



Mistletoe Leaves



Vol. 51, No. 6

Published bimonthly by the Oklahoma Historical Society, serving since 1893

November/December 2020

Launch to Landing: Oklahomans and Space exhibit opens

The Oklahoma History Center (OHC) will open its newest permanent exhibit, *Launch to Landing: Oklahomans and Space*, on November 17. The exhibit is the culmination of several years of coordination and planning with the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington, DC, and the Cosmosphere in Hutchinson, Kansas. This exhibit focuses on the many Oklahomans who have played a part in the US air and space program, as well as early Oklahoma pioneers of aviation. The new exhibit will be located in the Gaylord Special Exhibit Gallery of the OHC. To celebrate the opening of *Launch to Landing*, as well as the 15th anniversary of the opening of the Oklahoma History Center, the OHC will offer five days of free admission to the public beginning Tuesday, November 17, through Saturday, November 21, sponsored by the Inasmuch Foundation.

The centerpiece of the exhibit is the Skylab 4 Apollo Command Module (CM-118). This spacecraft carried the final Skylab crew of astronauts—Gerald Carr (commander), Edward Gibson (science pilot), and William Pogue (pilot)—into space to live and work in the Skylab Orbiting Laboratory, or Space Station. The final

Skylab mission was the longest mission flown by any Apollo command module.

Launch to Landing will feature a number of personal items utilized by astronauts. Among those are flight suits worn by Fred Haise, John Herrington, and Gordon Cooper, and as well as articles of clothing worn by Shannon Lucid and other crew members of the International Space Station missions. Also available for viewing are the in-flight coverall garment and pants used by Apollo Command Module Pilot Stuart Roosa when he flew to the moon and back on Apollo 14.

Also included in the exhibit are items that are generally associated with Oklahoma aviators and the US air and space program, such as Oklahoma flags flown in space, a NASA Mission Control console, space shuttle heat shield tiles, and lunar samples—also known as “moon rocks.”

Launch to Landing: Oklahomans and Space has been made possible by the generous support of the E. L. and Thelma Gaylord Foundation; the M. D. Jirous and Barbara Jirous Foundation; the Inasmuch Foundation; the Records-Johnston Family Foundation Inc.; Bob Ford; the James C. and Teresa K. Day Founda-

tion; the Friends of the Oklahoma History Center; the National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC; the Cosmosphere, Hutchinson, Kansas; the Thomas P. Stafford Air and Space Museum, Weatherford, Oklahoma; Bill Moore; and Cameron Eagle, Ink Ranch.

The Oklahoma History Center is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



The Skylab 4 Apollo command module arrives from Washington, DC, with the satellite image of Earth suspended above the exhibit entrance.

This Land is Herland: Contested Notions of Equality presentation scheduled for November 5

The Oklahoma Historical Society and the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center are pleased to present *This Land is Herland*, a series of three programs on women's activism in Oklahoma sponsored by Oklahoma Humanities. The third program, “Contested Notions of Equality,” will be held Thursday, November 5, at 7 p.m. The event will be conducted virtually and will include presentations by three scholars. Following the presentations, the scholars will be available to answer questions from the online audience.

This online program will bring the discussion of gendered activism to the present era, with presentations covering American Indian women's activism, the Equal Rights Amendment, and the resurgence of conservative politics. The topics and speakers for the evening are: “My Children Are More Important to Me Than Any Office I Might Hold”: Mary Fallin's Use of Motherhood as a Conservative



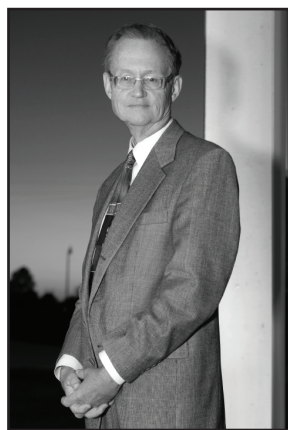
Political Strategy,” by Dr. Patricia Loughlin, University of Central Oklahoma; “Until We Organized”: Wanda Jo Peltier Stapleton and the Equal Rights Amendment Debate in Oklahoma, 1972–1982,” by Chelsea Ball, University of Oklahoma; and “LaDonna Harris: Comanche Leader, Activist, Matriarch,” by Dr. Amanda Cobb-Greetham, University of Oklahoma.

There is no cost for this program, but preregistration is required and registration closes at 5 p.m. on November 4. To register for this program, please visit www.okhistory.org/herland.

