



Mistletoe Leaves



Vol. 37, No. 11

Published monthly by the Oklahoma Historical Society, serving since 1893

November 2006

Indian Code Talkers exhibit opens in November at Oklahoma History Center

On Thursday, November 9, from 5:30 to 9 p.m., OHS members will be treated to a special opening of the Oklahoma Museum of History's latest exhibit, *Hidden Voices, Coded Words*, at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. A special feature will be a lecture by Dr. William Meadows, author of *Comanche Code Talkers*, on Thursday evening starting at 5:30 p.m. All members of the Oklahoma Historical Society are invited to attend. The exhibit opens to the general public at 9 a.m. on November 10.

The new display actually combines two exhibits. The first, which was produced by the Oklahoma Museum of History staff, is entitled *Hidden Voices, Coded Words*. The second, entitled *Native Words, Native Warriors*, was developed by the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian.

"We were approached by the Smithsonian earlier this year about hosting their exhibit," said Jeff Moore, Director of Exhibits for OMH. "The Navajo Code Talkers have received lots of press over the years, but we also knew that there was more we needed to tell about the Choctaw and Comanche Code Talkers from Oklahoma." In 1917, 15 Choctaw soldiers serving in France provided an opportunity for the U.S. Army to secure military communications from eavesdropping. The venture was so successful that before the beginning of World War II, the army recruited 17 Comanches to develop a code based on the Comanche language.

"In developing the title *Hidden Voices, Coded Words* several thoughts arose," said Tara Damron, OMH Assistant Curator of American Indian Collections. She added that "'hidden voices, coded words' refers to the inability of the German and Japanese

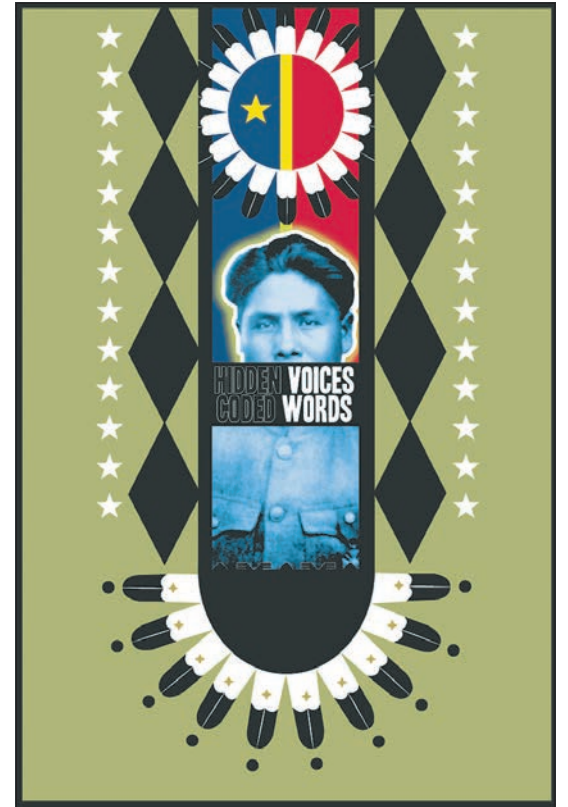
troops to understand the [Indian] languages that they heard on telephone lines and radio waves. The very nature of the Code Talkers was to hide their voices and words in plain sight. On another level, it refers to the largely unknown history of In-



Comanche Code Talkers (National Archives photo).

dian Code Talkers in American history."

The OMH staff had several objectives for the new exhibit. They wanted to tell stories that were not widely known. They wanted to illustrate how these Oklahoma men fit into the larger story of Code Talkers in two wars, and they wanted to show that these Indian men, who used their languages to help win wars, came home and led the movement to preserve their tribes' languages and cultures. "The most important part of this exhibit is that they were fighting for the survival of their languages and cultures as much as they were fighting for the military," said Matt Reed, Curator of American Indian Collections.



Code talker Joseph Oklahombi is featured in an image from the exhibit (Graphic image by Ryan Red Corn).

During their research, the staff discovered that men from the Pawnee, Creek, Seminole, Kiowa, Cherokee, Osage, Cheyenne, and Sac and Fox also used their languages during combat to send messages. The activities of the Code Talkers saved many American lives during two world wars. *Hidden Voices, Coded Words* and *Native Words, Native Warriors* will extend from November 10, 2006, to January 15, 2007.



The Liberty Bell is removed from the Wiley Post Building (Photo courtesy Legislative Service Bureau Photo Division).



The cannon is reset at the Oklahoma History Center (D. Everett photo).

Monuments moved to new Oklahoma History Center

On September 12 two familiar guardians of the Wiley Post Building, OHS's former home in the Capitol Complex at 2100 N. Lincoln Blvd., were removed from their moorings and reinstalled at the Oklahoma History Center, three blocks away, at 2401 N. Laird Ave. Allied Steel supplied the equipment that accomplished the task.

The Liberty Bell and the Civil War cannon now reside on the east grounds of the History Center.



Director's Column

By **Bob L. Blackburn**
Executive Director

In history, there are many ways to tell a story.

The voice can be narrative history, descriptive history, or even expository history. The organization can vary from a comprehensive survey to a compressed time line, and from institutional history to biography.

