Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center of Enid celebrates Grand Opening April 1

An enthusiastic crowd of nearly five hundred, including Oklahoma Historical Society representatives, Enid civic leaders, and state dignitaries, witnessed the Grand Opening of the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center in Enid on April 1. “It was a perfect day,” observed Andi Holland, director of the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center. “The speakers were wonderful. It was a great time to celebrate the fruits of our labor.”

The beautiful and magnificent Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center is a newly expanded facility of twenty-four thousand square feet, featuring five exhibit galleries with twenty-eight interactive stations, two thousand square feet of exhibit space, a theater, a research center, a visitor center, and a gift shop that offers the wares of local and regional artisans. The center tells the fascinating story of the settlement and development of the Cherokee Strip region of Oklahoma. “This is a facility of which the community and state can be proud,” noted Kathy Dickson, director of Museums and Sites for the Oklahoma Historical Society. “It represents the ‘gold standard’ for the quality we are trying to reach at all of our museums and sites statewide.”

The new Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center is the result of a tremendous collaborative community effort. Dr. Bob Blackburn, executive director for the Oklahoma Historical Society, commented, “No other community in Oklahoma, and perhaps the entire country, could have come together to raise as much money and generate as much community support as Enid did for this project.”

The Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center is located at 507 S. Fourth Street in Enid. Admission prices are: $5 for adults; $3 for seniors (62 and older), students (with IDs), and military (with IDs); and children ages 5 and younger are admitted free. The center has a special family admission rate of $13 for up to six family members. There is also a special group rate of $3 per person for groups of ten or more. For more information, call 580/237-1907 or email csrhsinfo@okhistory.org.

Oklahoma History Center kicks off Civil War Sesquicentennial with May programs

Mark your calendars and join us at the Oklahoma History Center as we begin to celebrate the Civil War Sesquicentennial with two programs in May.

On May 19 the History Center will host a special lecture entitled, “The Road to War: The Missouri Compromise, Kansas-Nebraska Act, and John Brown’s Raid,” by military historian Dr. Stanley Adamiak. This presentation is the first in a series of discussions over the next five years and will set the stage by looking at the road to secession and war. The History Center will open at 6 p.m., and the program will begin at 7 p.m. Admission is free.

On May 21 the History Center will present its 4th annual Call to Arms, a military trail of honor. This year’s event will focus on the sesquicentennial of the Civil War but will include soldiers from the American Revolution through World War II. Doors open at 10 a.m., and programs run through 3 p.m. Admission to the event is just $10 per vehicle and includes museum admission. Numerous reenactors and learning stations will allow both children and adults to explore the the lives of the soldiers of America’s past. The program will run continuously throughout the day, allowing visitors to arrive at any time. The Fort Sill Gun and Infantry Detachments from the U.S. Army Fires Center of Excellence, will provide artillery firing demonstrations as well as Civil War infantry.

For more information on Civil War Saturday, please contact Jason Harris at jharris@okhistory.org or at 405/522-0785.

Spring programs scheduled at the Cherokee Strip Museum in Perry

The Cherokee Strip Museum will host the annual Rural Heritage Festival on Saturday, April 30, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in conjunction with Perry’s Spring Fest. On the museum grounds will be the Noble County Antique Tractor Association, the Saltfork Blacksmiths, a fur trapper, a rope maker, a weaver, and a soap maker as well as a cowboy camp. Students from Morrison will be on hand to wrap the Maypole at 11 a.m. and noon. The Perry Promonaders will be available to teach square dancing to the young and old alike. Of course, the day won’t be complete without a school session, which is planned for 11:15 a.m. The Cake Walk will continue throughout the day until all cakes have been won.

On Sunday, May 1, from 2 to 4 p.m. the Cherokee Strip Historical Society ladies are planning an Old Fashioned Tea Party. Everyone is invited to wear a hat in honor of the latest hat exhibit at the museum. For those attending, Linda Greenshields will provide a program entitled “Hats.”

Both of these special events will be free to the public, but the Cherokee Strip Historical Society of Perry is seeking donations. These donations will fund new improvements to the museum, which will include new handicap accessible restrooms, a new entrance, handicap parking on the south end of the building, and other site upgrades.

The Cherokee Strip Museum is located at 2617 West Fir Street in Perry. For more information, call 580/336-2405 or email csmuseum@okhistory.org.
The digitization and keyword index to more than seven million pages of newspapers in our collection would not be undertaken without our partnerships with every publisher in the state and the Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation created by Edith Kinney Gaylord.

The second generation of permanent museum exhibits at the Oklahoma History Center would not be on the drawing board without our partnerships with the Oklahoma Energy Resources Board and energy companies such as Continental Resources, Devon, Chesapeake, Chaparral, Mustang, and Helmerich and Payne.

And we would not be fighting so hard to create an institutional home in Tulsa without the steady support of the Tulsa Chamber of Commerce, the George Kaiser Family Foundation, and the many men and women from the creative community such as Jim Halsey, Roy Clark, Garth Brooks, Walker Hanson, Steve Ripley, John Wooly, and Caroline Wills.

As I survey the most important goals for the OHS during the coming decade, I see only those achievements that can be realized with partners. And that brings us back to the impact of budget cuts.