Pawnee Bill Ranch given top honors in *True West*

Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum in Pawnee has earned top honors in three categories from *True West* magazine. The magazine awarded Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum “Regional Favorite” in its September 2020 issue, “Best Preservation Effort in the West” in its January 2020 issue, and “#1 Best Western Museum” in the category “Cowboys, Indians, Lawmen, and Outlaws” in its September 2019 issue. The museum is proud to be recognized in so many categories.

The Pawnee Bill Ranch was once the showplace of the world-renowned Wild West Show entertainer Gordon W. “Pawnee Bill” Lillie. It is located at 1141 Pawnee Bill Road in Pawnee. For more information, please call 918-762-2513, email pawneebill@okhistory.org or visit www.okhistory.org/pawneebill.



Director's column

By Dr. Bob L. Blackburn
Executive Director

I am an eyewitness. Yes, time does fly.

It seems like yesterday that I was an eager young graduate student at OSU writing an article about Governor Martin Trapp in a seminar orchestrated by Dr. LeRoy Fischer, a future mentor and life-long friend. To gather information and photographs for the article about to be published, I tapped into the rich collections of the Oklahoma Historical Society. It was 1974.

A hop, skip, and jump ago, I started writing the first of 26 books in my quest to capture the stories of Oklahomans who faced challenges and seized opportunities. The first was the text for a yearbook published by the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety in which I wrote a history of the Oklahoma Highway Patrol, an organization my father served faithfully from 1945 to 1959. That was 1976.

A few moments back, I landed my first professional job outside of carpentry, the position as editor of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, the scholarly journal of the OHS. For the next ten years I had the greatest postdoctoral fellowship imaginable, reading well over one thousand manuscripts in the search for the best one hundred articles to expand our understanding of Oklahoma history. That exploration of our shared story started in 1979.

Still fresh in my memory is the day the OHS Board of Directors decided to give me the chance to serve the OHS as deputy director in a partnership with Blake Wade, the executive director who trusted me with authority to develop professional standards and assemble a team that could raise standards, improve efficiencies, and attract partners. For the next ten years I served an apprenticeship learning how to work with the Oklahoma Legislature and the governor's staff, developed planning documents, raised funds, and crafted partnerships with other organizations that could stretch all of our resources. That journey started in 1989.

Just yesterday, I had the honor of being named the executive director of the OHS, an organization that had been instrumental in every step of my progression from graduate student and published historian to team builder and organizational leader. From that day forward, I learned so much from members of the OHS Board of Directors, came to rely on my colleagues who see work with the OHS not as a job but as a privilege, and developed so many friendships around the state in our common goal of improving Oklahoma's quality of life. That started in 1999.

Today, only weeks away from my approaching retirement, I look back on each chapter of that journey with such clarity that it seems like a scripted adventure film filled with discovery, joy, and lasting friendships. I have enjoyed every challenge, every opportunity, every step of the way.

Yes, I am an eyewitness to history—part of an organization that has done so much to collect, preserve, and the share the story of Oklahoma and its people. Time does fly.

Dr. Bob

Oklahoma History Center celebrates 15th anniversary

November 16, 2020, marks 15 years since the Oklahoma History Center (OHC) opened its doors at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in Oklahoma City. To celebrate this milestone, the OHC will offer five days of free admission to the public beginning Tuesday, November 17, through Saturday, November 21, sponsored by the Inasmuch Foundation. In conjunction with this celebration, the OHC will open its newest permanent exhibit, *Launch to Landing: Oklahomans and Space*, on Tuesday, November 17.

The Oklahoma History Center houses the administrative offices, as well as the bulk of the artifact collections and research archives, of the Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS). From 1930 to 2005, the OHS occupied what is now the Oklahoma Judicial Center, the home of the Oklahoma Supreme Court and the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals.

The OHC was designed by Beck Associates of Oklahoma City, in collaboration with the award-winning firm Hellmuth, Obata, and Kassabaum (HOK) of St. Louis, Missouri. Among their many architectural masterpieces, HOK designed the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington, DC, and, as of 2018, was the largest US-based architecture-engineering firm. Haley Sharpe Design Limited of Washington, DC, and Leicester, Great Britain, designed the original exhibits.



Development News

By Larry O'Dell

As the year draws to a close, we reflect on the contributions of OHS Executive Director Dr. Blackburn, who will retire in January. Dr. Blackburn has guided the OHS through challenging times, from sustained budget cuts to the COVID-19 pandemic. Under his leadership, the OHS found new ways to share our history. World-class museums and learning centers are part of his legacy, including the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City, the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center in Enid, and OKPOP, now under construction in Tulsa.