Last year, Blake Wade and the Centennial Commission asked Paul Lambert and me to write a book for the centennial. It had to cover the sweep of state history, but Blake left the format and style to us.

Instead of another survey history, which has been done many times by excellent historians, we decided to take a new approach. We chose biography.

The book tells the story of Oklahoma through the lives and actions of its people. Each biography, arranged in rough chronological order, advances the story of the territory and state using the macro lens of one person.

For example, the book starts with the story of Robert M. Jones, a Choctaw who was forced west on the Trail of Tears to the Indian Territory. There, he imported the first cotton gin to the territory, acquired several plantations, and ran two riverboats on the Red River.

When the Civil War began, he served as a delegate from the Indian Territory to the

Confederate Congress in Richmond, then negotiated with the Union after the war on behalf of the Choctaw Nation. The home site of one of his plantations, Rose Hill, is owned by the Oklahoma Historical Society today.

The concluding story follows the life of Lawrence Hart, a modern-day Cheyenne Peace Chief who grew up under the watchful eye of his full-blood grandparents, then became a gifted athlete, college graduate, Marine jet-fighter pilot, and Mennonite minister. His life, filled with the search for balance and harmony, reflects the richness of the Oklahoma experience.

In between are stories of businessmen and women, educators, town builders, farmers, and patriots. Some of the names will be recognized by many readers, while others will be unfamiliar to most. Together, their stories form a tapestry of the state's diversity and energy.

Supplementing the text are two visual threads. One is a series of historical paintings and photographs that reflects the march of history over the past two hundred years. The other visual story is carried by contemporary four-color photographs of historic sites still accessible to visitors. Hopefully, this link will emphasize that history is not just some distant, abstract memory, but rather an integral and approachable part of our world today.

The book will be released on November 16, 2006, just as the year-long celebration of Oklahoma history begins. All proceeds will go to the Centennial Commission.

Yes, in history there are many ways to tell a story. And what a story it is.



Development News

By **Tim Zwink**

It's hard to believe, but in a few short weeks we'll be in the holiday season again. It will be that time to think about finding unique gifts for the special people in our lives.

While you are shopping or putting together your gift list, please keep in mind the "Oklahoma Centennial Calendar for 2007," featuring images of the 50 most significant events in Oklahoma history. The family member or friend who enjoys Oklahoma history and vintage photographs will find this calendar captivating.

Or, you might also consider our "Centennial Coin." With the State seal on one side and the Osage war shield from the state flag on the other, this attractive coin will make a great gift for any coin collector or someone who appreciates Oklahoma history. The coins come in antique bronze, 24K gold plate, and .999 fine silver.

You can view images of sample calendar pages and the coins at <www.calendarok.com>. We have a limited number of the calendars and coins available for purchase through the OHS Gift Shop. So if you need a special gift, you can order the calendars or coins directly from the Gift Shop by calling 405/522-5214 or by email at <giftshop@okhistory.org>.

Proceeds from the sale of these calendars and coins will go to support the Oklahoma Historical Society. What a way to give a one-of-a-kind gift and benefit the preservation of Oklahoma history at the same time!



New Members Annual

Anderson, Phyllis, Hemet, CA
Barrow, Caroline, Yukon
Bartley, Randy, Coweta
Brown, Denise, Marietta
Bussell, Lynn A., Enid
Cantrell, Judy A., Houston, TX
Clark, Velma R., Oklahoma City
Clifton, John D., Edmond
Corn, Margaret A., Oklahoma City
Arnold, William, Guthrie
Gallup, Michael, Stratford
Gruber, Nancy S., Dallas, TX
Harris, Charles D., Oklahoma City
Holleman, Tomia, Van Buren, AR
Howard, Robert M., Edmond
Mauldin, Dorothy J., Wagoner
Morris, Casi, Bartlesville
Owen, William E., Oklahoma City
Sellers, Mrs. R. V., Tulsa
Stone, Bobbie J., Oklahoma City
Stone, Joe G., McLoud
Terry, Harriet, Oklahoma City
Tolson, Robbie, Oklahoma City
Verges, Michelle C., Spencer
Wilson, Steven, San Jose, CA

Family

Barnett, Tom & Betty, Norman
Bemo, Robert F., Jr., Edmond
Bize, Trey & Susan, Edmond
Churchill, Florence D., Tulsa
Dunn, Christopher, Watonga
Kruger, Mr. & Mrs. Noel C., Oklahoma City
Melton, Lt. Col. William R. & Rosemarie, Oklahoma City
Naples, Anthony & Alison, Norman
Spencer, Larry O. & Ora M., Tinker AFB, OK
Thompson, Ann, Oklahoma City
Verges, Stephen R. & Linda K., Spencer

Friend

Pirrong, Barbara, Oklahoma City

Institutional

Casady School, Oklahoma City

Oklahoma Historical Society Publications Division

Editorial Office: 405/522-4860

Dianna Everett, Ph.D., Editor

Linda D. Wilson, Assistant Editor

William E. Siemens, Graphic Artist

Membership Office: Alma Moore

405/522-5242

<ohsmembers@okhistory.org>

Mistletoe Leaves (USPS 018-315) is published monthly by the Oklahoma Historical Society, 2401 N. Laird Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7914. Periodicals postage paid at Oklahoma City, OK. (ISSN 1932-0108)

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Mistletoe Leaves*, 2401 N. Laird Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7914.