To forge lasting partnerships, the OHS must sustain the first two parts of our long-term strategy—higher standards and greater efficiencies. Both require adequate support from the state.

If we are to recruit, develop, and retain staff members who are dedicated and motivated to do more than just a good job, we must have basic resources. If we are to convince others that mediocrity is not acceptable, we must improve our care for collections and properties.

Yes, the OHS will likely suffer a third straight year of budget cuts. It is our job to reach beyond that short-term setback and keep our partnerships intact for the long haul.

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**Development News**

By Bob L. Blackburn

Executive Director

Every year legislative leaders ask me to predict how budget cuts will impact the Oklahoma Historical Society. Usually, they are looking for simple numbers, such as staffing levels, deferred maintenance, and changes in visitors and patrons served.

All of these measurements, however, track short-term changes. I am more concerned about long-term changes, especially our ability to attract and sustain partnerships.

Partnerships are at the heart of our success in the battle to collect, preserve, and share Oklahoma history. Without this blending of resources to achieve common goals, I would not be so optimistic about the future of the OHS during these troubled times.

You can see the results of partnerships in everything we undertake and in every success we celebrate.

The reinvented Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, opened last month with great fanfare, would still be in the planning phases if not for Lew Ward and the hundreds of donors in Enid who shared our vision for a Smithsonian-quality museum and research center.

The *Heroin*, the steamboat that sank in the Red River in 1838, would still be a water-logged mystery without our partnerships with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation and the Institute of Nautical Archeology.

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*New Members, March 2011*

**Fellow**

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Beck Jr., Tulsa

**Associate**

*Mr. and Mrs. Paul Baciewski, Oklahoma City*

*Gary Burdine and Rebecca Manwetak, Oklahoma City*

*Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Furstenhof, Oklahoma City*

*Jim Griffith, Stillwater*

*Mr. and Mrs. Ike McHenry, Oklahoma City*

*Peggy Parsons, Pryor*

**Friend**

Teresa Abel, Norman

*Dr. and Mrs. Robert Bartheld, McAlester*

*Mr. and Mrs. Henschel Crow, Oklahoma City*

*Dr. and Mrs. Edward Dalton, Oklahoma City*

*Mr. and Mrs. Tom Kloz, Oklahoma City*

*Dr. and Mrs. John Minnett, Chickasha*

*Mr. and Mrs. Bill Peacher, Tulsa*

*Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Williams, Yukon*

**Family**

Lea Alton, Bethany

Karen Bergman, Edmond

Patti Bessen, Oklahoma City

Eric Bea, Oklahoma City

Rajeevan Brown, Oklahoma City

Carolyn Burla, Elmore City

Suzanne Butler, Midwest City

James Carpenter, Moore

Vinetta Chester, Spencer

Mr. and Mrs. John Clark, Oklahoma City

Rose Davis, Oklahoma City

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Hayes, Oklahoma City

Doretta Hill, Oklahoma City

Harjo and Jarrod Huney, Oklahoma City

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Burkett, Tulsa

Mr. and Mrs. Ron Moser, Tulsa

Tammey Oliver and Larry Holmes, Spencer

Sandra Olson, Waynoka

Kay Parker, Oklahoma City

Peggy Parrish, Luther

James Petale, Oklahoma City

Ronald Plant, Oklahoma City

Nora Pugh-Seemster, Oklahoma City

Paul Rachle, Ada

David Riessens, Oklahoma City

Naomi Sadler, Oklahoma City

Evelyn Shultz, Moore

Connie Snively, Harrah

Laurie Starr, Oklahoma City

Kim Stowe, Skiatook

Sharon Steckin, Jones

Celeste Tillery, Claremore

Mr. and Mrs. Marion Towns, Mustang

Donna Walkman, Del City

Kevin Warner, Enid

Mr. and Mrs. George Webb, Miami

Golde Wheeler, Chouteau

Margaret Williams, Shawnee

Mr. and Mrs. David Yeager, Marlow

*Mr. and Mrs. Herschal Crow, Oklahoma City*

*Mr. and Mrs. Robert Burkett, Tulsa*

*Mr. and Mrs. Bill Peacher, Tulsa*

*Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Williams, Yukon*

*Dr. and Mrs. John Minnett, Chickasha*

*Mr. and Mrs. Ike McHenry, Oklahoma City*

*Peggy Parsons, Pryor*

*Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Furstenhof, Oklahoma City*

*Jim Griffith, Stillwater*

*Mr. and Mrs. Donald Beck Jr., Tulsa*

*Gary Burdine and Rebecca Manwetak, Oklahoma City*

*Mr. and Mrs. Paul Baciewski, Oklahoma City*
Meetings

The Oklahoma Genealogical Society will hold its monthly meeting on Monday, May 9, at 6 p.m. at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. Jan Davis, administrative archivist for the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, will speak on the Oklahoma Confederate Pension Records. Soon after statehood, Oklahoma established a pension for Confederate veterans and their indigent widows. The records associated with applications for this pension are on file at the Oklahoma Department of Libraries and are scheduled for digitization. There is currently an index available for browsing online at www.odl.state.ok.us/oar/docs/pension.pdf. Davis will discuss the use of these records and the status of the digitization project.

