



Winter celebrations make merry online

December at Hunter's Home in Park Hill is all about winter celebrations, and staff members aim to continue the tradition this season through the "Life at Hunter's Home" Facebook group. Online activities will follow the holiday traditions of the historic home. To celebrate the holidays, the group will be free to join during the month of December.

The merry activities and videos to be featured will include a cooking demonstration in the historic home's kitchen, an ornament-making demonstration, a behind-the-scenes vlog of staff preparing the site for the holidays, and a tour of the house once the holiday decorations are all in place.

Those interested in free all-December access to the "Life at Hunter's Home" Facebook group can call 918-456-2751 or come by the site Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to register.

Holiday cheer to be served in Guthrie

The Oklahoma Territorial Museum (OTM) and Carnegie Library will be part of Guthrie's Distinctive Homes Tour on Saturday, December 4, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Guthrie's finest homes, churches, buildings, and the OTM's Carnegie Library will be dressed for the season. Visitors will hear tales of the early days of Oklahoma's first capital. The Carnegie Library will be serving wassail to warm the hearts and hands of tour participants.

To learn more about all the festivities, contact Guthrie's Territorial Christmas Foundation at 405-466-7720 or email gctcf@gmail.com. Call 405-282-1889 to learn more about the OTM.

Call for proposals for 2022 Oklahoma History Symposium

The OHS is seeking proposals for the 2022 Oklahoma History Symposium, scheduled to be held on Saturday, April 9, 2022, at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. This one-day symposium offers scholars, historians, authors, and museum professionals from across the state and country a forum to share their work with history enthusiasts.

This year's theme is "Perspectives in History." Proposed sessions must be 30 or 50 minutes in length including time for audience questions, and may include traditional presentations, research sessions, discussion sessions, or panels.

Professional development sessions will be offered on outreach; the social, cultural, and political impact of archives and exhibits; and topics on collections management.

Proposals will be considered on a wide range of Oklahoma topics from traditionally underrepresented voices. Possible subjects include African American history, archaeology, civil rights, the Five Tribes, folklife, genealogy, immigration, ethnicity, Plains tribes, the territorial era, and women's history. 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 Tuesday, November 30, 2021. For more information about the symposium, please visit www.okhistory.org/perspectives.



Scan this QR code to learn more about the Oklahoma History Symposium.



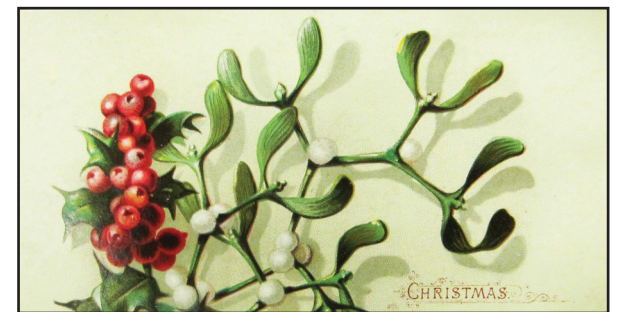
From left to right: Muscogee leader Chitto Harjo, newspaper editor and journalist Elva Shartel Ferguson, and Representative A. C. Hamlin (OHS collections)

Multicultural officer position open

The Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) is seeking a full-time multicultural officer. The primary responsibility of this position will be to develop program and outreach initiatives focused on Oklahoma's diverse heritage and historically underrepresented communities. This position also will perform a wide range of administrative duties in the recently formed OHS Multicultural Office. Duties will initially include helping with the creation of a strategic plan and organizing day-to-day operations for the new office.

The OHS Multicultural Office was established in 2020 to create a more diverse and inclusive state historical narrative that will fully represent and engage all Oklahomans. Subsequently, the Friends of the OHS Multicultural Office, a 501(c)(3), was formed to support the office in fundraising endeavors and to serve as a community advisory group for the OHS.

To view the job description go to www.okhistory.org/jobs. Applications will be taken until November 30, 2021.



Happy Holidays from the Oklahoma Historical Society!

This newsletter takes its name from a holiday favorite. While the white-berried evergreen is central to the myths of Druid and Norse cultures, in our state, mistletoe (*Phoradendron serotinum*) is Oklahoma's official floral emblem. Of all of the states' symbols, mistletoe is the oldest and most controversial. Early settlers who lobbied for support of the parasitic plant at the 1893 Territorial Legislature were not necessarily aware it was a parasite, but rather touted mistletoe as the only greenery available to decorate graves during the hard winter of 1889.

For more about our state symbols, visit *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture* online at www.okhistory.org/encyclopedia.



Director's Column

By Trait Thompson
Executive Director

They say you should never give yourself a nickname, but I just can't help myself. After spending six and a half years managing the complete restoration of the Oklahoma State Capitol, I became all too aware of what happens when facilities and properties lack proper maintenance and upkeep. So, now I call myself "an evangelist for deferred maintenance." I realize it's not really a nickname that rolls off the tongue, but it accurately describes my passion for addressing the longstanding needs of our physical properties scattered across the state.