By authorization of the Oklahoma Historical Society's Board of Directors, 5,100 copies are prepared at a cost of \$1025.00 each month. 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 Oklahoma Historical Society in partial fulfillment of the Society's purpose to "preserve and perpetuate the history of Oklahoma and its people, to stimulate popular interest in historical study and research, and to promote and disseminate historical knowledge."

The public and OHS members are encouraged to submit heritage-related items for publication. Students and teachers are invited to share studies and programs and to duplicate contents as desired. Editors are welcome to reprint materials with credit.

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

Anyone denied benefits should contact the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Historical Society, 2401 N. Laird Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7914, telephone 405/521-2491, and/or the Director, Office of Equal Opportunity, United States Department of the Interior, Washington, DC 20240.



Events

Will Rogers Day annual events begin on Wednesday, November 1, from 6 to 7 p.m. at **Tulsa's** Greenwood Cultural Center. Presentation of the Will Rogers Spirit Award and Will Rogers interpreter Doug Watson are on the program of the Will Rogers Rotary Tulsa Gala. For ticket information, phone 918/688-2319.

At **Oologah** on Friday, November 3 at 10 a.m. a birthday party complete with cake, a children's music presentation, and a Wild West Show exhibition will take place at Will Rogers Ranch. (Special to ML)

Claremore's Will Rogers Memorial Museum will host the Cherokee Indian Women's Pocahontas Club in laying a wreath and giving a memorial tribute to Will Rogers. The event will occur at 2 p.m. on November 3. November 4 at 2 p.m. a Will Rogers Day Parade will proceed down Will Rogers Boulevard in Claremore. For information call Will Rogers Memorial Museum, 918/341-0719. (Special to ML)

Miami's Little Theater will present *Barefoot in the Park* at the Coleman Theatre on November 2-4 at 7:30 p.m. and on November 5 at 2 p.m. Also, the Midwest Regional Ballet will present the *Nutcracker Suite* on Saturday, November 11 at 7 p.m. and again on Sunday, November 12 at 2:30 p.m. Phone 918/540-2425 or visit the web site <www.colemantheatre.org>. (Fall 2006 *Friends of the Coleman Newsletter*)

Oklahoma City's Oklahoma History Center, 2401 North Laird Ave., will be the venue for the Oklahoma Genealogical Society's November 6 meeting. At 6 p.m. in the Chesapeake Events Center at the History Center, OHS photography archivist Chester Cowan will give a presentation on how to date your family photographs. (Special to ML)

Oklahoma City's National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, through support from Ford and Oklahoma's Ford dealers, is offering a special promotion of free public admission on Wednesdays through November 22, 2006. While admission is free on Wednesdays, groups of ten or more are encouraged to make advance reservations to help facilitate their visit. Call 405/478-2250. (Special to ML)

Tahlequah's Cherokee Heritage Center is hosting a bow-making class on November 18 and a gourd-carving class on December 2, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. Registration costs \$30. For preregistration call Tonia Weavel at 918/456-6007 or toll free

at 888/999-6007, or e-mail her at <education@cherokeeheritage.org>. (Special to ML)

Exhibits

Norman's Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art has two exhibitions, the *Photographs by Charles Henri Ford* and *Harold Stevenson: The Great Society*, showing through December 31, 2006. Ford's photographs depict famous artists and writers as well as street scenes from New York, Rome, and Katmandu. The work of Oklahoma-born artist Stevenson is highlighted in a series of his paintings that feature the faces of people from McClain County. For more information visit <www.ou.edu/fjma> or call 405/325-3272. (Fall 2006 *OMA Muse News*)

Tulsa's Gilcrease Museum is the venue for the exhibit entitled *John James Audubon: American Artist and Naturalist*. The exhibition, which runs through January 1, 2007, features Audubon's works in watercolors, oil paintings, in color lithographs, and in hand-colored engravings. (Fall 2006 *OMA Muse News*)

The **Oklahoma City** National Memorial Museum offers a special exhibit on display through January 15, 2007. *Behind the Scene: The OK Bomb Investigation* provides crime-scene photographs, evidence including parts of the Ryder truck, and accounts from FBI agents involved in the bombing investigation. Call 405/235-3313 or visit <www.oklahomacitynationalmemorial.org>. (Fall 2006 *OMA Muse News*)

Writings

KSB Promotions in Ada, Michigan, is announcing the December 2006 publication date for the 128-page book entitled *Chickasaw: Unconquered and Unconquerable*. Published by the Chickasaw Press in association with Graphic Arts Center Publishing, the work includes an introduction by Bill Anoatubby, governor of the Chickasaw Nation, photography by David Fitzgerald, and essays by Jeannie Barbour, Amanda Cobb, and Linda Hogan. It has 125 four-color photographs, a bibliography, and an index. Cost of the hard-cover book will be \$45. It will be available at bookstores nationwide or on the Internet at sites <www.gacpc.com> or <www.chickasaw.net> or by calling 1-800/452-3032. (Special to ML)