Events

Muskogee will celebrate its tenth annual Railroad Day on Saturday, May 14, at the Three Rivers Museum from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The museum, a Midland Valley Railroad depot built in 1916, will have railroad memorabilia and photographs on display as well as model trains provided by Tulsa's Garden Railroad Club for visitors to enjoy. A 1940s-era diesel switch engine will be open for tours, and a historic trolley tour is planned. Activities for children include railroad coloring books, photo opportunities, and a Name That Engine contest. At 1 p.m., railroad historian Mike Condren will present a program entitled "The Ozark and Cherokee Central—Muskogee to Fayetteville." Admission for this day of fun is $5 for adults and $3 for students. For more information, visit the Three Rivers Museum website at 3riversmuseum.com or call 918/686-6624.

Enjoy one of the oldest festivals in Oklahoma at Broken Arrow's Rooster Days! The festival, which runs from May 12 to 15 with activities Thursday 4:30 to 10 p.m., Friday 4:30 to 11 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 11 p.m., and Sunday 1 to 6 p.m., includes a large carnival, food vendors, a parade on Saturday morning, and live entertainment. A children’s area features twenty thousand square feet of arts and crafts and a petting zoo. On Saturday morning Broken Arrow's award-winning bands will thrill spectators as they march down the street in the traditional Rooster Days Parade.

Lovers of fry bread and Indian tacos should visit Pawhuska on May 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to sample the entries from the National Indian Taco Championship. In addition to delicious food, there will be live bands, American Indian dance demonstrations, and craft booths. Local shops will also be open for business. There will be inflatable boats and children's games to keep the kids busy while the adults continue to eat. See if your favorite Indian taco wins the prize for best recipe!

Tenkiller State Park near Vian will host a kid's fishing clinic on May 21 with registration beginning at 10 a.m. Children up to age thirteen are welcome to participate in fishing and conservation activities around a stocked fishing pond. A hot dog lunch will be provided for a suggested donation. The event will last until 2 p.m. Call 918/489-5641 or 918/489-5025 for more information.

The Bristow Tabouleh Fest will be held May 14 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Bristow began this festival to celebrate the Middle Eastern heritage of its residents who arrived in the late 1800s. These immigrants brought with them tabouleh, or tabouli, a salad made with bulgur wheat, fresh vegetables, parsley, mint, olive oil, and lemon juice. The festival features traditional food, music, and belly dancing along with more modern craft vendors, carnival rides, the Miss Tabouleh pagent, talent show, and a hometown rodeo. The day begins with the 5K Wildflower Run. Come and tour Oklahoma's only two tabouleh factories and see which recipe wins the top tabouleh prize at the Tabouleh Fest.

Car shows and lawn mower races go hand-in-hand, at least in Waynoka. Classic cars, live music, and games will fill the day on May 14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for the Waynoka Car Show. Awards will be given to the top fifteen cars, the top five trucks, and the top three tailored vehicles. Best interior, best paint, unfinished, best Ford, best GM, and best Mopar will also be awarded. Games and contests will be played throughout the day, including a poker walk, burnout contest, and lawn mower races. Call 580/824-4741 for information.

Polka music, Czech costumes, dancing, and food await visitors at the annual Kolaiche Festival in Prague on May 7. The event will feature Made in Oklahoma foods, a parade, a beer garden, a wine pavilion, a carnival, and free entertainment. Kolaches, a sweet bread filled with fruit, are made months in advance to prepare for the crowds at the festival. A Czech costume contest and Czech dancers will pay homage to the heritage of the town’s first settlers. The Kolaiche Festival royalty will be crowned at 6 p.m., and the new queen will start the polka street dance that runs from 7 until 10 p.m. For information on the Kolaiche Festival, please call 405/258-8887 with any questions.

Exhibits

An exhibit entitled A Retrospective of Art... by Bette Hubbard and Jacklyn Patterson opened at the Museum of Pioneer History in Chandler. The artists, Bette Hubbard of Chandler and Jacklyn Patterson of Wewoka, provided personal statements about art to accompany the works that depict people and places of Lincoln County. Many places represented are historic sites that no longer exist, such as the 1907 Lincoln County Courthouse. Twenty Christmas cards and fifty-nine watercolors produced by Hubbard and twenty-seven photographs by Patterson hang in the gallery, while more of Patterson's photographs are available for viewing in albums. The Museum of Pioneer History is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the exhibit runs through May 27. Call Jan Vassar at 405/258-8887 with any questions.