When we started the Capitol Restoration Project in 2014, the building was in dire shape. Original cast-iron plumbing had corroded, and the electrical system was antiquated. 80 percent of the building did not contain fire suppression devices, and much of the building was not compliant with ADA requirements. The roof leaked routinely, water infiltration caused the limestone to fall off, and the steel windows no longer served as much of a barrier against the elements. Thankfully, the legislature saw fit to save the Capitol and as a result, the restoration project is just a few months from completion.

We are experiencing many of the same issues at our museums and historic sites across the state. As I traveled from site to site in my first few months of being on the

job, I got a sense of déjà vu as I saw many of the same conditions that greeted me when I started the Capitol project. Roofs need to be replaced, bathrooms need to be remodeled to meet ADA requirements, plaster and paint need to be repaired in our historic buildings, windows need to be updated, historic structures from the territorial era need new siding, parking lots are failing, and the list goes on and on.

Additionally, we must make improvements to our museums and historic sites to ensure they continue to attract visitors and leave good impressions. We need to upgrade walking trails, add new educational signage, update exhibits, provide the proper environment for collections storage, upgrade audio/video equipment, and add outdoor educational spaces. These measures will ensure our properties continue to carry out our mission to collect, preserve, and share Oklahoma history.

Since the legislative session ended in May, I have been traveling the state and touring our sites with the legislators who represent each of them. We have taken time to discuss our mission with them and show them the improvements that are needed. I have pointed out that, with an annual maintenance budget of \$700,000 and millions of dollars in deferred maintenance, we will never dig out of the hole at this rate. To their credit, they have been receptive to our message and supportive of our mission.

In the spring, I plan to work with our legislators to introduce legislation for a \$40-45 million bond issue that will address many of the needs the OHS has across the state. And when the time comes, I will be asking for your help to connect with your legislators and encourage them to support this much-needed improvement package.

Development News

By Larry O'Dell

Give the gift of history this holiday season. From now until January you can buy one family membership and get a second one free. These \$75 memberships allow up to eight family members into all OHS museums and historic sites across the state. The family accepting the gift also will receive our bimonthly print newsletter, *Mistletoe Leaves*, and the OHS scholarly journal, *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*. An OHS membership permits early registration or discounted rates for certain OHS programs and events, along with a 15 percent discount at the Oklahoma History Center Museum Store and in the John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick Research Center. Read about this offer at www.okhistory.org/gift.

Although COVID has made the last year challenging, I want to thank you for your continued support and ask you to consider an end-of-year gift. Donations to the OHS Annual Giving Campaign help the organization produce educational programs, exhibits, and special events. By donating to the campaign, you help ensure our state's history will be preserved for future generations. For more information or to give, please visit www.okhistory.org/givenow or email me at lodell@okhistory.org. If you have any concerns or questions, do not hesitate to call me at 405-522-6676.



Barbara & Marvin Jirous Gallery unveiled in Perry

The Barbara & Marvin Jirous Gallery, a new gallery housing the exhibit *Another Perry Entrepreneur: Marvin "Bud" Jirous*, opened to an enthusiastic crowd of friends and colleagues on September 16, 2021, at the Cherokee Strip Museum and Rose Hill School in Perry.

The exhibit follows the arc of Marvin Jirous's career, beginning with his high school employment with the M&W Grocery Store and carrying forward to his elevation to president of the Sonic Corporation.

Those in attendance viewed the artifacts from Sonic's earliest days, exploring how Jirous made a name for himself in the restaurant industry. In 1958 Jirous ventured into business with Troy Smith and Charlie Pappe when they were franchisees of the fledgling enterprise Sonic, known then for its new motto "Service with the Speed of Sound."

By 1967 Marvin and Barbara Jirous had invested in six Sonics scattered from Alva to Arkadelphia, Arkansas, which his daughter Jeanette owned and operated in later years. He was elevated to the position of the head of Sonic's supply division that same year. Jirous became president of the company in 1973 and guided Sonic through a period of explosive growth until 1980. To learn more about the exhibit, call 580-336-2405.

Oklahoma Historical Society
Membership Office
405-522-5242
ohsmembers@okhistory.org

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.

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

Anyone denied benefits should contact the grievance manager of the Oklahoma Historical Society, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7917, telephone 405-522-5299, and/or the director, Office of Equal Opportunity, United States Department of the Interior, Washington, DC 20240.