Call for Papers

Tahlequah's Northeastern State University is hosting the 2007 annual meeting of the Oklahoma Association of Professional Historians on March 2-3, 2007. Student and faculty papers and panels are welcome. The deadline for abstracts is January 31, 2007, and the deadline for students to submit their papers to judges is February 15, 2007. Send abstracts and student papers to: Professor Michael Rogers, Seminary Hall, Northeastern State University, 609 N. Grand Ave., Tahlequah, OK, 74464. Reach him at 918/456-5511, ext. 3518 or by e-mail at <rogersm@nsuok.edu>. (Special to ML)

Wanted

Guthrie's Oklahoma Sports Museum is seeking photographs that chronicle active sports or portraiture of sports figures with Oklahoma ties for their Centennial Sports Photo Contest. Winning entries will be displayed at the Oklahoma Sports Museum in spring 2007. Contact Richard Hendricks at 405/260-1342 for rules and regulations. (Fall 2006 *OMA Muse News*)

Notice

Colcord's Talbot Library and Museum, at 500 South Colcord Ave., announces a change in their hours effective October 1, 2006. The facility will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesdays through Saturdays. Call 918/326-4532 for appointments or group tours. (Special to ML)

Recent Happenings

The Love County Historical Society hosted the grand opening of its new museum on Saturday, October 21, 2006. The 6,000-square-foot museum was built as a memorial to early-day area rancher and Marietta businessman J. C. Washington. Maude Pringey, his granddaughter, provided a bequest that has underwritten the project. The museum is located at 409 W. Chickasaw in Marietta. For further information call 580/276-9020.



Join the OHS Board of Directors for a grand Centennial Ball on December 31, 2006



The Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society will hold a grand Centennial New Year's Eve Dress Ball at the Oklahoma History Center on Sunday evening, December 31, 2006. OHS members and other guests will be in attendance. The event is a "period" affair, with historical interpreters and guests in 1907-era attire.

The festivities begin at 8:00 p.m. with dancing. Music will be provided by "Talk of the Town," and preliminary "period" dance instruction will be provided at 7 p.m. Dinner will be served at 10 p.m. As the hands of the clock move slowly into the first minute of the Centennial Year of Oklahoma Statehood, a champagne toast will be offered.

Guests are requested to wear 1907 dress or modern-day formal attire. Tickets are \$75 per person, and a table of eight may be purchased for \$550. There will be a cash bar and non-alcoholic punch. The festivities will conclude at 1 a.m. on the morning of January 1, 2007.

Advance reservations are required and may be directed to Kelsey Arnold, Oklahoma Historical Society, 2401 N. Laird Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73105. Calls for reservations may be made to 405/522-0692 or directed to <karnold@okhistory.org>. Make check or money order payable to OHS. The final date to reserve a place is December 15, 2006.

Plan to attend the merrymaking and see the Centennial arrive in grand style, with an awe-inspiring view of the Oklahoma State Capitol from the Atrium of the Oklahoma History Center.

The Oklahoma History Center is located at 2401 N. Laird Avenue, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.



Bake Day to be held

at Fort Gibson on Nov. 11

Fort Gibson Historic Site will heat up its big stone oven for the last time in 2006 for Fall Bake Day on Saturday, November 11, said Chris Morgan, Historical Interpreter. From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. visitors to the site will have a chance to see how the army baked bread at the fort in the late 1800s. For a suggested donation of \$3 to the Friends of Fort Gibson, visitors may take home a fresh-baked loaf of bread from the fort's oven. Donations will support activities of the Friends group, which benefits the operation of Fort Gibson Historic Site.



Visitors are also welcome to bring their favorite bread recipes to bake. Chief baker Rory Montgomery advises everyone to bring their oldest pans, since they will be placed directly on the floor of the oven. The oven is in the post bake house near the Visitors Center at Fort Gibson Historic Site.

This year's Fall Bake Day is part of the kickoff day of the Town of Fort Gibson's Centennial Year celebration. Other activities planned include a Civil War encampment and the Fort Gibson Chamber of Commerce's first annual Stew Cook-Off.

The site is located on S.H. 80 in Fort Gibson, OK, and is operated by the Oklahoma Historical Society. Call 918/478-4088 or e-mail <fortgibson@okhistory.org> to get more information.

Make Victorian Christmas Decorations at Pawnee Bill Ranch on Nov. 18

Get ready for the Christmas holidays and step back into the Victorian Era.

A Victorian Christmas Decoration Workshop will be held at the Pawnee Bill Ranch Museum in Pawnee from 6:30 to 9 p.m. On Saturday, November 18.

Participants in the workshop will learn the history of Christmas decorations. They will also learn how to make eight different decorations to take home with them.

Bring a pair of paper scissors; all other supplies will be furnished.

Preregistration and prepayment of the \$17 fee are required. The fee covers all of the supplies, patterns, and handouts, and instructions.

Contact Brandon Reid at 918/762-2513 or by email at <pawneebill@okhistory.org> for further information.

OHS Places . . .

Museum of the Western Prairie

1100 Memorial Drive
Altus, OK 73521
Phone: 580/482-1044
E-mail: <muswestpr@okhistory.org>
Museum Hours: Tues.-Sat., 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Closed on state holidays.
Admission: Free; donations are accepted.



A trip to southwestern Oklahoma should include a visit to the Museum of the Western Prairie, located in Altus. The museum features two main galleries, a temporary exhibit gallery, an auxiliary building, outdoor displays, a reference library, and a gift shop. The exhibits showcase the history of Southwestern Oklahoma, from the area's natural setting to the compelling stories of American Indians, frontier soldiers, cowboys, early settlers, and more. The displays offer insight into local agribusiness, as well as the overall economic development of the surrounding region.