As we remember past challenges and successes, I want to thank you for your continued support and ask you to consider an end-of-year gift. By donating to the Annual Giving Campaign, you help ensure that our state's history will be preserved for future generations. Under the CARES Act, taxpayers can take a deduction for up to \$300 in charitable contributions made in 2020, even if you do not itemize your taxes. Visit www.okhistory.org/givenow or email me at lodell@okhistory.org to make your donation. If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 405-522-6676.



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Mistletoe Leaves (USPS 018-315) is published bimonthly by the Oklahoma Historical Society, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7917. Periodicals postage paid at Oklahoma City, OK (ISSN 1932-0108)

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Mistletoe Leaves*, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7917.

By authorization of the Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) Board of Directors, 5,400 copies are prepared at a cost of \$1,170.57 bimonthly. The publication is financed in part with federal funds from the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior.

Contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Oklahoma Historical Society or the United States Department of the Interior. Mention of trade names does not constitute endorsement or recommendation by either organization.

Mistletoe Leaves is published for the members and friends of the OHS in partial fulfillment of its mission to collect, preserve, and share the history and culture of the state of Oklahoma and its people.

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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Centennial of Women's Suffrage Amendment

By Jan H. Richardson

This year is the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution—the amendment that granted women the right to vote. On February 28, 1920, Oklahoma became the 33rd state to ratify the amendment that was adopted on August 18 of that year when Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify it. That was a turning point in our history, but Oklahoma took steps even earlier to extend voting rights to women.

Statehood in 1907 brought the women of Oklahoma the right to vote in school elections, and citizens later backed a state constitutional amendment in support of women's suffrage on November 5, 1918. The movement to extend the franchise to women was a collaborative effort, and many Oklahomans played a part. Anna Lee Brosius Korn (1870–1965) was one such person—a strong advocate for women's suffrage who moved to Chickasha, Oklahoma, in 1905.

Anna and her husband, Frank N. Korn, a trainmaster for the Rock Island Railway, moved to Oklahoma Territory from Missouri. The couple later moved to El Reno, where she embraced opportunities for activism. She formed the first county chapter of Democratic Women and the first Women's Legislative Council in Oklahoma. She was also a strong proponent of preserving Oklahoma's history, serving as an integral part of the Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors. She also was a principal in founding the Oklahoma Memorial Association, now known as the Oklahoma Hall of Fame. In recognition of her service to the state, Korn was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 1961. The Anna L. B. Korn Collection contains national women's suffrage postcards from 1915, items from the Oklahoma League of Democratic Women, both personal and business correspondence, and administrative items from the Oklahoma Historical Society and the Hall of Fame. The Anna L. B. Korn Collection (1985.009, 1 legal box, 1 over-size box) is available for viewing at the OHS Research Center Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Please note that all visitors are required to wear masks. Due to restrictions related to COVID-19, an appointment is required. The Research Center is located inside the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. For more information call 405-522-5225 or email research@okhistory.org. to view the collection.

Jan H. Richardson is the processing archivist in the OHS Research Division's Manuscript Archives.

OHS Calendar of events, programs, and exhibits

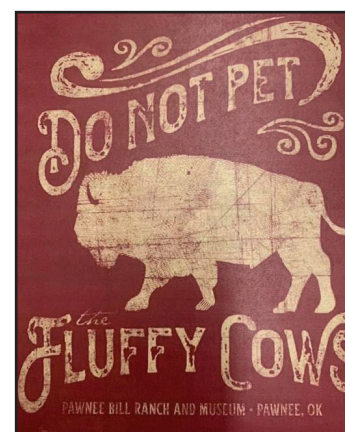
November

- 3 “Voting During a Pandemic” Smithsonian program (VIRTUAL), Oklahoma History Center, www.okhistory.org/voting
- 4–7 Will Rogers Motion Picture Festival (VIRTUAL), Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 5 “Contested Notions of Equality” This Land is Herland program (VIRTUAL), www.okhistory.org/herland
- 7 History Alive! Living History Experience, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 7 “Veteran Surgeon's View of the Civil War” presentation by Dr. David Harris, Honey Springs Battlefield, Checotah
- 14 Basketweaving class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 14 “The Gateway to Oklahoma History” Second Saturday Demo, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 14 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 17 *Launch to Landing: Oklahomans and Space* exhibit opens, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 17–21 Oklahoma History Center 15th Anniversary free admission days, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 18 Oklahoma Historical Society Executive Committee meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 21 History Alive! Living History Experience, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 30 Deadline to submit proposals for Oklahoma History Conference “Perspectives in History,” Oklahoma Historical Society, www.okhistory.org/conference



December

- 1 *Child's Play: Dolls of Native America* exhibit closes, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 4–5 Will's Country Christmas, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah
- 5 Pictures with Santa, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah
- 5 History Alive! Living History Experience, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 5 *Soul of a People: Writing America's Story* Smithsonian film, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 12 Christmas at the Fort, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 12 Pictures with Santa, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah
- 12 Christmas Open House, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 12 Drummond Home Christmas, Fred Drummond Home, Hominy
- 16 Oklahoma Historical Society Executive Committee meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 19 History Alive! Living History Experience, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 21 Winter Solstice Walks, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro



A new t-shirt with the wise words “Do Not Pet the Fluffy Cows” is the perfect gift for bison lovers, and is for sale at Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum in Pawnee. Call 918-762-2513 to order yours.