OHS Calendar of events, programs, and exhibits

November

- 3-6 Will Rogers Motion Picture Festival, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 5 Battle of Honey Springs Education Day, Honey Springs Battlefield, Checotah
- 6 Blacksmithing Demonstrations and Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association regional meeting, Cherokee Strip Museum and Rose Hill School, Perry
- 6 History Alive! on the Cherokee Strip, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 6 Space film screening, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 6-7 Battle of Honey Springs Reenactments, Honey Springs Battlefield, Checotah
- 9 Oklahoma Route 66 Centennial Commission meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 13 *Fashions of the Overholser* exhibit closes, Henry and Anna Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City
- 13 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 13 Cast-Iron Cooking class, Chisholm Trail Museum and Horizon Hill, Kingfisher
- 13 "Let's Talk About It" Book Discussion Series, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 17 *Tony Hillerman: A Life* book signing with author James McGrath Morris, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 17 Oklahoma Historical Society Executive Committee meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 18-19 National Register of Historic Places workshop series (VIRTUAL), State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City
- 19 Museum After Dark: Lantern Tours, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 20 History Alive! on the Cherokee Strip, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 26 Movie Night featuring Will Rogers in *They Had To See Paris* (1929), Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore



Museum After Dark: Lantern Tours will occur on November 19 at CSRHC

December

- 1 "Life at Hunter's Home: Winter Celebrations" begins (VIRTUAL), Hunter's Home, Park Hill
- 1-3 Section 106 workshop series (VIRTUAL), State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City
- 3-4 Will's Country Christmas, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah
- 4 Guthrie's Distinctive Homes Tour and wassail at the Carnegie Library, Oklahoma Territorial Museum and Carnegie Library, Guthrie
- 4 Photos with Santa at the Museum, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 6 Section 106 workshop series (VIRTUAL), State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City
- 8-10 Tax Credits workshop series (VIRTUAL), State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City
- 10 Museum After Dark: Christmas in the Village, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 11 *Crossroads: Change in Rural America* exhibit closes, Fort Gibson Historic Site, Fort Gibson
- 11 Quilting workshop with Martha Ray, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 11 Photos with Santa at the Museum, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 11 Christmas Open House, Sod House Museum, Aline
- 11 Christmas at the Fort, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
- 11 Christmas Open House, Fred and Addie Drummond Home, Hominy
- 11 Pawnee Bill Ranch Holiday Open House, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
- 15 Oklahoma Historical Society Executive Committee meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 21 Winter Solstice Walks, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro
- 31 Movie Night featuring Will Rogers in *Life Begins at 40* (1935), Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 31 "Life at Hunter's Home: Winter Celebrations" ends (VIRTUAL), Hunter's Home, Park Hill



OHC Museum Store Holiday Sale



On December 3 and 4, the Oklahoma History Center (OHC) Museum Store will hold its annual Holiday Sale! During this sale each year, additional discounts are offered to OHS

members, staff, and volunteers to show appreciation for their support of the Oklahoma Historical Society. Each group receives an additional 10 percent off regularly priced merchandise. If you are not a member, the store can help get your membership started so you can enjoy a 10 percent discount during the sale.

The OHC museum store is stocked full of unique gift items related to the history and culture of Oklahoma that your friends and family are sure to love. There are a wide variety of items to meet anyone's holiday needs including toys and games, home décor, arts and crafts, and Made in Oklahoma products. Store associates are always on hand to find the perfect gift in a relaxed shopping environment.

For those unable to shop in person, a new online store with an easy-to-use interface is open at all hours of the day and night. Visit store.okhistory.org to do your holiday shopping online. While the extra discount does not apply online, regular discounts are available. All proceeds from Museum Store sales help to support the mission and programs of the Oklahoma Historical Society.

Sod House Christmas Open House

The Sod House Museum's Christmas Open House will be held on Saturday, December 11, from 1-3 p.m. Enjoy the holidays in Oklahoma's only remaining sod house that will be decorated for the season in the traditional style of the late 1800s. The museum also will be decorated for Christmas. Guests can explore exhibits, artifacts, photographs, and a root cellar surrounded by the sounds of early day songs and Christmas music. Cookies and spiced cider will be provided by the Friends of the Sod House. The Christmas Open House is free to visitors as a "thank you" for those who continue to support the museum and its efforts to educate the public about the dwelling and lifestyle of an Oklahoma pioneer.

The Sod House Museum is located southeast of Aline on State Highway 8. For more information, please call 580-463-2441.

Due to the possibility of inclement weather or COVID concerns, the events listed in the calendar are subject to change. As a precaution, please call ahead to the site you wish to visit. Please visit www.okhistory.org/calendar for a complete list of OHS events, programs, and exhibits.

SHPO receives Underrepresented Community Grant

This year, the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) was one of 14 recipients of a grant funded by the Underrepresented Community Grant Program (URC), a program of the Historic Preservation Fund and administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

The SHPO received \$50,000 for the completion of an architectural survey of Oklahoma's All-Black towns. These towns represent a unique chapter in American history, and the SHPO, in conjunction with the Oklahoma Oral History Research Program at Oklahoma State University and the OHS's John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick Research Center, want to help the remaining All-Black town residents share their histories and document their past.