Visitors can walk inside an authentic half-dugout, see an operating windmill, and view horse-drawn farm implements. Use of the library, which contains books, vertical files, and other resources documenting Southwest Oklahoma history, re-

quires an appointment. Staff and volunteers offer a variety of programs for school and other groups by arrangement.

The Museum of the Western Prairie opened in July 1970 and has been operated by the OHS since 1974. Expansion and renovations begun in 1979 were completed in 1983. In 1992 a photo archive and temporary exhibit gallery were added. In conjunction with the Western Trail Historical Society, the museum features a variety of special programs throughout the year. Recently these events have explored the music of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, women's clubs in Southwestern Oklahoma, Western art and sculpture, and other themes. Visit the web site at <www.okhistory.org/mus-sites> for programming information.

Eight Oklahoma properties added to National Register of Historic Places

The State Historic Preservation Office is pleased to announce that eight new properties from Oklahoma have been added to the National Register of Historic Places and that one property has been removed. The new listings include the nationally significant Chilocco Indian School campus, three properties in Tahlequah, a World War II-era hangar in Ponca City, a first generation farmhouse, and two properties related to Route 66. Removed from the National Register is the Bank of Agra in Lincoln County, a victim of neglect and demolition.

The Chilocco Indian School campus, located north of Newkirk near the Kansas state line, has been recognized for its nationally significant role in the history of Native American education. One of the first off-reservation government schools based on the Carlisle Indian School model, Chilocco was created as an agricultural school and was open to Native American children from tribes across the nation. Opened in 1884 and closed in 1980, Chilocco grew from a single stone building set out on the prairie to a vast campus of more than 80 buildings surrounded by thousands of acres of productive farmland. In the 1950s more than 1,500 students per year were enrolled at Chilocco. The school grew and changed with the evolving philosophies of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, but the one constant was the profound impact it had on the students who attended. A strong, loyal alumni association continues to gather, reminisce, and support the future use of the long-abandoned campus.

The two properties associated with U.S.



Chilocco School (Jim Gabbert photo).

Highway 66 are a segment of original roadbed known as the "Tank Farm Loop" near Kellyville and a Pratt through-truss bridge in Chelsea. The Tank Farm Loop consists of original concrete roadbed that winds its way through the edge of an oil field. It was bypassed in the 1930s as the road was

straightened. The Tank Farm Loop represents the look and feel of the earliest days of the federal highway system and represents an intact example of the most modern paving standards of its time.

The bridge over Pryor Creek in Chelsea is also located on a bypassed section of old U.S. 66. It remains the only intact Pratt through-truss bridge on the old highway east of Oklahoma City, and only one of two left on the entire route of U.S. 66 in Oklahoma. This once common bridge type is fast disappearing.

The Tahlequah properties listed are the



Franklin House, Tahlequah (Cynthia Savage photo).

American Legion Hut, the M. E. Franklin House, and "Rosamund," the home of Gideon Morgan. Located in the City Park and constructed by the WPA in the 1930s, the American Legion Hut reflects the dire economic conditions of the time, when men were put to work creating public works. The stone building employed a few dozen men, providing much-needed income for their families. The M. E. Franklin House, often called "the Castle," is a stone house built atop a bluff overlooking the campus of Northeastern State University. Franklin was a vocational education instructor there, and he and his students designed a unique, Gothic revival-style house, constructed out of river stone. It is the only house of its style in the area. "Rosamund" was the home of Gideon Morgan, a significant figure in Cherokee politics prior to and after allotment and statehood. This late-nineteenth-century gabled ell-style house, now owned by the university, reflects Morgan's importance in the area.

The Cartmill Farm House, located in rural Edmond, is a rare surviving example of a first generation farm house in Oklahoma

County. A simple hall-and-parlor plan, of balloon frame construction, the house has seen little change since its erection around 1890. Original wood siding and the original three-room floor plan survived for more than a century, primarily because the house is located on leased school land, where the incentive to make capital improvements was low. The well-maintained house stands as a living example of agricultural life in the years following the land run.

The Darr School of Aeronautics Hangar Number 3 in Ponca City was constructed during World War II as part of the effort to train British pilots here in the United States. The Darr School was a private instructional facility licensed to provide basic flight training first for British pilots and later for both British and American pilots. The flying school was located at the north end of the Ponca City airport; three hangars and dozens of wood-frame buildings supported a program that turned out hundreds of pilots. Only Hangar Number 3 retains its original integrity and stands as a monument to this unique program.



Hangar Number Three (Cynthia Savage photo).

The Bank of Agra was removed from the National Register due to a loss of historic integrity. When listed in 1990, the two-story, stone, Romanesque Revival-style building was Agra's lone historic building. Empty for years, it became the focus of preservation efforts by a group of concerned citizens. Lack of funding and lack of a viable use stalled their efforts, and the building continued to deteriorate. It became a safety hazard and was demolished.

The State Historic Preservation Office continues to strive to gain recognition for places that are significant in Oklahoma's history. For more information on these or other National Register properties, contact Jim Gabbert at 405/522-4478 or e-mail <jgabbert@okhistory.org>.

