracted significant attention from the government, the public, and the media as an attractive and affordable solution to the post-World War II housing crisis. Unlike earlier prefabricated dwellings, the Lustron's modern conveniences and more traditional architectural styling allowed it to achieve marketplace success far beyond that of earlier metal prefabs. This single-story, rectangular building featured a low-pitched, gabled roof and a recessed front porch similar to that of other traditional homes of the period. Ahead of its time in terms of design, the plan for this



The Little Cabin Creek Bridge, located in the Vinita vicinity of Craig County, is significant for its association with historic Route 66 and as a rare Parker pony truss bridge along Route 66. Opossum Creek Bridge (pictured above, at right), located near South Coffeyville in Nowata County, is

1,000-square-foot dwelling emphasized openness and also utilized built-ins to maximize space in almost every room. It featured an exterior and interior skin of enameled steel panels bolted to a structural steel frame and a concrete slab foundation. The three newly listed Lustron houses include the Josephine Reifsnnyder Lustron House in Stillwater, the Christian K. Usher Lustron House in Cushing (pictured below), and the Lustron House at 1554 Southwest Rogers in Bartlesville. The nominations were prepared by members of the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office staff.



an excellent example of stone-arch bridges in Oklahoma. Constructed in 1913, the bridge is one of only fifteen of this type remaining in the state. Anna Eddings, who serves as an architectural historian with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, prepared the nomination.

Additional documentation of the Frank and Jane Phillips House (Bartlesville) was also accepted by the National Register. This submission included documentation on all of the buildings and structures on the site.

Listing in the National Register is an honorific designation that provides recognition, limited protection, and in some cases, financial incentives for these important properties. The SHPO identifies, evaluates, and nominates properties for this special designation.

Call Lynda Schwan at 405/522-4478 for more information or send her an e-mail at <lschwan@okhistory.org>.

### State Rock and Roll song now official

On April 28, 2009, at the Oklahoma History Center, Governor Brad Henry signed a proclamation making "Do You Realize?" the state's Official Rock and Roll Song.

Wayne Coyne and members of the Flaming Lips, who recorded the tune, were on hand for the ceremonies.



**Governor Brad Henry signed a proclamation making the Flaming Lips's "Do You Realize?" the official Oklahoma Rock and Roll Song. Behind the governor is Wayne Coyne, leader of the Lips (Jack Robertson photo).**

### Oklahoma Route 66 Museum to host *A Wild at Heart Journey* photo exhibit

During June the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum in Clinton will host a photography exhibition by Oklahoma (El Reno) photographer Larry Nance. Titled *A Wild at Heart Journey*, the exhibit offers Nance's view of the road—a remarkable journey full of unexpected experiences and encounters. The exhibition begins on June 1 and continues through June 30, 2009.

Nance's attraction to and fascination with Route 66 began when his family traveled the road on vacations. When he sustained a lengthy illness, his trips were curtailed. As an adult, after establishing a photography career, in 2007 he decided to travel the highway once again. This time he rode a motorcycle and captured images that he remembered from his childhood, and he traveled to all of the places his illness had kept him from visiting.

The special exhibition was organized by the Friends of the Oklahoma Route 66 Mu-

seum, Inc., Oklahoma Historical Society, and the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum. It will be on display in the museum's Wow! Room, which is free to the public.

Summer hours are Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 6 p.m. Admission for visitors touring the other galleries is \$3 for adults, \$2.50 for seniors and groups of 10 or more, and \$1 for students 6-18. Children under age 5 are admitted free.

Contact Pat Smith at 580/323-7866 or e-mail <rt66mus@okhistory.org>.

### Pioneer Woman Open House set for June 14

From 2 to 4 p.m. on Flag Day, June 14, the Pioneer Woman Museum will offer an open house with free admission. There will be a three-legged race, a sack race, and a Girl Scout program about flag etiquette. Refreshments will be served!