The University of Oklahoma's Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center in Norman has opened an exhibit called Kids as Constituents: The Younger Generation Focuses on Congress. The exhibit explores the ways that legislators in the twentieth century began to recognize the importance of young people in society. Using photographs, correspondence, artwork, and a bright and cheerful presentation, Kids as Constituents shows how children can make their voices heard at all levels of the political world. Carl Albert, Robert S. Kerr, and Mike Monroney, as well as congressmen from other states, are featured visiting with some of their youngest constituents. You are never too young to get in touch with your congressman! Kids as Constituents will be displayed through December 2011, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., on the second floor of Monnett Hall on the University of Oklahoma's Norman campus.
WIDE OPEN FOR PRESERVATION
Oklahoma's 23rd Annual Statewide Preservation Conference
June 8–10, 2011
Victory Memorial United Methodist Church Enrichment Center
N.W. Sixth and N. Quinn
Guymon, Oklahoma

CONFERENCE SPONSORS
State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma Historical Society
Oklahoma Main Street Center, Oklahoma Department of Commerce
Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.
Oklahoma Sustainability Network
Guymon, Convention and Tourism
Guymon Chamber of Commerce
Guymon Chapter, No Man's Land Historical Society

Conference Registration, Lodging, and Other Information
Conference registration and sessions will be at the Victory Memorial United Methodist Church Enrichment Center, N.W. 6th & N. Quinn. To register for the conference and for lodging information, request a registration brochure from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) at 405/521-6249 or bharris@okhistory.org; download the brochure from the SHPO’s website at www.okhistory.org/conference.htm; or register online at http://www.mainstreetguymon.com. The deadline for registration at the “early bird” rate is June 10.

Would you like a ride to Guymon with friends and colleagues? Then reserve a seat on the Red Carpet charter bus that departs from the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City on Wednesday morning, June 8, and returns after the final conference session on Friday afternoon, June 10. Full details about how to reserve your seat are provided in the conference registration brochure.

If you may have questions about the conference program or registration, contact Melvena Heisch, Deputy SHPO, at 405/522-4484 or mheisch@okhistory.org. Also, visit http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/conference.htm, or see the conference blog at http://okpreservationconference.wordpress.com.

PLENARY SESSION SPEAKER
J. Paul Loether will present Historic Landscapes and 21st Century Windmills at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, June 10. He will discuss how we identify and evaluate historic landscapes, the importance of a property’s historic setting, and the challenges in balancing our needs for alternative energy sources and protection of historic places. His national perspective will help guide Oklahoma’s preservation community as we focus on this complex current issue.

Since January 2007, Loether has served as chief of the National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmarks for the National Park Service. Before taking this position, he served as the director of culture for the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism and deputy state historic preservation officer for Connecticut. Prior to this, Loether served as both acting director and a National Register and historic restoration specialist with the Connecticut Historical Commission. Previous to his service with the state of Connecticut, he headed his own historic consulting preservation firm for two years and served as the director of technical services at the New Haven Preservation Trust. Paul began his career in historic preservation in 1975 as the assistant director of the Greater Middletown Preservation Trust. He holds a M. A. degree in public policy and a B. A. degree in history, both from Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut.

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE
Registration
Victory Memorial United Methodist Church Enrichment Center, N.W. Sixth & N. Quinn. Opens at 12:00 p.m., Wednesday, June 8, and runs throughout the conference.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8
1:45–3:15 p.m.
TRACK A: Preservation in the Wide Open Spaces
Great Plains Heritage
Rolling Thunder and Thundering Herds: Archaeology of the Southern High Plains, Timothy G. Baugh
The Two Sisters Site, Mary Duncan

TRACK B: Old is the New Green
“Green Design” and The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards, Antonio Aguilar, Harry Simms

TRACK C: The Local Preservation Environment
Volunteer Recruitment & Retention: Increasing Volunteer Efforts, Ken Culp
3:15–3:30 p.m. BREAK
3:30–5:00 p.m.
TRACK A: Preservation in the Wide Open Spaces
Great Plains Heritage (cont’d)
Where Did Coronado Cross Oklahoma?, Donald Blakeslee

The Santa Fe Trail: History, Management, and Interpretation, Faye Gaines, Jeff Trotman

TRACK B: Old is the New Green
The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation and “Green” Issues (cont’d)
Rehabilitation of 1007 and 1015 North Broadway, Oklahoma City, Anthony Blatt

Sustainable Concepts for Historic Rehabilitations and Affordable Housing, Mike Stikes

Rehabilitation of Tulsa’s East 6th Street, Shelby Navarro

TRACK C: The Local Preservation Environment
Diagnosing Volunteer Burnout: Treatment for a Cure, Ken Culp
6:00 p.m.
Opening Reception and Dinner

THURSDAY, JUNE 9
8:30–10:15 a.m.
TRACK A: Preservation in the Wide Open Spaces
Great Plains Heritage (cont’d)
The Dust Bowl and Its Impact on the Landscape of the Plains, Alvin O. Turner

Historic CCC Projects in the Texas Panhandle, Jim Steely

TRACK B: Tour (Bus departs 8:00 a.m.)
Santa Fe Trail Landmarks and Black Mesa/Kenton Area Tour, Michele Shannon

TRACK C: The Local Preservation Environment
Historic Preservation and Community Planning in Small Towns, Brannyn McDougal
10:00–10:15 a.m. BREAK

10:15–11:45 a.m.
TRACK A: Preservation in the Wide Open Spaces
Great Plains Heritage (cont’d)
Prairie Earth, Prairie Homes: Restoring a Vernacular Tradition on the Northern Plains, Tom Isen, Suzanne Kelley

TRACK B: Tour
Santa Fe Trail Landmarks and Black Mesa/Kenton Area Tour (cont’d)

TRACK C: The Local Preservation Environment
Local Context and the Recent Past
Architecture of Bruce Goff, Ann Henderson

Modernism in OKC: The Architecture of R. Duane Conner, Lynne Rostenkolch

Herb Greene Properties in Oklahoma, Lynda Schwan
12:00–1:45 p.m.
Mexican Quinceanera Luncheon, Soila Medina
12:00–3:15 p.m.
[Select one.]
Oso Community Tour and Lunch, Melyn Johnson

Goodwell Traditional Arts Luncheon and Tour, Vicki Ayres-McCune
1:45–3:15 p.m.