The Friends of the Drummond Home will host their annual Christmas Tour of Homes

on December 3 from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. The Drummond House will be decorated in a traditional Victorian Christmas theme. Almost every room will have a beautifully decorated tree. Howard McKinnis, of Honey Springs Battlefield, will portray Father Christmas, handing out Christmas treats. "Finnegan's Wake," a Tulsa band, will play appropriate music. Gracious ladies in Victorian attire will host.

The Hominy homes tour will benefit the Drummond House. Admission to each house is \$1 and will include the homes of Terry and Jim Carnelly, Jeanine and Larry Stuart, and Dorothy Hartman.

In honor of National Archives Week, November 12-18, the T. B. Ferguson House

at 519 N. Weigle in Watonga will display an exhibit honoring Watonga native Earnest Hoberecht, Jr. He was a leading foreign correspondent and expert on Asia.

In 1972 Hoberecht was inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame and in 1977 into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame.

Historic Preservation Review Committee's 2007 schedule

The Oklahoma Historic Preservation Review Committee (state review board) is appointed by the Governor of Oklahoma to provide advice to the State Historic Preservation Officer about nominations to the National Register of Historic Places and other preservation issues.

Members of the committee include Arn Henderson, Chairman (architectural historian), LeRoy H. Fischer (historian), John D. Hartley (prehistoric archaeologist), Harry Simms (architect), and Towana Spivey (historic archaeologist). The committee meets quarterly, and their 2007 schedule is:

Thursday, January 18, 2007 – 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, April 19, 2007 – 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, July 19, 2007 – 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, October 18, 2007 – 10:00 a.m.

Each of the meetings will be held in the Oklahoma Historical Society's Board Room in the Oklahoma History Center, located at 2401 N. Laird Avenue in Oklahoma City.

The meetings are open to the public. All meeting agendas are posted and available for inspection on the OHS's web page, at <www.okhistory.org>. Go to the "SHPO" page and click "Events."

The National Park Service regulations governing the SHPO's programs require that a qualified state review board participate in the National Register and other SHPO programs.

Professionals in the fields of history, prehistoric archaeology, historic archaeology, architecture, and architectural history comprise the committee.

During each meeting the committee hears presentations on nominations to the National Register of Historic Places from SHPO

staff and consultants, receives comments from owners of properties proposed for nomination, listens to public comments and concerns, and formulates recommendations to the SHPO about whether or not a property should be nominated to be listed in the National Register.

The committee and SHPO staff invite concerned citizens and preservation professionals to participate in this important component of the statewide preservation program.

For further information about the Historic Preservation Review Committee, the National Register, or other SHPO programs, call 405/521-6249 or visit us at <www.okhistory.org> and view the SHPO's web page.

SHPO to recognize preservation projects and activities

Next year, Oklahomans will commemorate the state's centennial in many ways, and a great way to celebrate is to honor those who have preserved Oklahoma's rich heritage. Know someone who rehabilitated an important historic building in your community? Worked with a dedicated volunteer group to save an historic property? Enjoyed a walking tour in a historic district? Many more projects and activities exist that contribute to the preservation of Oklahoma's important archaeological and historic properties. Help the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) recognize these important accomplishments.

The SHPO is now accepting nominations for the 2007 Shirk Memorial Award for Historic Preservation and the SHPO's Citation of Merit. The deadline for nominations is 5 p.m., Friday, December 1, and candidates will be notified in February 2007 about the results of the selection process. The awards will be presented at the banquet during Oklahoma's 19th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference in Guthrie (June 6-8, 2007).

The Shirk Memorial Award for Historic Preservation is presented for historic preservation programs or activities that have had statewide impact. The SHPO's Citation of Merit is awarded for noteworthy accomplishments in historic preservation at the state or local level.

The SHPO will accept nominations in either electronic or hard copy format. For nomination forms and instructions, contact Shea Otley at 405/521-6249 or e-mail <sjotley@okhistory.org>. Or obtain the information on the Internet at the SHPO's website at <www.okhistory.org> and click on "SHPO," "Programs," and "Awards". To inquire about the awards or criteria, call Melvena Heisch at 405/522-4484. She may also be reached at her e-mail address, <mheisch@okhistory.org>.

Hidden Collections . . .

The Anna B. Korn Collection

By **Larry O'Dell**

The Anna Korn Collection (85.99) offers researchers many early- to mid-twentieth century topics, including women's clubs, suffrage, politics, and the evolution of Oklahoma's celebration of its history. Born in Missouri in 1869, Korn moved with her husband, Frank, a railroad executive, to El Reno in 1917. In Missouri Anna had been active, writing a song about the state and authoring a bill to recognize "Missouri Day." In Oklahoma she became just as dynamic, organizing clubs such as a chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, a chapter of the United Daughters of the American Revolution, and a Woman's Culture Club, as well as serving as officer in these and other organizations.

In 1921 Korn wrote the statute, passed by the legislature and signed by Governor Martin E. Trapp, which officially observes November 16 as statehood day. In 1922 the members of the Oklahoma Historical Society elected Korn to the board of directors, where she served more than forty years.

In 1927 she created the Oklahoma Memorial Association, which evolved into the Oklahoma Heritage Association that in 1928 began honoring prominent Oklahomans with induction in a state hall of fame.