’Tis the season to shop at the Oklahoma Territorial Museum in Guthrie! The gift shop has a special selection of holiday gift items and decor to help you deck the halls this season. The Oklahoma Territorial Museum is a participating business in Guthrie’s “Shop Small, Win Big” cash prize raffle. Cash prizes will be announced to participating shoppers on Friday, December 21.



The gift shop at the Pioneer Woman Museum and Statue stocks a variety of unique gift items for the Christmas season. Festive gnomes, engraved wooden spoons, snowglobes, and much more are on sale. Visit www.facebook.com/PioneerWomanMuseum to see more holiday items.

Four decades of dedication: The exceptional career of Dr. Bob Blackburn

Throughout his 41-year career with the Oklahoma Historical Society, Dr. Bob Blackburn, affectionately known to all as “Dr. Bob,” has been the greatest advocate for the OHS’s mission to collect, preserve, and share the history and culture of the state of Oklahoma and its people.

When Blackburn was named executive director of the OHS in 1999, he emphasized a new focus on what he called an “entrepreneurial business plan” that embraced higher standards, greater efficiencies, and partnerships. The outcome has been a string of new programs and projects that appeal to donors, generate a stream of revenue, and attract high-performing employees.

All of Blackburn’s leadership and historical skills were needed to guide the planning, funding, and construction of the Oklahoma History Center, a \$62 million investment which is now an affiliate of both the Smithsonian Institution and the National Archives, the only institution in the country with that status.

Thank you, Dr. Bob, for your years of public service to the OHS and the people of Oklahoma.



What do you say about a 41-year career collecting, preserving, and sharing Oklahoma’s unique history? As the OHS prepares for Dr. Bob Blackburn’s retirement, board members and staff reflect on his impact on the agency and on them personally.

Having served on the Oklahoma Historical Society’s Board of Directors close to 16 years, I have witnessed Dr. Bob Blackburn’s amazing talent firsthand. He is a respected, award-winning historian and a gifted orator. He not only collects, preserves, and shares history, he brings the stories of Oklahomans to light for the education and enjoyment of his audience. It is rare to find an executive director who is so multitasked. He has an extensive knowledge of how Oklahoma government operates, and possesses a razor-sharp mind when putting together an OHS business plan. His footprint at OHS will be present for generations to come. He is an Oklahoma treasure.

–Dr. Deena Fisher, OHS Board of Directors President

I remember a time when I was presenting a program and Dr. Blackburn was to give the welcoming and opening comments for the group to which I was presenting. After Dr. Bob finished his welcome I remember thinking to myself, “How in the world am I ever going to top his performance?” Dr. Bob always has been and always will be one of the greatest orators I have ever known. It has truly been an honor and a blessing to have worked with a man of his caliber for over 30 years. The knowledge he has shared through his teachings is truly unmeasurable and something I shall always treasure. I shall never forget his grace, kindness, and his “well hello Ms. Laura!” welcomes. You will be missed Dr. Blackburn, thanks for all the wonderful memories.

–Laura Martin, Deputy Director of Research

In 1998 Dr. Blackburn hired me to be a researcher on the original Tulsa Race Riot (now Massacre) Commission right before I attained my graduate degree. I wondered at the time whether the focus on underrepresented groups would be sustained by the OHS. After the sunset of the commission, under Bob’s leadership the OHS continued to work with minority groups to make up for decades of neglect. First, OHS created a large exhibit on Oklahoma’s All-Black towns at the old Wiley Post Historical Building and dedicated signs to share their story in each of the 13 remaining towns. Soon after that, Bob smartly hired Bruce Fisher to operate the OHS multicultural office. Bruce expanded collections, engaged the communities, developed content, and consistently produced programming that added to the state’s historical record. When Dr. Blackburn met with the African American neighborhood where the proposed Oklahoma History Center was to be located, he made a commitment that the OHS would have free programming focused on shared history. Thanks to Dr. Blackburn’s dedication the Oklahoma Historical Society can finally say it collects, preserves, and shares the history of all Oklahomans.