The Pioneer Woman Museum is located in Ponca City at 701 Monument Road. Call 580/765-6108 for details.

## Hidden Collections . . .

### Abe Herskowitz Collection

By Larry O'Dell

The Abe Herskowitz Collection (85.93) holds not only early-twentieth-century military and business records, but information on the life of a Jewish merchant who operated in Oklahoma City before World War II. In 2008 OHS volunteer Dan Ambuehl inventoried the large, fifteen-box collection.

Abe Herskowitz, born in 1886 in New York City, migrated to Oklahoma City in 1891. He had a long military career, serving in World War I and World War II, and was attached to the Oklahoma National Guard between the two conflicts. He mainly held the military position of Special Services Officer.

From 1926 to 1934 Herskowitz operated the Celect Mills Hosiery business. He also managed the Herskowitz Estate, which included the Herskowitz Building at 25 West Grand in Oklahoma City. Abe Herskowitz died in August 1957.

The collection holds military records accumulated by its creator from 1926 into 1948, while he was on duty during the war and in Oklahoma with the National Guard. These also include personal correspondence. There are also detailed accounts of the hosiery business from 1926 to 1934. Also included in the collection are personal papers, the Herskowitz Estate papers, other business docu-



ments, and religious text in Hebrew and English, as well as a small number of photographs (Herskowitz Building pictured above).

The Abe Herskowitz Collection can be viewed on the Research Division's online catalogue in the Oklahoma Historical Society's web site at <[www.okhistory.org](http://www.okhistory.org)>. The originals may be accessed in the John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick Research Center at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City.

## OHS Places . . .

### Confederate Memorial Museum

258 North Hwy. 69

Atoka, OK 74525

Phone: 580/889-7192

E-mail: <[atokamuseum@yahoo.com](mailto:atokamuseum@yahoo.com)>

Hours: Mon.-Fri., 9 to 4 p.m.

Closed national holidays.

Admission: Free.

Directions: Located on the northern edge of Atoka, east of U.S. Hwy. 69

In 2009, as Americans reflect on President Abraham Lincoln's legacy during the observance of his two hundredth birthday, many will be reminded of the Civil War. Visitors to the Confederate Memorial Museum, located at 258 North Highway 69 (on the northern edge of Atoka), will find a variety of artifacts representative of that conflict. Since the museum officially opened in August 1986, it has housed numerous small and large items relating to the Civil War as well as to local history.

One of the largest pieces showcased is a cannon donated by the General Douglas H. Cooper Camp 819, Sons of Confederate Veterans. The cannon continues to be used during their reenactments. Other items include a selection of buttons, bullets, bugles, weapons, flags, and an original officer's campaign table. As in any war, medical staff were nearby to care for the wounded. The museum has an exhibit case that contains a surgeon's amputation



**Re-created stage stop at the Confederate Memorial Museum near Atoka (OHS staff photo).**

kit and "medicinal" bullets that have tooth marks left by patients who "bit down on a bullet" to control the pain during surgery. A few of these artifacts were found on the museum's site.

In addition to the focus on the Civil War, other exhibit cases highlight local people and history. Memorabilia from country singer Reba McEntire and her family are on display. Another museum feature is a tribute to the memory of Lane Frost, an Atoka County resident and 1987 World Champion Bull Rider.

Local history is spotlighted with information about the Texas Road, the Butterfield Overland Stage line, and a presentation of military items dating from World War I through the Vietnam War and honoring Atoka County veterans.

One of the more popular museum displays is the 1930s Great Depression-era kitchen. Visitors comment that they can smell Grandma's biscuits baking.

Near the museum is the Middle Boggy Battlefield Site and the Confederate Cemetery. This site was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1972.

Considered to be the "only designated Confederate cemetery" in Oklahoma, it is briefly mentioned in *Here We Rest: Historic Cemeteries of Oklahoma*, by Kent Ruth and Jim Argo (published by the Oklahoma Historical Society, 1986).