Instigating women's involvement in politics served as another important endeavor for Korn. In 1934 she organized a Women's Democratic Council, in 1935 an Oklahoma League of Democratic Women, and in 1944 the Daughters of Democracy. Anna Korn died in 1965, just four years after she finally allowed her own induction into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame.

The collection, like Korn, has many facets. There are minutes, programs, and correspondence relating to her relations with



Anna Korn at Joseph Thoburn's grave
(OHS photo).

political groups, with the majority concerning the Women's Democratic Council. This includes her correspondence with Mabel Bassett, Ila Huff, and Bess Stubblefield. There are a number of items concerning the Oklahoma Historical Society and the Oklahoma Memorial Association. Booklets, magazine articles, and newspaper clippings highlight notable Oklahoma women, including Edith Johnson, Mary Alice Hearrell Murray, Ila Huff, and Camille Phelan. Personal documents include items to her husband's father in Germany and correspondence with and clippings about her successful cousin, J. C. Penney. One interesting portion is her small collection of postcards that support women's suffrage.

The long and full career of Anna Lee (Brosius) Korn leaves a trail for students of history to assimilate the young state's interest in preserving its then recent history. Through her letters, writings, and activities, and those of similar contemporaries, the development of the state's successful history celebrations and institutions can be traced.

This collection, coupled with the others such as the Equal Rights Amendment Collection (2006.01), illustrates the political activism of Oklahoma women.

OHS Faces . . .

Whit Edwards

Director of Special Projects

Expert horseman and Civil War cavalryman, battlefield commander, movie actor, and modern-day manager—these seemingly contradictory terms all describe Whit Edwards, OHS's Director of Special Projects. His duties lie within the Outreach Division.

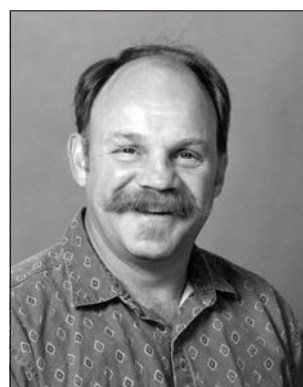
Edwards received a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Tennessee and a master's degree from the College of William and Mary before spending six years as a public school teacher. His interests in history led him into an eight-year stint with the Oklahoma Department of Tourism. He went to work for OHS in 1991.

Edwards's job involves administering History Day, the Historical Markers program, the Outreach Division exhibit and graphics shop, and the OHS's constantly active Living History Reenactments program.

Visitors to the various Civil War battle reenactments will see Edwards as an authentically garbed soldier—most recently on horseback at the Battle of Middle Boggy.

Edwards has also published a book on the Civil War, entitled *The Prairie Was on Fire: Eyewitness Accounts of the Civil War in Indian Territory*.

Mistletoe Leaves asked Edwards to describe the best thing about his job: "I like



the variety and creativity of my work. I like that I have progressive bosses that let me try new things and who believe that OHS is a service industry. We're here for the public. And that makes my job enjoyable."

Edwards has been given awards by the Sons of Union Veterans and Sons of Confederate Veterans as well as from the Daughters of the American Revolution.

He has also received the 1998 Oklahoma Museums Association Heritage Education Outreach Award.

As a reenactor, he has appeared in a total of seventeen television and motion picture productions.

Register now for the SHPO's December workshops

The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is pleased to announce the schedule for its annual fall workshop series. Each workshop is devoted to one of the SHPO's federal preservation programs and is designed for preservation professionals, government agency representatives, and concerned citizens. The sessions will be held Wednesday, December 6 through Friday, December 8 in the Classroom, Oklahoma History Center, 2401 N. Laird (Oklahoma Historical Society's new location just northeast of the State Capitol), Oklahoma City. The workshops are free, but the SHPO requests that you register by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, November 29. Space is limited and will be reserved on a first-come basis. **The workshop schedule is as follows:**

December 6 (9:30 a.m.–12:00 noon) Federal and State Tax Incentives for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings

In this workshop participants will learn about the federal and state investment tax credits for certified rehabilitation of a certified historic structure. A detailed discussion of the Historic Preservation Certification Application, Parts 1, 2, and 3 will guide owners and developers in successfully preparing the information needed for the State Historic Preservation Office to review the project and for the National Park Service to certify it. This session is designed as a stand-alone workshop or as a companion to *Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings*.

December 6 (1:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.) Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings

The half-day workshop is dedicated to a thorough discussion of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitation. Generally referred to as the Standards, these common sense principles are widely used in the historic preservation field. Whether you are involved in a rehabilitation project for the 20% federal and 20% state tax credits, planning a rehabilitation project funded with federal assistance, serving on a local historic preservation commission, or just wanting to know the best approach to rehabilitating your historic private home, you will find this session invaluable. It is designed as a stand-alone workshop and as a companion to *Federal and State Tax Incentives for Rehabilitation*.

December 7 (9:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.) The Section 106 Review Process: A Workshop for Agency Officials and Cultural Resource Management Consultants

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act provides that Federal agencies must consider the effect of their undertakings on archaeological and historic properties listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Topics addressed in this day-long workshop include the basic requirements of Section 106, the regulations that went into effect August 5, 2006, which govern the process, how to determine National Register eligibility, what constitutes adverse effects, mitigating adverse effects, and streamlining Section 106 review.