–Larry O’Dell, Director of Special Projects and Development

A little over eight years ago when I took the position as executive assistant to the executive director of the OHS, I thought I had an understanding of the brilliance of



Above: Dr. Blackburn in his early years at OHS working at his desk as editor of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*. Right (clockwise from top): Dr. Blackburn pictured with former Governor George Nigh; Dr. Blackburn speaking alongside Governor Brad Henry; Dr. Blackburn in front of the newly opened Oklahoma History Center in 2005.



the person with whom I would be working. Sometimes when an individual (such as Dr. Bob) is so highly spoken of, working for them can be something of a let-down. In the case of Dr. Bob Blackburn it was the exact opposite. Even after all these years and countless meetings, presentation, and speeches, I am continually amazed and awed by the person I get to learn from on a daily basis. I cannot count the things I have learned from Dr. Bob that have had a direct impact on my career, but here is a short list: the importance of listening, the invaluable lessons about OHS institutional history, how to not bury the lede in a press release, and to not borrow trouble. This last one I struggle with often, as Dr. Bob's assistant I felt it was my job to stress and fret about numerous scenarios, but Dr. Bob has an amazing talent for prioritizing and filtering out what is and what is not worth worrying over. I have never once taken for granted the opportunity to learn under such a giant of public history in Oklahoma.

—Nicole Harvey, Grants Administrator

Bob has been transformative for the Oklahoma Historical Society. Fortunately for us, one of his accomplishments is a great, creative staff with senior leadership recognized across the country. His legacy will carry on through their good work.

—Jack Baker, OHS Board Member and former President

I have had the good fortune to work with Bob for over 21 years. Among the many things that I value in our working

relationship is his consistent, steady, and positive attitude. I have seen this demonstrated over and over again in addressing difficult situations of all types. His resolve, passion, and innate creativity are an inspiration. In my 38 years of working as a museum professional, I have had the opportunity to meet and work with outstanding individuals from around the world and from many walks of life. Bob is at the top of the list. We would not be where we are or have accomplished what we have achieved without him.

—Dan Provo, Director of the Oklahoma History Center

Probably I heard most about Dr. Blackburn from Dr. Reba Collins, who called him "Bobby." Dr. Collins and her husband, Delmar, were my family friends and confidants and it was no surprise when "Bobby" was asked to eulogize her at her funeral. My respect for the author, historian, speaker, and gentleman has increased over the years, especially since 2004 when Michelle Carter hired me as the Will Rogers Memorial Museum's public relations director when I retired from the *Claremore Progress*. I was grateful, especially because of the known leadership of Dr. Bob Blackburn, when the Will Rogers Memorial Museum became a part of the OHS.

—Pat Reeder, Public Relations Director, Will Rogers Memorial Museum

Bob is truly passionate about historic buildings. From the books he has written regarding Oklahoma City architecture to the work he has completed on his own historic homes, Bob's passion comes through. Bob really talks the talk and

walks the walk regarding these important historic buildings.

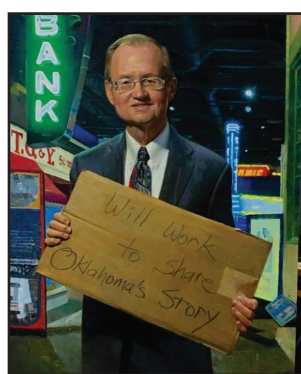
—Lynda Ozan, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

In 1996 Bill Welge was giving me a tour of the administrative wing of the old Wiley Post Historical Building. I had been volunteering in the archives for six months or so at the time. That tour was the first time I met Dr. Blackburn. Mr. Welge introduced me to him, and after discussing what projects I was working on and my background, Dr. Bob said, "Bill, I think he may be a LIFER." That was the first time I had heard him use that term, but not the last. Dr. Bob uses that term to describe employees devoted to working at the OHS for life because of their passion and love of history and the agency. As the years progressed I have taken great satisfaction in being given that label by Dr. Blackburn.

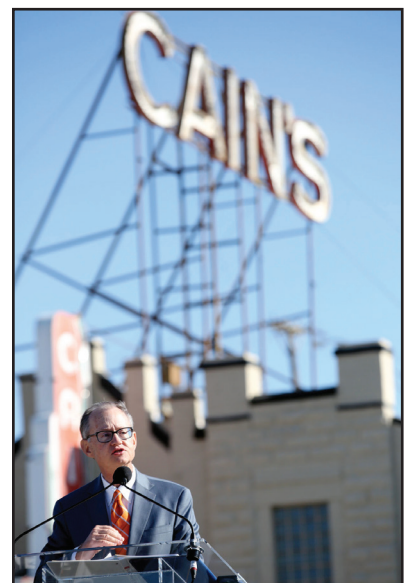
—Chad Williams, Director of Research

Every month, I have the pleasure of walking into Dr. Bob's office to discuss what to write in our column for the *Oklahoman*. We talk about people, places, and themes in Oklahoma history as he connects the dots from the past to the present—a skill I am working to hone. While I will miss the cheery voice welcoming me into his office with, "Hello, E!," I look forward to the great discussions of Oklahoma's history that I'm sure are yet to come. I am honored to sit in the chair he once occupied as editor of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, and hope to live up to his legacy of excellence.