In Oklahoma, from 1865 to 1920, many Black men and women came together to establish, occupy, and govern their own communities, creating more than 50 identifiable towns and settlements in Oklahoma. A new interactive storyboard, *All Black Towns of Oklahoma: Remembering Safe Havens*, was completed earlier this year by Marcus Young, SHPO GIS specialist. This online resource is replete with maps, alphabetical listings, descriptions, audio recordings, and photographs relating to All-Black towns. To access the content, and learn how you can help preserve the history of these communities, go to www.bit.ly/abtok.



Cast-Iron Cooking class

On Saturday, November 13, from noon to 4 p.m. the Chisholm Trail Museum and Horizon Hill in Kingfisher will hold a casual and fun Cast-Iron Cooking class. Participants will learn to care for and cook in cast-iron cookware while creating a Dutch oven delight and joining in the preparation of a group meal. The class will explore historical and modern recipes that can be easily prepared at any campsite. All materials needed for the class will be provided. This class is restricted to adults and children 10 and older. The cost for the class is \$25 per person, or \$40 per pair, and preregistration is required. Please contact the museum at 405-375-5176 to reserve your place.



Battle of Honey Springs reenactments

On Saturday, November 6, and Sunday, November 7, the biennial reenactments of the Civil War Battle of Honey Springs will take place at Honey Springs Battlefield near Checotah.

On both days, special presentations will be made before the Battle of Honey Springs reenactments take place at 1 p.m. The reenactment camps will open to the public at 10 a.m.

The Battle of Honey Springs reenactments show the largest of approximately 107 documented Civil War military engagements in present-day Oklahoma. The engagement took place on July 17, 1863, just two weeks after the famous Battles of Gettysburg and Vicksburg. Approximately 9,000 Union and Confederate troops, mostly American Indians and African Americans, were involved in the Battle of Honey Springs. Of those, approximately 200 total casualties were suffered. After a decisive Union victory, Confederates lost control of Indian Territory north of the Arkansas River. The Union victory also ensured Federal control of Fort Gibson in Indian Territory and Fort Smith in Arkansas.

Admission is \$10 for adults, and children 12 and under are free. For more information regarding this event and Honey Springs Battlefield, please call 918-473-5572.

Museum After Dark events at CSRHC

The Museum After Dark series of regular monthly programs are unique opportunities for people to experience the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center (CSRHC) in Enid after regular business hours.

On Friday, November 19, the CSRHC will host its annual Lantern Tours as a part of this series. Costumed interpreters will host entertaining and educational vignettes in each of the four buildings of the Humphrey Heritage Village. Visitors will step back in time to early-day Enid where they will attend a school board meeting, listen to a church sermon, visit the 1893 US Land Office, stroll past the Glidewell Bordello, and encounter a few more surprises along the way.

The following month, on Friday, December 10, from 5 to 9 p.m., the family can experience a Victorian Christmas in Humphrey Heritage Village. Visitors will feel

Pawnee Bill Ranch Holiday Open House

On Saturday, December 11, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum (PBR) will host its annual Holiday Open House from 1–4 p.m. Visitors can view seasonal decorations throughout the home of the world-renowned Wild West Show entertainer Gordon W. "Pawnee Bill" Lillie. Holiday decorations will adorn some of the outbuildings at the 500-acre working ranch. Family-friendly, festive activities will include outdoor surrey rides (weather permitting), children's crafts, and door prizes. Hot cocoa and cookies will be served.

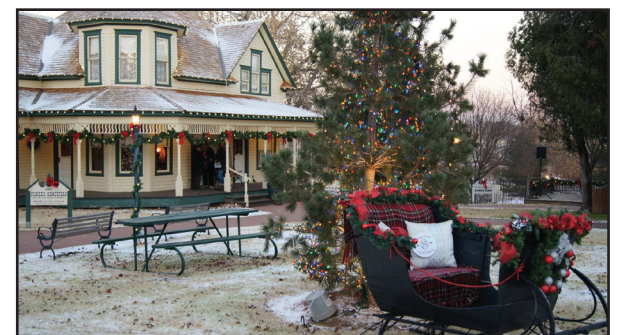
Guests are encouraged to stop by the Pawnee Bill Ranch Museum Store for everyone on their gift list. From bison-themed gifts to western-themed toys, fragrances, jewelry, and books, the store has a variety of unique gifts for all ages. If you are not able to visit in person, check out the PBR Museum Store online at www.mkt.com/pbranch. To find out more about the Holiday Open House, call 918-762-2513.



OKC Culture Boxes are available for \$50 from the OHC Museum Store.

the warmth of holiday cheer by hearing Christmas carols echoing throughout the village from local children's choirs as they tour the Victorian-era Glidewell House. Local craftsmen and reenactors will be at the event. Many family-friendly activities are planned including ornament decorating, crafts for the kids, cocoa, cookies, and a visit from Father Christmas.

For more information about the Museum After Dark series, please call 580-237-1907.



New Oklahoma National Register listings

The Oklahoma Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is pleased to announce six new National Register of Historic Places listings for Oklahoma. The National Register of Historic Places is our nation's official list of properties significant in our past.