TRACK A: Preservation in the Wide Open Spaces
Oklahoma’s Historic Barns
Historic Barns Survey Project, Brad Bays

Barns of the Redbed Plains (1889-1940), Lynda Ramsey

TRACK B: Tours
Santa Fe Trail Landmarks and Black Mesa/Kenton Area Tour (cont’d)

Goodwell Traditional Arts Tour (cont’d)

Oso Community Tour (cont’d)

TRACK C: The Local Preservation Environment
Local Preservation on the High Plains

Local Preservation Partnerships in Lubbock, Texas, Sally Abbe

Colorado’s CLG Program, Dan Corson
3:15–3:30 p.m. BREAK
3:30–5:00 p.m.

TRACK A: Preservation in the Wide Open Spaces
Recognizing Our Farming and Ranching Heritage

Centennial Farm and Ranch Programs, Glen Roberson

Family Heritage on the Plains: A Panel Discussion, Jason Hitch, Jim Mayer

Eastern Colorado’s Smelker Family Farm, Cynthia Savage

TRACK B: Tour
Santa Fe Trail Landmarks and Black Mesa/Kenton Area Tour (cont’d, Returns to Guymon by 5:00 p.m.)

TRACK C: The Local Preservation Environment
Local Preservation on the High Plains (cont’d)

SHPO and OSU As Partners For Survey: Guymon-Goodwell-Hooker, Brad Bays

Las Vegas, New Mexico, Elmer J. Martinez
Plenary Session
The conference will conclude with Friday afternoon’s Plenary Session. Bob L. Blackburn, state historic preservation officer, will welcome participants and recognize key sponsors and special guests. J. Paul Loether will provide a presentation that will focus on the identification and protection of historic landscapes. Preservation leaders will discuss and answer questions on how to recognize the importance of understanding why landscapes are significant and how they can be protected. Loether’s national perspective and experience are sure to stimulate discussion long after the conference ends. (June 10)

THURSDAY BUS TOURS
Santa Fe Trail Landmarks and Black Mesa/Kenton Area Bus Tour & Luncheon: Board the bus at 8:00 a.m. and enjoy the daylong trip west from Guymon into the wide-open spaces of Chimarron County, Oklahoma’s most western county. It’s almost two thousand square miles in size, and there’s not a single stop light in the county. You will be in ranching country, and your tour guide, Micheal Shannon, knows it well. His great grandfather Julius Kohler homesteaded northwest of Boise City, and Shannon’s family still lives in the community. Shannon was born in Boise City, graduated from Oklahoma Panhandle State University, and has lived in the Panhandle all his life. He will immerse you in the history of the Santa Fe Trail and the mesa lands as you visit Coronado’s Signature Rock, Autograph Rock, the dinosaur tracks, the three-state marker, the Bruce Golf-designed house in Boise City, and more. Your lunch would satisfy a ranch hand, and you will return to Guymon by 5:00 p.m. (June 9, limited to 50, reservations required)

Oklahoma Community Tour
Depart Guymon at 12:00 p.m. and arrive in Oslo at 2:00 p.m. Oslo is a small town twenty miles south of Guymon was opened and sold to Norwegian farmers. They established the community of Oslo and built the Oslo Lutheran Church, dubbed the “Cathedral of the Plains” by an Amarillo newspaper reporter. The stained-glass windows and the 1900 pipe organ are features of the historic church. You will learn about the culture and history of the community as you dine on a Norwegian meal prepared by a local resident. Also, you will see a demonstration of the hardanger work, a Scandinavian needlework tradition. Melvin Johnson, Main Street Guymon project director and noted leader in cultural and heritage diversity programs, will be the tour guide. She lived in Oslo for thirty years and will provide a fascinating narrative for the trip. The bus returns to Guymon by 3:15 p.m. (June 9, limited to 24, reservations required)

Goodwill Traditional Arts Tour
Enjoy a box lunch as you ride the bus to Goodwell, just ten miles west of Guymon. You will depart at 12:00 p.m. and return to Guymon by 3:15 p.m. Vicki Ayres-Cutler, community/economic development director for the City of Guymon, will serve as your tour guide. She has served as the city’s liaison to the Guymon Area Arts and Humanities Commission, worked with the Oklahoma State Arts Council, and is a potter and photographer. Your first stop is the No Man’s Land Historical Museum where you can visit with traditional artists that include a knapper, quilter, and spinner/weaver. Then you take a short ride to Oklahoma Panhandle State University to watch a raku pottery demonstration. David Elder, associate professor of art and Brent Shoulders, assistant professor of art at OPSU, will speak to the tour group. (June 9, limited to 20, reservations required)
New exhibit at Oklahoma Territorial Museum in Guthrie

The Oklahoma Territorial Museum in Guthrie is pleased to announce the opening of Lethal to Ingest: Territorial Medicine, the newest exhibit in the museum’s annual spotlight exhibit area. This outdoor exhibit will be showing until March 2012. It is free to the public.