—Elizabeth Bass, Director of Publications



Top row (left to right): Painting of Dr. Blackburn by artist Mike Wimmer for the exhibit *Will Work For . . .* in 2019; Dr. Blackburn, N. Scott Momaday (seated), and OHS Board Member James Waldo, with OHS Board Member Dan Lawrence and staff member Jason Harris (in uniforms) in 2009; Dr. Blackburn giving a TED talk at OSU in November 2013.



Bottom row (left to right): Dr. Blackburn oversees the construction of the Oklahoma History Center in 2003; Ken Burns, left, with Debbie and Bob Blackburn; Dr. Blackburn standing in the *Crossroads of Commerce* exhibit; Dr. Blackburn speaking at the groundbreaking for OKPOP in October 2019.

New Oklahoma National Register listings

The Oklahoma Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office (OKSHPO) is pleased to announce the newest National Register of Historic Places listing for Oklahoma. The National Register of Historic Places is our nation's official list of properties significant in our past.

The House Building at 301–305 North Main Street in Bristow, Creek County, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its role in commerce as an excellent example of a downtown department store. The building was constructed in 1927 and 1928 by W. E. Krumrei for the House family. The building was immediately occupied by two national department store retailers, Montgomery Ward and J. C. Penney. The building is also significant as a unique example of the Tudor Revival style in Bristow, as well as in commercial architecture in general. Many of the Tudor Revival elements on the west and south street-facing exterior elevations still exist in their original configuration. These elements include the stone arch, the multilight windows, and the perimeter mansard roof with exposed rafter tails and decorative cross gables.



The House Building

The Old City Hall, Theater, and Masonic Lodge at 401 East First Street in Heavener, LeFlore County, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its Neoclassical architectural style. The Neoclassical elements found on the building include the classical columns, the symmetrically placed windows and doors, and the two-story arched windows. Public buildings and banks were perfectly suited for this style because it is very somber and orderly. The Old City Hall, Theater, and Masonic Lodge is the only extant building in the Neoclassical style in Heavener as applied to buildings along the Main Street corridor.



The Old City Hall, Theater, and Masonic Lodge

The Kimbrough Temple C. M. E. Church at 1029 South 12th Street in Ponca City, Kay County, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its association with the segregated Black community of Ponca City. In the early 1900s, residents and city leaders set aside the area as an African American community. In 1942 the congregants of the Kimbrough Temple C. M. E. Church raised enough funds to construct a stone chapel for worship and community meetings. Due to cost and dedication to their endeavor, the parishioners started building the stone church themselves of local stones in 1943. The church is situated in the traditional all-Black Dixie Hill Addition, also known as the Attucks Community. This structure served the community not only with religious services, but also with social services and community outreach, thus becoming central to the Black community of Ponca City.



Kimbrough Temple C. M. E. Church

The Nickles Machine Shop at 600 South First Street in Ponca City, Kay County, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its association with the history of oil and gas production in Oklahoma and the United States. In the 1940s, the surge in need for oil and natural gas during World War II opened up a new industry in which the Nickles Machine Shop's expertise in diesel engines and compressors became important. The oil and natural gas industry pumped its products across the country to meet the demands of the growing war effort. Companies changed from the oil-fired engines to natural gas-fueled compressors. The Nickles Machine Shop provided service and parts for the natural gas engines that powered the compressors. This allowed companies in the oil and gas industry to move their resources from places like Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana to the Midwest and East Coast. The Nickles Machine Shop is also significant for its Early 20th-Century Commercial architectural style as applied to an industrial building. It is a unique example of commercial design on a massive scale, consuming an entire city block. The simple but distinct sections have false fronts with applied brick ornamentation, giving them a style that reflects the early contemporary commercial architecture in the community.