Whit Edwards's *The Prairie was on Fire: Eyewitness Accounts of the Civil War in the Indian Territory* (published by the Oklahoma Historical Society, 2001) provides primary sources to document the Middle Boggy engagement as well as other battles and skirmishes in Indian Territory.

For a succinct account of the event and its location, see Muriel H. Wright and LeRoy H. Fischer, "Civil War Sites in Oklahoma," *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* 44 (Summer 1966).

## Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame inductees, 2009

Pictured below are the 2009 inductees of the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame. In order, descending: Dr. Donald E. Green; Quintus Herron (with Bob Blackburn; Herron's deceased wife, Mary, was also honored); Michael Wallis (with James Waldo), and Dr. Marvin E. Kroeker (T. Zinn photos; Kroeker's photo courtesy East Central University).



## Awards presented at OHS Annual Meeting in Bartlesville

James E. Klein, as author, and University of Oklahoma Press won the award for the 2008 Outstanding Book on Oklahoma History for *Grappling With Demon Rum: The Cultural Struggle Over Liquor in Early Oklahoma*.

J. Justin Castro, as the author of "Music Heard Deeply: Song and Ethnic Interaction in the Cherokee Ozarks" was the winner of the 2008 award for the Outstanding Thesis on Oklahoma History.

Chisholm Trail Museum, Inc., was selected as the 2008 Outstanding OHS Support Group.

Bartlesville Area History Museum was named the 2008 Outstanding Local History Museum.

The Muriel H. Wright Award for the outstanding article appearing in *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, Volume LXXXVI, was presented to Michael J. Hightower for "The Businessman's Frontier: C. C. Hightower, Commerce, and Old Greer County, 1891-1903."

The Joseph B. Thoburn Student Historian Award was presented to Joey Ross of Minco High School for outstanding achievement in the study of Oklahoma history.

Bonnie Ross of Minco High School received the William B. Pennington Teacher Award for outstanding instruction in the field of Oklahoma history.



**Michael Hightower and Bob Blackburn (T. Zinn photo).**



**Joey Ross of Minco High School earned the Joseph B. Thoburn Student Historian Award (T. Zinn photo).**



**Board members sworn into office at the Annual Meeting in Bartlesville included (left to right) Samonia Meredith, Betty Crow, Bill Corbett, and Barbara Thompson (T. Zinn photo).**

## Twenty-year members renew in April

Listed below with the date they joined OHS are people and organizations that had been members for twenty or more years when they recently renewed their memberships. Their long-term loyalty is appreciated!

P. G. Wilson, Edmond, March 1, 1967  
 Franklin F. Eckhart, Stillwater, February 1, 1977  
 Richard E. Wood, Bethany, March 1, 1977  
 Jack Querry, Oklahoma City, April 1, 1979  
 Susan C. Martin, Edmond, February 1, 1981  
 Geneva Coates, Oklahoma City, April 1, 1982  
 Patrician J. Norrell, Davis, December 1, 1984  
 Frank & Loreece Dennis, Oklahoma City, February 1, 1985  
 Van B. Appelman Jr., Catoosa, April 3, 1985  
 Durant Historical Society, Durant, March 24, 1986  
 Joe and June Stone, Oklahoma City, April 11, 1986