As the twentieth century dawned, the medical, pharmaceutical, and retail drugstore industries were busy drafting the anatomy of today’s medicine. This new exhibit details the struggles and growth of the medical industries in Oklahoma and the United States from apothecaries, traveling salesman, and nostrums to the Food and Drug Act of 1907.

The Oklahoma Territorial Museum is located at 406 E. Oklahoma Avenue in Guthrie. Hours of operation are Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is $4 for adults, $3 for seniors, and $1 for children six to eighteen years. Children under six are admitted free of charge. For more information, call 405/282-1889 or email guthriefcomplex@okhistory.org.

Peter Conser Home to host Ice Cream Social, May 28

The Peter Conser Home will host an Ice Cream Social fundraiser on Saturday, May 28, from 1 to 5 p.m. Participants will experience live music, homemade root beer and ice cream, and tours through Peter Conser’s historic 1894 home. Donations to the Peter Conser Home will be gratefully accepted and will be used for the upkeep and operation of the site.

If you have any questions, please call the Peter Conser Home at 918/653-2493 or email breid@okhistory.org. The Peter Conser Home is located at 47114 Conser Creek Road in Heavener.

Step back in time for a day of fun. We hope to see you there!

Hidden Collections... 

By Debra Spindle

In the library of the Research Division, we are frequently asked, “Do you have materials only on Oklahoma?” We understand the impetus of that question, but our answer is “No, we have materials from all fifty states and beyond.” It is true that the majority of our collection focuses on Oklahoma and its colorful history. But we can also help Oklahomans research the people who were the ancestors of Oklahoma’s present-day citizens.

One of the ways we can link our users to the world beyond is through the collection of databases accessible on the twenty-six computers available for public use. Footnote: History & Genealogy Archives is a collection of scanned and indexed documents from the National Archives. If you’ve ever tried to locate records generated by the government, you know what a difficult task it is. Footnote makes some of these documents searchable. As would be expected, the Dawes Enrollment Cards and the Dawes Packets from the “American Indian Collection” are among the most frequently used by staff and patrons alike.

It is also possible to search or browse the service records of the soldiers in the Civil War, both Confederate and Union, as well as records from the Revolutionary War. The “Revolutionary War Archives” on Footnote includes images of the papers of the Continental Congress, George Washington’s correspondence, and service records and war pension records from the Revolutionary War. The “World War II Archives” provides papers from World War II including member-made pages of “WWII Heroes,” more than eighty thousand photos and diagrams, and documents such as Pearl Harbor muster rolls and submarine patrol reports. The collection does not include service records for World War II, but there is mention of individual soldiers. For example, the author found the Missing Air Crew Reports (MACR) completed by a great-uncle who was the sole survivor of his B-17 bomber crew.

The “American African Archives” includes documents such as a poignant letter from a freed slave raising money to purchase his wife, a census of slaves from some plantations, and enlistment records of the “colored troops” from the Civil War. Also included are papers from the Southern Claims Commission and the Supreme Court records of the Amistad case.

And if the Revolutionary or Civil War, the Dawes Commission Records, or World War II aren’t distant enough, you can also browse the “U.S. Bureau of Investigation Case File Archives” to see an investigation of Babe Ruth’s possible draft dodging and to see some of the Federal Bureau of Investigation files created on persons they suspected, including photos and detailed information.

Finally, there’s “Project Blue Book—UFO Investigations” for those who really want to research beyond Oklahoma. A record of sightings, investigations, and conferences, but very few photos, comprise this collection.

Come in and let us help you negotiate this bottomless archive of historic documents made available through today’s technology.

New Oklahoma National Register listings

The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is pleased to announce that two submissions from Oklahoma were added to the National Register of Historic Places in March 2011. The National Register of Historic Places is our nation’s official list of properties significant in our past.

The First Christian Church Historic District, located at 3700 North Walker in Oklahoma City, is recognized as an excellent local example of a Modern Movement Complex-style of architecture as applied to religious buildings in Oklahoma City. Within the context of local architecture, the First Christian Church Historic District was at the forefront of modern design. The First Christian Church Historic District is a distinctive collection of buildings constructed from 1947 to 1964.

The Cities Service Station #8, located at 1648 Southwest Boulevard in Tulsa, is significant for its role in transportation and architecture. It is a Route 66 resource in an ideal location. The station was heavily used because the street fed traffic to and from the Eleventh Street Bridge across the Arkansas River. The Cities Service Station #8 is a good example of the oblong box-style of gas station that a traveler could at one time find all along Route 66. Cathy Ambler prepared this nomination for the property owners.

The National Register also accepted additional documentation of the Peter Conser House. 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.