The Nickles Machine Shop

The Villa Teresa Historic District at 1212, 1216, 1228 and 1300 Classen Drive in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places for Community Planning and Development, Education, and Architecture. The period of significance begins in 1917, when a large, Colonial Revival-style mansion was built at 1300 Classen Drive. The construction of several other grand homes along Classen Drive soon followed, most notably an Italian Renaissance Revival-style house at 1212 Classen Drive and another Colonial Revival-style house at 1228 Classen Drive. In 1933 the purchase of the residence at 1300 Classen Drive by the Carmelite Sisters marked the establishment of Villa Teresa School. As the school population grew, the Carmelite Sisters acquired the adjacent buildings at 1228 and 1212 Classen Drive, then constructed a new school building at 1216 Classen Drive.



Villa Teresa Historic District

Heritage Hills East Historic District, bounded by Northwest 14th Street, North Broadway Avenue, Northwest 22nd Street, and North Robinson Avenue in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its association with Community Planning and Development of Oklahoma City. It is also significant for Architecture as a collection of architectural styles popular within a brief and significant span of Oklahoma City's history. The homes were built as part of a cohesive and intentional neighborhood development, creating a readily identifiable, significant, and distinguishable entity within the residential development of Oklahoma City at large. The development of Heritage Hills East is representative of the rapid waves of Oklahoma City's early growth, as residential neighborhoods moved outward from the original townsite of Oklahoma City. Much of this development was in-



Heritage Hills East Historic District

tentional and well planned, as developers like Anton Classen and G. A. Nichols assembled large properties and shaped Oklahoma City's earliest neighborhoods. The early development of Heritage Hills East was quickly followed by increasing density and then commercial development. Other than commercial development, much of which replaced previous single-family homes along the west side of North Broadway Avenue, most of the extant properties were constructed between 1910 and 1932.

The Jack and Helen Cleary House, located at 13 Hillcrest Drive in Ponca City, Kay County, was built between 1926 and 1927 on land conveyed to the Cleary Family by prominent Ponca City oilman E. W. Marland. Known locally as the "House of Seven Gables," the Jack and Helen Cleary House is listed in the National Register of Historic Places for Architecture as an outstanding local example of Colonial-style architecture designed by renowned Oklahoma architect John Duncan Forsyth.



The Jack and Helen Cleary House

The Marland Estate Inc. Gatehouse (also known as the Van Cleave and Associates Building) at 747 North 14th Street in Ponca City, Kay County, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places for Architecture as an outstanding local example of simplified, nonresidential use of the Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival style designed by Oklahoma architect John Duncan Forsyth. Built in 1927, the Gatehouse provided access to the nearby Marland Mansion (NRIS #73001561) and the surrounding estate. During construction of the Marland Mansion, the Gatehouse functioned as a studio for architects and craftsmen. It went on serve as the private office for Ponca City oil magnate E. W. Marland.



The Marland Estate, Inc.



Museum director Cindy Wallis painting the Atoka downtown mural with family member.

Atoka mural project paints picture of community pride

A new mural located about a mile from the Atoka Museum and Civil War Cemetery can be found on the way to the historic site thanks to the efforts of the museum staff and townspeople. The mural represents the unique and creative way local pride and a little cheer lifted spirits in the town during the 2020 pandemic.

While the design and completion of a community mural with the name of the town has been a dream project for museum staff, it was not until the agency-wide closures of Oklahoma Historical Society affiliates that a window of opportunity was opened.

Local Atoka businessman Jerry Stephens owns the building that is the canvas for the mural, located on the corner of the busiest intersection in town, US Highway 69 and Court Street. His wife, Mae, had seen the potential for a mural painted on the building for quite some time. The Atoka County Historical Society was excited to provide the supplies. Atoka Museum and Civil War Cemetery Director Cindy Wallis dedicated her artistic skills and three to four weeks of her time to design and paint the mural, along with help from her family.

The mural provides a much-needed directional arrow to the historic downtown on the north side of town. The large spelling of the town's name incorporates the Osage shield and highlights the area's history. Driving by you may notice a reference to Reba McEntire's first concert in 1975, the new Choctaw drones project, agricultural activity, and local landmarks of the community.

The mural crew was especially pleased when a local man was happy to follow the mural's progress, going out of his way to drive to the project location on a daily basis. The mural is a welcomed boost of local pride for townspeople, and a nice diversion for traffic passing through. Even at a social distance, OHS sites, museums, and affiliates find creative ways to celebrate history and unite communities.

Winter Solstice Walks at Spiro Mounds

On Monday, December 21, the Spiro Mounds Archeological Center will host its annual series of guided walks to learn about the winter solstice and how prehistoric American Indians dealt with the changes in the seasons. Archaeologist and manager Dennis Peterson will lead guided tours starting at 11 a.m., 2 p.m., and 7 p.m. Each walk will take about two hours and require a mile of easy walking.