Automobile Alley Historic District

The Automobile Alley Historic District, located in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1999 under Criterion A for its commercial significance as Oklahoma City's automobile retailing center during the first half of the 20th century. The boundary increase area added to the NRHP in 2021 allows for inclusion of a key resource that tangibly linked the car dealers to the auto manufacturers during the period. Erected in 1926 for the Chevrolet Motor Company, 1 Northwest Sixth Street (originally addressed as 7 Northwest Sixth Street) served as the state and regional distribution point for the Chevrolet Motor Company until 1954. The Automobile Alley Historic District also was listed under Criterion C for Architecture as an architecturally significant collection of one- and two-story Commercial-style buildings related to the automobile industry. The contributing building in the boundary increase area is a good example of one of the larger Commercial-style buildings constructed in the area during the period of significance.

Extending the boundary east of North Broadway Avenue all the way to the Santa Fe Railway's elevated track also allows the Automobile Alley Historic District to reflect the impact that elevating the track in the early 1930s had on the area, specifically related to the physical and visual separation between the historic automobile retailing area and the industrial/warehouse area to the east.



Sidney and Mary Lyons Residence and Commercial Historic District

The Sidney and Mary Lyons Residence and Commercial Historic District, located in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, was listed in the NRHP under Criterion A at the local level of significance for Commerce and Ethnic Heritage: Black; under Criterion B at the local level of significance for its affiliation with Sidney and Mary Lyons and with Melvin F. Luster; and under Criterion C at the local level of significance for Architecture. The period of significance is from 1912, the approximate construction date of the bungalow at 304 Northeast Third Street, to Mary Lyons's death in 1957. The district features a grand, Italian Renaissance Revival-style residence at 300 Northeast Third Street known today as the Melvin F. Luster House. The house was built for Sidney Lyons in 1926 shortly after his marriage to Mary Jennie Luster. Ancillary buildings within the historic district reflect the commercial interests of the Lyons/Luster family, most notably cosmetics and real estate. The East India Toilet Goods Manufacturing Company Building at 316 North Central Avenue, built in 1922, sold hair products and cosmetics to African American women across the United States. The bungalow at 304 Northeast Third Street was a rental property owned by the Lyons/Luster family for more than 70 years. Together, these resources represent a unique collection of architectural styles and reflect the commercial and cultural vitality of African American neighborhoods in Oklahoma City during the early 20th century.



Whittier School

Whittier School, located in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, was listed in the NRHP under Criterion A at the local level of significance for Education and under Criterion C at the local level of significance for Architecture. The period of significance is from 1910 to 1957. Built in 1910 (with additions completed in 1919 and 1923), Whittier School was designed in the Classical Revival architectural style by Solomon Andrew Layton, who was Oklahoma's most prominent architect during the early 20th century. Whittier School was also the site of a Works Progress Administration-sponsored "nursery school," which provided Oklahoma City's

only public preschool program during the late 1930s and early 1940s. The Oklahoma City Board of Education closed Whittier School in 1957, citing increased maintenance costs and declining student enrollment.



Lytton Building-Masonic Hall

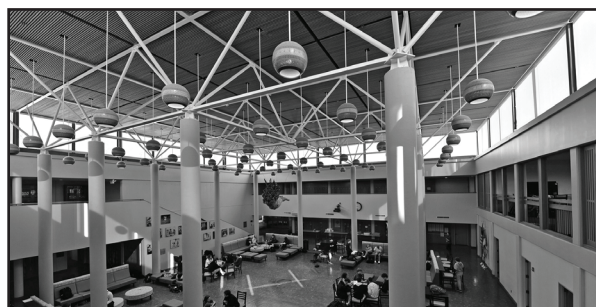
The Lytton Building-Masonic Hall, located in Stillwater, Payne County, was listed in the NRHP at the local level under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an example of a territorial-era, three-story, brick Commercial-style building with two distinguishing, unusual features. The first significant feature is the third floor, which was added, operated, and owned separately by the Frontier Lodge No. 6 Ancient Free and Accepted Masons (A. F. & A. M.). While it was not uncommon for a local Masonic organization to build a building or rent space in an upper floor of a downtown building, it was unusual for the Masons, or really any party, to independently build an upper floor separate from the lower floors. The second significant feature that distinguishes the Lytton Building-Masonic Hall from other buildings of its type and period is the interior upper floor stairs with an original side opening in the party wall that, as agreed between the owner of the lower two floors of the Lytton Building-Masonic Hall and the owner of the adjoining Pierce Building, allowed interior access to the second floor of the Pierce Building. Both architecturally defining features were part of the 1901 construction of the Lytton Building-Masonic Hall. The hyphenated name of "Lytton Building-Masonic Hall" is used in this nomination to distinguish the lower two floors from the third floor. From the 1900s to the 1940s, the Masons consistently referred to their portion of the building as "Masonic Hall," as documented in the meeting notes in the local newspaper.