For detailed information, contact Lynda Schwan at 405/522-4478 or lschwan@okhistory.org.

Beginning Beadwork Class at Oklahoma History Center

The Oklahoma History Center will host a Beginning Beadwork Class on Saturday, June 4, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Martha Berry, a nationally renowned Cherokee beadwork artist will instruct the class. The registration fee is $100, which includes all class materials and lunch.

Participants will receive all materials necessary to produce a traditional Cherokee purse. Materials in the student kit will include fabric, beads, beewax, beading needles, sharps needles, ribbon, thread, plastic bags, an embroidery hoop, and patterns. Class size is limited to fifteen participants to allow one-on-one instruction.

Find out more about Martha Berry at her website: www.berrybeadwork.com. For more information about the class, call Jason Harris at 405/522-0785 or email jharris@okhistory.org.
Twenty-year Members Renew in March

Listed below, with the date they joined the OHS, are people and organizations that, when they renewed their memberships in March, have been members twenty or more years. Their long-term loyalty is most sincerely appreciated!

Donovan Reichenberger, Alva, March 1, 1968
Paul Fisher, Lawton, March 1, 1974
Michelle Hobbs, Oklahoma City, March 1, 1975
Richard Wood, Bethany, March 1, 1977
Eugene Baade, Renton, WA, January 1, 1978
Margaret Verbe, Lexington, KY, March 1, 1979
John and Betty Minnitt, Chickasha, December 1, 1979
William and Camille Harrison, Chickasha, December 1, 1979
Caroline Kilgo, Edmond, December 1, 1981
Richard Mullins, Edmond, January 2, 1982
Marybelle Chase, Tulsa, March 1, 1982
Charles and Cheryl Saxon, Oklahoma City, March 1, 1983
University of Toronto Library, Toronto, Ontario, January 1, 1984
Mary Jane Warne, Stillwater, January 2, 1984
Marie Wren, Fillmore, CA, March 1, 1984
Alma Benedict, Edmond, February 1, 1985
James and Marian Bradley, Westmoreland, KS, March 1, 1985
Sandra Olson, Waynka, June 1, 1985
Kenneth Conner, Edmond, February 1, 1986
William and Hulda Hamilton, Edmond, March 1, 1986

Betty Hanes, Keyes, March 10, 1986
Gillcrease Museum Library, Tulsa, March 20, 1986
Durant Historical Society, Durant, March 24, 1986
Robert and Judy McCormack, Indio, CA, March 25, 1986
University of Georgia Library, Ontario, December 21, 1986
Michael Tower, Elmore City, December 29, 1986
Eva Gerard, Denison, TX, February 9, 1987
Bishop Kelly High School Library, Tulsa, May 6, 1987
Mitchell Adcox, Oklahoma City, December 14, 1987
Michael Lekson, Arlington, VA, March 7, 1988
David Keith Smith, Edmond, March 14, 1988
Lois Batley, Oklahoma City, December 15, 1988
Will Rogers Library, Claremore, February 24, 1989
Jennifer Sparks, Fort Gibson, May 14, 1989
Vicki Hicks, Washington, DC, September 5, 1989
Eileen Huff, Duncan, July 7, 1990
Gary and Sherry Strebel, Oklahoma City, February 8, 1990
Blackwell Public Library, Blackwell, February 14, 1990
Greer City, Gen. & Hist. Society, Mangum, February 23, 1990
Mike and Darla Terry, Edmond, February 23, 1990
Susan Lugar, Tulsa, May 11, 1990
Eva Briley, Isadell, February 6, 1991
William and Charlotte Hagan, Bedford, TX, February 20, 1990

Gift Shop News

by Russ Haynes

Hello! April has come and gone and with it the OHS Annual Meeting. The new museum in Enid was awesome! I know the people of northern and western Oklahoma are going to enjoy it greatly in years to come. It was also awesome seeing many of you at the meeting. This was my ninth annual meeting, and I do very much enjoy seeing each and every one of you when I go. Here are some new titles you may have missed at the meeting.

NORTH AMERICAN INDIANS IN THE GREAT WAR by Susan A. Krouse. Presents the experiences of American Indian soldiers during World War I and after their return home. Uses information and photographs collected by Joseph K. Dixon after the war. Dixon managed to document nearly a quarter of the more than twelve thousand American Indians who served in the United States military during World War I and after their return home. Uses information and photographs collected by Joseph K. Dixon after the war. Dixon managed to document nearly a quarter of the more than twelve thousand American Indians who served in the United States military during World War I, but his records have languished unexamined until now. 248 pages. Paperback. $24.95

It takes more than money . . .

. . . to create collections and exhibits that can achieve the Oklahoma Historical Society’s goals of collecting, preserving, and sharing. It takes the donation of an artifact, a book, a document, or a whole collection of those things to help us tell Oklahoma’s story. Here are the past quarter’s contributors to our research collections.