Mary Lou Peterson, Wataga, IL, November 5, 1986  
 Rondi Ott, Enid, March 20, 1987  
 Douglas Benbrook, Woodward, April 17, 1987  
 Cave Springs School Library, Bunch, August 3, 1987  
 Mitchell Adwon, Tulsa, December 14, 1987  
 Robert L. Williams Public Library, Durant, February 10, 1988  
 Pat Starbuck, Talihina, March 1, 1988  
 Ruthe O. Jones, Tulsa, March 7, 1988  
 David Keith Smith, Edmond, March 14, 1988  
 Betty Dambold, Oklahoma City, April 1, 1988  
 Bill Carter, Coweta, April 4, 1988  
 Ellis Freeny, Edmond, April 4, 1988  
 Dwight L. Stinchcomb, Springdale, AR, May 11, 1988  
 Terry Mabrey, Tulsa, November 28, 1988  
 Anna Randall, Perry, January 9, 1989  
 John and Eloise H. Cable, Muskogee, February 21, 1989  
 Will Rogers Library, Claremore, February 24, 1989  
 Raymond L. Holcomb, Plano, TX, March 23, 1989  
 Daryl Townley, Duncan, March 28, 1989  
 Barbara Klein & James Weaver, Oklahoma City, March 29, 1989

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

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PERIODICALS



Smithsonian Affiliations  
Membership Program

## Murrell Home receives donation

On April 20 the Cherokee Nation contributed \$10,000 to the Friends of the Murrell Home. This assistance makes it possible for the Murrell Home to continue its living history program.

Veronica Gaston is the Cherokee interpreter who demonstrates the way in which many of the Cherokees lived circa 1850. The donation is part of the Cherokee Nation's initiative to be good partners with their communities and was presented on behalf of the Cherokee Nation Administration and the Tribal Council.

The Murrell Home is a Historic House property of the OHS Museums and Sites Division and is located in Park Hill.



**Left to right: Cherokee Nation Councilwoman Tina Glory-Jordan, Cherokee Nation Councilman Bill John Baker, Murrell Home Site Manager Shirley Pettengill, Friends of the Murrell Home Secretary Belinda Burnett, Cherokee Interpreter Veronica Gaston, Friends of the Murrell Home President Jennifer Sparks, Cherokee Chief Chad Smith, and Deputy Chief Joe Grayson (courtesy photo).**

# Mistletoe Leaves

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June 2009

## Annual Folklife Festival set for June 20

The 2009 Oklahoma Folklife Festival will be held at the Oklahoma History Center on Saturday, June 20, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. This year's event includes music and dance in the Mexican, Irish, and American Indian traditions as well as music from the Middle East, Latin America, Scotland, and other places. Luthiers (musical instrument makers) will demonstrate how guitars, fiddles, and other instruments are crafted. Other wood working will include wood turners and carvers.

American Indian basket weaving will be demonstrated, as will many other Native crafts, including corn-shuck doll making and creating dream catchers, cane flutes, and other objects.

Rope makers, lace makers, and tall-tale tellers will also be present. If you make something, you get to take it home, including any stories you may spin.

The event's sponsors are the Oklahoma Folklife Council and Oklahoma History Center, with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Oklahoma Humanities Council, and the Inasmuch Foundation.

Free admission and all crafts supplies are furnished. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy on the grounds or have lunch at the Winnie Mae Café in the Oklahoma History Center. Almost everything is air conditioned, including the tall-tale tellers.

Call Rodger Harris at 405/522-5207 for more information. The History Center is located at 2401 North Laird Ave. in Oklahoma City.



**The Hill School of Irish Dance performed at the 2008 Oklahoma Folklife Festival (OHS staff photo).**

## Enid hosts Chautauqua on Civil War era

From June 9 through June 13 the Chautauqua Council of Enid, in cooperation with the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, will offer its annual Chautauqua in the Tent. The event takes place on the Heritage Center's grounds, in the Humphrey Heritage Village, at 507 South Fourth St.

First-person impressions will be offered by Ilene Evans (Harriet Tubman), Michael Hughes (Cherokee Chief John Ross), Doug Mishler (Jefferson Davis), Charles Pace (Frederick Douglass), and Carroll Peterson (Walt Whitman). Each will speak in character and will also talk about his or her character.

Chautauqua is a free event. Major sponsors are the Oklahoma Humanities Council and the Harris Foundation, with support from Enid organizations, businesses, and individuals. Call 580/237-1907 for more information.