Daniel Webster High School

cont. on p. 6

Daniel Webster High School Historic District, located in Tulsa, Tulsa County, was listed in the NRHP at the local level of significance under Criterion A, Education and Ethnic Heritage: Black, as the first public school in the Tulsa Public School District, and possibly in northeastern Oklahoma, to end school segregation and integrate after the *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* US Supreme Court ruling in 1954. The school enrolled its first African American students in the fall of 1955. It is also eligible under Criterion A for its early experimental use of the Progressive Education Program in the 1930s–40s, and for its association with the New Deal programs of the 1930s–40s. Daniel Webster High School was also listed in the NRHP under Criterion C due to the architectural style of the primary buildings. The architects chose to build the main building and gymnasium for Daniel Webster High School in the Art Deco style, which was popular at the time, though it was rare for Public Works Administration (PWA) projects to exhibit elaborate architectural styles and detailing. Additionally, Daniel Webster High School's stadium is an excellent example of a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project. The WPA hired locals to complete civic projects to provide employment during the Great Depression, and projects often included school buildings and facilities. The significant dates for this district are 1938, which was the year the main building and gym were constructed under the PWA; 1941, which was the year the stadium was constructed under the WPA; and 1955, which was the year it became an integrated school. Its period of significance is from 1938–1970, to include the date of construction of the primary buildings, the Progressive Education Program curriculum and the integration of African Americans into the school in 1955.



Holland Hall Upper School

The Holland Hall Upper School, located in Tulsa, Tulsa County, is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a representation of the late career work of architect O'Neil Ford (1905–1982). Based in Texas, Ford created architecture heavily influenced by the landscape in which it was designed and constructed, and although most of his work was in Texas, Ford projects can be found in New York, Illinois, Colorado, Wyoming, Florida, and Oklahoma. The

Holland Hall Upper School is one of three projects Ford designed and constructed in Oklahoma. All three projects were in Tulsa, including two residences. The school was his final project in the state. Ford designed the Holland Hall Upper School beginning in 1967, two years after partnering with two associates to create the architecture firm Ford, Powell & Carson. Holland Hall was established in 1922 as an independent school. The campus on East 81st Street is the fifth and largest iteration of the school. Between 1970 and 1981, Holland Hall slowly relocated from its Birmingham Place campus just southeast of downtown to the East 81st Street location. Built in 1970, the Upper School was the first complex on the new site. The Primary School opened in 1976, and the Middle School opened in 1981. Ford, Powell & Carson designed the entire campus; however, Ford was most directly associated with the design of the Upper School Academic Building and Gymnasium Building—the two contributing buildings. Due to the connection to Ford, the period of significance for the Upper School is 1970, the year these two buildings opened.

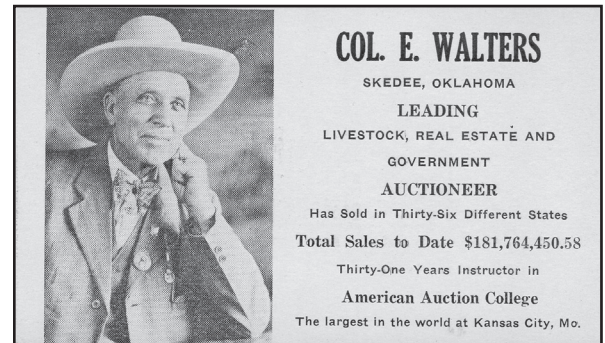
Vintage fashions on display at the Overholser

The *Fashions of the Overholser* exhibit is now open at the Henry and Anna Overholser Mansion through November 13, 2021. Cocktail dresses, gowns, casual wear, shoes, and handbags, along with period clothing donated to the mansion over the years is on display in all the rooms of the historic home. Some of the items were once a part of Anna Overholser and Henry Ione Overholser Perry's wardrobes. This is a good opportunity to get an up-close look at fashions from the first half of the 20th century through items from the Oklahoma Historical Society collections. Museum personnel will be on-hand to answer questions. Call 405-525-5325 for further information.

Space film screening at the OHC

Visit the Oklahoma History Center on Saturday, November 6, at 1 p.m. to watch a film on the history of the US space program and Oklahomans connected to it. This film is shown in conjunction with the exhibit *Launch to Landing: Oklahomans and Space*. This program is free with paid admission to the Oklahoma History Center. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for seniors and students. Admission is free for OHS members, children under five, and active-duty military, veterans, and dependents (with ID).

From the OHS Archives: Auctioneer for the Osage



By Jan H. Richardson

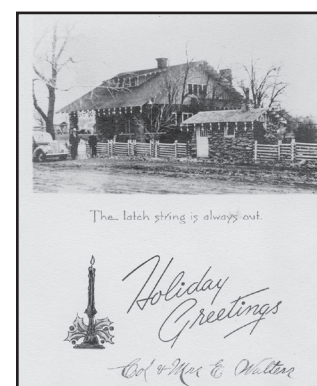
An unusual first name can help a person stand out in a crowd. Colonel Ellsworth Walters was named after the first Union casualty during the Civil War, and he became a US marshal at 19. By the age of 30 he was one of the foremost auctioneers in the United States, and in 1916 the Osage Nation hired him to preside over all mineral rights auctions for the tribe.