Research Division Donors

January–March 2011

Armstrong, Dorothy Speyers, Perryton, TX
Benedict, Alma, Edmond
Blackburn, Bob and Debbie, Oklahoma City
Caldron, Royce, Ponca City
Carpenter, Penny, Clinton
Central Oklahoma Chapter Embroiderers’ Guild of America, Edmond
Clark, C. Blue, Oklahoma City
Clark, Liz, Norman
Courtney, J.L., Oklahoma City
Dean, Michael, Edmond
Duckworth, James and Donna, North Richland Hills, TX
Eldridge, Rod, Rocklin, CA
Fischer, LeRoy and Martha, Tulsa
Gamma State Oklahoma
Green, Michael, Oklahoma City
Hall, Randal, Houston, TX
Isabel Hastings Dial Chapter of National Society Daughters of American Colonists, Oklahoma City
Jones, Patsy C., Edmond
Jones, R.A., Tulsa
Kroeker, Marvin E., Ada
Leitch, Christopher, Merriam, KS
McDuffie, Ebb C., Apache
Moore, Flying Clouds, Tuskaoma
Oklahoma Centennial Chisholm Trail Cattle Drive Association, Medford
Oklahoma City Downtown Lions Club
Oklahoma Prairies Chapter, National Society DAR, Bethany
Passey, Jackie, Fishers, IN
Pendleton, LaVerna, Oklahoma City
Quillin, Paul, Guthrie
Reid, Annette, Overland Park, KS
Retro Metro OKC, Oklahoma City
Shaw, Charles, Vici
Spivey, Towana, Duncan
Stehno, Albert, Billings
United States Daughters of 1812, Oklahoma City

New Members, cont’d.

Individual

Felicia Carpenter, Oklahoma City
Meta Carstarphen, Norman
Gary Childers, Ada
Gail Delshaw, Freedom
Nancy Fisher, Durango, CO
Mary Haney, Hennessey
Winfrey Houston, Stillwater
Gerald Knudson, Oklahoma City
Hildreth Langoc, Duncan
Lowell Lehman, Tulsa
Patricia Lester, Nichols Hills
Lynn Muslewlie, Lawton
Cindy Schuering, Checotah
James Terrill, Porter
Bob Thompson, Ada
1860-era Lawn Social at George Murrell Home, June 4

The historic George Murrell Home in Park Hill will hold its eighteenth annual Lawn Social on Saturday, June 4, from 5:30 p.m. to dusk. The Lawn Social is a living history tradition that evokes the beauty, color, and music of the Cherokee Nation.

The highlight of the evening will be the reenactment of an 1860 Cherokee Temperance Rally. The Cherokee Temperance Society, comprised of more than three thousand members and established in Indian Territory immediately after the Trail of Tears, promoted abstinence from intoxicating beverages. Visitors will have the opportunity to hear from reenactors portraying actual members of the society, using their original words. Guests will also be able to participate in period dancing and the temperance “March of Allegiance,” a recreation of a historic 1860 practice.

The Lawn Social is an official Oklahoma Civil War Sesquicentennial event. The program will give visitors a glimpse of life in the Cherokee Nation at the beginning of the devastating American Civil War. Other evening activities will include house tours, demonstrations on nineteenth-century crafts and customs, children’s games, food, and a historic minstrel show.

Built in 1845, the Murrell Home is the former residence of the nieces of Cherokee Chief John Ross and stands as the only antebellum plantation home remaining in Oklahoma. A National Historic Landmark and Oklahoma Civil War Sesquicentennial Site, the George M. Murrell Home is owned and operated by the Oklahoma Historical Society. It is located at 19479 E. Murrell Home Road in Park Hill, three miles southwest of Tahlequah and one mile east of State Highway 82.

The Lawn Social is free and open to the public. Visitors are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and blankets for sitting on the lawn. For more information, contact the Murrell Home at 918/456-2751.

History Center to open Pickin’ and Grinnin’: Roy Clark, Hee Haw, and Country Humor Exhibit

Beginning in May the Oklahoma History Center will celebrate two American institutions, Roy Clark and Hee Haw. Both have strong ties to Oklahoma. In 1971 Roy Clark moved to Tulsa and has kept his home there. Besides the show regulars from Oklahoma—Roy, Gallard Sartain, Jana Jae, Sheb Wooley, and Ricki Page—more than forty guests on Hee Haw had Oklahoma ties. In 1981 the Gaylord family, owners of the Daily Oklahoman, purchased the show and kept it on television until the early 1990s.

The exhibit, Pickin’ and Grinnin’: Roy Clark, Hee Haw, and Country Humor, will put the music and humor of Hee Haw in context with the entertainment Oklahomans enjoyed since the beginning of the twentieth century. This is accomplished by examining early tent shows, local and national radio programming, and early Oklahoma television. All appealed to the rural image that many in the state embraced.

The exemplary career of Roy Clark will be center stage as the exhibit examines the development of Hee Haw, beginning with its roots in the Jonathan Winters Show and Laugh-In (which starred Oklahoman Dan Rowan). Influential Hee Haw producer Sam Lovullo and country music super-agent Jim Halsey’s stories will also be explored. The exhibit will be filled with the fun skits, show sets including a cornfield where visitors can tell jokes, and good country music. Many Oklahoma stars garnered their first national exposure on Hee Haw, including Reba McEntire and Garth Brooks, and some of their performances will be showcased. Come and SAA-LUTE the show that saluted rural America.