The pace of life today is so rushed and hectic that the natural rhythms of the sun, moon, and stars are forgotten. American Indian farmers understood these rhythms. In the rhythm of the sun, the winter solstice is a period of rest, preparation, and celebration. Peterson will tell about this unique, prehistoric American Indian mound site, the types of mounds, why they were created, and why some of the mounds are lined up for the sunsets of the solstices and equinoxes. For those wishing to see the sunset, the 2 p.m. walk will end just before sunset, which is when the alignment will take place.

Come out to experience one of the most unique historical sites in the United States as seen through the eyes of an archaeologist. Call 918-962-2062 or email spiro@okhistory.org to learn more.



Will Rogers Motion Picture Festival

The Will Rogers Memorial Museum and Birthplace Ranch will celebrate the 141st birthday of Oklahoma's Favorite Son with the virtual Will Rogers Motion Picture Festival Wednesday, November 4, through Saturday, November 7. Many activities are planned to honor the memory of Will Rogers, Cherokee cowboy philosopher and movie actor. In celebration of Rogers's birthday, admission to the Will Rogers Memorial Museum in Claremore will be free to the public all day on November 4.

Beginning November 4, the Will Rogers Motion Picture Festival will be held virtually to feature the work of up-and-coming filmmakers, along with lectures and workshops. Also included in this virtual film festival will be showings of films featuring Will Rogers, and the annual Dog Iron Awards Ceremony.

For more information on all the events relating to the festival, please call 918-341-0719 or visit www.willrogers.com/will-rogers-days or www.dogirons.com.

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PERIODICALS

Mistletoe Leaves

Vol. 51, No. 6

November/December 2020

History Conference accepting proposals

The OHS is seeking proposals for the 2021 Oklahoma History Conference, currently scheduled to be held April 21–23, 2021, at the NCED Marriott Conference Center and Hotel in Norman, Oklahoma.

The conference is organized by the Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) and offers scholars, students, historians, and authors from across the state and country a forum to share their work with history enthusiasts. This year the OHS is adding professional development sessions in archival and museum studies.

The theme of the conference is “Perspectives in History.” Sessions will be 45 minutes in length and may include traditional presentations, research sessions, discussion sessions, or lightning talks.

Proposals will be considered on a wide range of Oklahoma topics from traditionally underrepresented voices. Possible subjects include Oklahoma minorities in popular culture, women and minorities in Indian and Oklahoma Territories, underrepresented political or religious movements, as well as the social, cultural, and political impact of archives and exhibits. Proposals focusing on archival and museum studies are also welcome. We encourage submissions that explore these topics but remain open to submissions addressing other aspects of Oklahoma history. Graduate students are encouraged to submit proposals.

Proposals are now being accepted, and the deadline for submission is Monday, November 30. Those who submit proposals will be notified of their status by December 31, 2020. For more information please visit www.okhistory.org/about/conference.



“Child’s Play” American Indian doll exhibit open through December 1



The American Indian Culture and Preservation Office of the Oklahoma Historical Society has opened a new, educational exhibit, “Child’s Play: Dolls of Native America,” located in the John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick Research Center at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. The exhibit highlights more than 65 dolls and doll makers from different American Indian tribes. The exhibit not only presents the importance of dolls as children’s toys, but also their significance as an art form and a way to document styles and materials used in making traditional tribal clothing.

The exhibit includes selected biographies of doll makers such as Mildred Cleghorn, Fort Sill Apache; Lorene Drywater, Cherokee; Donna Tsatoke, Kiowa/Caddo; Betty Mae Tiger Jumper, Seminole; and Rebecca Blue Cloud, Dakota.

“For doll makers such as Mildred Cleghorn, the importance of passing down knowledge of tribal clothing was imperative to saving cultural traditions, especially for young people,” said Tamara Elder, curator and American Indian cultural research specialist. “Some of these dolls are kept within the families to be passed down from generation to generation.”

The exhibit is on display now and will run through December 1, 2020. The Research Center is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.



Christmas Open House at the Sod House Museum



Celebrate Christmas the pioneer way at the Sod House Museum’s Christmas Open House on Saturday, December 12, from 1 to 3 p.m. Share in the festivities with traditional decorations and treats provided by the Friends of the Sod House. Christmas music will be performed by local musicians.

During the Christmas Open House, renowned sculptor and painter Burneta Venosdel will be onsite to unveil her bronze sculpture of Marshal McCully. Venosdel was inspired to create the sculpture of McCully because of her own upbringing and pioneering roots in northwestern Oklahoma. After the unveiling, the artist will make a presentation explaining the sculptural process and bronze casting.

For more information about the Christmas Open House, call 580-463-2441.