As the “Auctioneer for the Osage,” it is estimated that leases auctioned by Walters earned over \$150 million for the Osage by 1928. Adjusted for inflation, that would be approximately \$2.25 billion in today's dollars. For over 20 years, he presided over the most expensive oil leases sold. David Grann highlighted Walters's work in the book *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*, which brought increased scrutiny to the lawlessness and greed that was associated with the oil industry during this period.

The Colonel Ellsworth Walters Collection, M2017.231, consists of five legal boxes, one oversize box, and contains information about the life and career of Walters. It also includes information about his wife, Lola May Walters, and daughter, Vesta Barkley Walters Kelley. The collection is available for viewing in the OHS's John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick Research Center Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. The Research Center is located on the first floor of the Oklahoma History Center.

For more information and appointments, please call 405-522-5225 or email research@okhistory.org.

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



A signed holiday greeting card in this collection carries the welcoming message, “The latch string is always out.”

Christmas at the Fort

Fort Towson Historic Site will host Christmas at the Fort on Saturday, December 11, from 1 to 3 p.m. There will be riding tours of the grounds, which will end at the Sutler's Store. Inside the store guests can enjoy holiday decorations and coffee, hot cocoa, cider, and treats. Bring a camera because there will be plenty of opportunities to take photos with Santa! Fort Towson Historic Site is located approximately 14 miles east of Hugo on US Highway 70 in Fort Towson. For more information please call 580-873-2634.



"Let's Talk About It" Book Discussion Series meets in November

Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum in Pawnee has partnered with Oklahoma Humanities (OH) to host OH's Book Discussion Series called "Let's Talk About It." The featured book for November is Barbara Kingsolver's *Pigs in Heaven* (Harper Collins, 1993), led by scholar Dr. John Coward. The museum will provide all the books, refreshments, and the venue. All participants need to bring is the desire to add to the discussion. This program is free to the public. For more information, call 918-762-2513 or come by the museum to sign up for the program and take home the latest book in the series.

Kilgen performance planned for January 24

The Oklahoma History Center is pleased to announce a performance in the Kilgen Organ series featuring organist Clark Wilson. This performance will be January 24 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

A native of Ohio, Wilson began his musical training at age nine. While growing up he accompanied numerous stage musicals and was organist at several churches. Tickets are \$10 for Oklahoma Historical Society members and \$20 for nonmembers, and may be reserved by calling 405-522-0765. Doors will open at 6 p.m. and seating is on a first-come, first-served basis, so reserve your tickets today!



New flock at Park Hill

Talking about livestock in December is the kind of subject that evokes thoughts of a partridge in a pear tree. In the old traditional Christmas carol there are maids, drummers, pipers, and lords, along with a number of swans, geese, calling birds, french hens, and turtle doves, but somehow, the carol is lacking in sheep!

This season, Hunter's Home in Park Hill is tending over a flock of its newest staff members—a small herd of sheep that came to the greener pastures of the historic antebellum property all the way from Minnesota. The sheep have been busy tending to the grounds of the historic site and getting to know Milo, an Australian shepherd pup who also came to Hunter's Home this summer to watch over the woolly newcomers.

While spring shearing is a long way off, these ewes will play a big part in producing a variety of wool planned for use in the site's spring programs. We can imagine that the cumulative carol could be altered to include four sheep "a-bleating," and one shepherd pup. After all, the new additions are something the folks at Hunter's Home are happy enough to sing about.

Winter Solstice Walks

On Tuesday, December 21, 2021, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center will host guided walks to discover how prehistoric, Indigenous peoples incorporated seasonal astronomy into their cultural celebrations and patterns of living.

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.

To prehistoric civilizations, the winter season marked a time when Indigenous farmers halted their farming activities. This naturally became a period of rest, renewal, and preparation. The winter solstice, marking the shortest day of the year, was celebrated as the day that daylight began to increase leading toward spring and summer.

The 2 p.m. walk will end just before sunset, which is when the alignment with some of the mounds 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 experienced archaeologist. For more information contact the site at 918-962-2062 or spiro@okhistory.org.

Will Rogers Motion Picture Festival

The Will Rogers Memorial Museum and Birthplace Ranch will celebrate the 142nd birthday of Oklahoma's Favorite Son with the virtual Will Rogers Motion Picture Festival Wednesday, November 3, through Saturday, November 6. Many activities are planned to honor the memory of Will Rogers, Cherokee cowboy philosopher and movie actor. 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.



The annual wreath laying ceremony on Will Rogers's birthday will take place at the WRMM as a part of the Will Rogers Motion Picture Festival events.



Will Rogers Country Christmas

On Friday, December 3, and Saturday, December 4, from 5 to 9 p.m., Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch in Oologah will be celebrating Will's Country Christmas.

The ranch house will be decorated for an Indian Territory Christmas. The evening will include storytelling, Wild West shootouts, children's crafts, 19th-century games, carriage rides, a shooting gallery, music, vendors, and food trucks. This is a great opportunity to wear your favorite holiday outfit and take a photo with Santa! Guests also will have the opportunity to take a Wild West hayride by the shores of Oologah Lake. Admission to Will's Country Christmas is free, but there is a charge of \$5 for the hayride for guests ages 15 and older.

Santa also will be on hand to take photos at the Will Rogers Memorial Museum on Saturday, December 4, and Saturday, December 11, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring your family and your camera to take your family Christmas card pictures with Santa. Admission is free to take photos. For more information please visit www.willrogers.com or call 918-341-0719.

Oklahoma Historical Society
800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7917

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PERIODICALS



Vol. 52, No. 6

November/December 2021

University of Oklahoma student newspapers available to read online

The Oklahoma Historical Society recently partnered with the Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center (CACRSC) to digitize the University of Oklahoma's (OU) student newspapers, including all issues from 1897 to 2017.

The project is completed, with 9,557 OU student newspapers available to research, read, and revisit on the Gateway to Oklahoma History (gateway.okhistory.org). The University of Oklahoma Student Newspapers Collection is made up of work produced across various publications that have chronicled the evolution of OU since its earliest days.

The collection includes the *Sooner State Press*, which was founded by H. H. Herbert as a teaching tool of the School of Journalism from 1920–75. Between 1897–1903 the first student-run, semiweekly newspaper was published under the name *University Umpire*. In 1903 the paper was renamed the *University Oklahoman*—a title it held until 1916. On September 18, 1916, under the leadership of editor Willard H. Campbell, the paper changed its title once more, to the *Oklahoma Daily*. It holds that name to this day, though in recent years it has commonly been known in name and branding simply as the *OU Daily*, or the *Daily*.

In all its forms, for more than 100 years, the *Daily* has been the only independent, student-run media outlet dedicated to serving OU's students, faculty, staff, and alumni on campus, in the state, and around the world. The paper has won 47 major national organization awards, making it one of the nation's leading college newsrooms.

As with every collection on the Gateway to Oklahoma History, these newspapers can be explored by resource type, decade, and title. In addition, each issue can be searched for specific wording, while individual pages can be enlarged and downloaded.

This collection was digitized with the generous support of the Inasmuch Foundation in 2020. The grant has provided the CACRSC, OU, and the OHS the opportunity to make these indispensable community resources available online, free of charge.

CACRSC is a unique and nonpartisan institution that strengthens representative democracy through scholarship, learning, and service. Established in 1979 by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the Board of Regents of OU, the center is a living tribute to the ideals, leadership, and accomplishments of the Honorable Carl Albert, native Oklahoman, University of Oklahoma alumnus, Rhodes Scholar, and 46th speaker of the US House of Representatives.



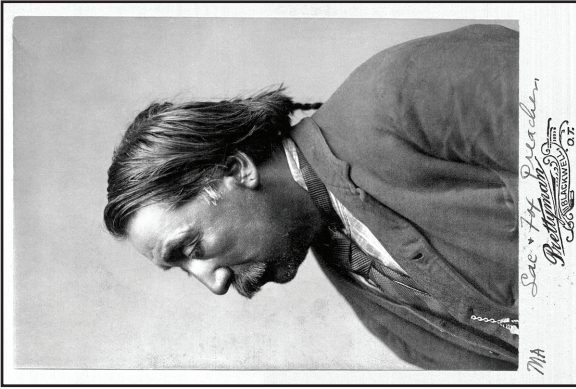
Smithsonian
Affiliate Membership Program

Sun and Silver: Photography Before Statehood captures life in the territories

A new Oklahoma History Center (OHC) exhibit entitled *Sun and Silver: Photography Before Statehood* will display the work of 12 photographers who captured images of landscapes, people, events, and places of Oklahoma and Indian Territories before 1907. The work in the exhibit ranges from pictures taken by professional traveling and studio photographers to lesser-known amateurs.

One of the featured photographers in the exhibit is Jennie Ross Cobb (1881–1959), who is considered to be the first known Native American female photographer in Indian Territory. Cobb was the great-granddaughter of Cherokee Nation Principal Chief John Ross. Others in the exhibit came from as far away as Maine and Vermont to set up photography studios in storefronts and rail cars to document life on the plains. Their collective work captured numerous images of Indian and Oklahoma Territories during the turbulent time leading up to statehood.

Sun and Silver also highlights early photographic equipment and processes, including magical images on mirror-like, silver-coated copper surfaces (daguerreotypes), mysterious fragile glass negatives (wet-plate photography), and unique, blue-toned prints (cyanotypes). The exhibit will be on display in the West Atrium Wing and Gallery of the OHC through October 2022. The OHC is located at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in Oklahoma City.



Oklahoma Daily, December 19, 1941, 1