December 8 (9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.) Working with the National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places is the foundation of the SHPO's programs, and a basic understanding of the register is essential for those involved in historic preservation at all levels of government and in the private sector. The workshop provides detailed information about the National Register criteria, what listing means, the rights of property owners in the nomination process, tips for preparing successful nominations, and much more.

Registered architects who attend these workshops can qualify for American Institute of Architects Continuing Education System (AIA/CES) learning units. Contact Catherine Montgomery, SHPO Historic Preservation Architect, at 405/522-4479 or e-mail <catherinem@okhistory.org>. If you have questions about workshop content, you may contact Melvena Heisch at 405/522-4484 or via her e-mail address at <mheisch@okhistory.org>.

To register for any or all of the workshops, interested individuals should contact Shea Otley at 405/521-6249 or at her e-mail address, <sjotley@okhistory.org>.

Bob Klemme receives National Cowboy Culture Award

OHS Board of Directors member Robert "Bob" Klemme was presented a 2006 National Cowboy Culture Award at the National Cowboy Symposium and Celebration held in Lubbock, Texas, on September 8, 2006.

Alvin G. Davis, symposium president, introduced Klemme to the audience of approximately 900 Western history enthusiasts. Davis described Klemme's ongoing project to mark the Chisholm Trail across Oklahoma. Klemme devised seven-foot-tall white concrete posts, with red lettering, to serve as the markers. Over the years he has set posts at every mile north of the Red River to the Kansas border.

Klemme's efforts stimulated others to mark the Western Trail across Oklahoma. Rotary Club members have now marked it from Matamoros, Mexico, through the nine states that the Western Trail traverses.

He told the audience that, as his last major accomplishment, he hoped to see the two trails designated by Congress as National Historic Trails.

Oklahoma Historical Society issues call for papers for 2007 Annual Meeting

The Oklahoma Historical Society is seeking papers and presentations for the OHS Annual Meeting, which will be held April 12, 13, 14, 2007, at the Oklahoma History Center, 2401 N. Laird Avenue, northeast of the state capitol building in Oklahoma City.

Concurrent paper sessions will be held on Friday, April 13, and Saturday, April 14, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Each presentation should be limited to 30 minutes in length.

The theme for the Annual Meeting will be "Oklahoma's Centennial: A Celebration of Our Heritage." On November 16, 1907, Oklahoma became the forty-sixth state in the Union, thus marking the beginning of colorful and fascinating history of statehood. On November 16, 2007, Oklahoma will celebrate its centennial as a state and will look back on its 100 years of heritage and history.

The 2007 Oklahoma Historical Society Annual Meeting will focus on Oklahoma's history during 100 years of statehood. Suitable topics for presentation are Oklahoma's image, population demographics and diversity, politics and political leaders, environment, urban and rural trends, business and industry, education, religion, transportation, farming and ranching, medical advances, and the military.

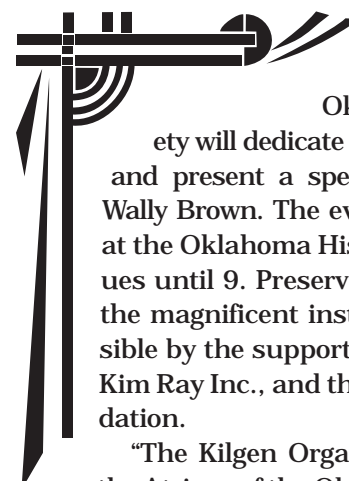
These suggestions are not meant to be exclusive, and the program committee welcomes proposals on a wide range of topics.

One-page proposals should include the title and a 100-word description of the presentation and the name, address, phone number, and e-mail address of the presenter, plus a one-page curriculum vitae or brief biographical sketch. Those who submit proposals will be notified of their status in late December or early January.

Please submit proposals by Friday, December 8, 2006, to: Annual Meeting Committee, Attn: Tim Zwink, Oklahoma Historical Society, 2401 N. Laird Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73105.

For inquiries call 405/522-5217 or e-mail <tzwink@okhistory.org>.

OHS to dedicate Kilgen Theater Organ on December 5



On Tuesday, December 5, 2006, the Oklahoma Historical Society will dedicate the Kilgen Theater Organ and present a special concert by organist Wally Brown. The event begins at 6:30 p.m. at the Oklahoma History Center and continues until 9. Preservation and installation of the magnificent instrument was made possible by the support of Garman O. Kimmell, Kim Ray Inc., and the Kimmell Family Foundation.

"The Kilgen Organ has been on display in the Atrium of the Oklahoma History Center for several months," said Bob Blackburn, OHS Executive Director. "Many visitors to the building have heard the lengthy tuning process, but since the organ's removal from the Oklahoma City Municipal Auditorium, we've not heard its beautiful sounds. On December 5, we will once again be able to enjoy its music."

The Kilgen Theater Organ was specially built for WKY Radio's studio by the Kilgen Organ Company of St. Louis. It was installed in the radio station's broadcast studio, located in Oklahoma City's Skirvin Tower, and the premier performance came on April 13, 1936. After WKY's last broadcast in March 1951, the organ was purchased by the City of Oklahoma City, moved, and installed in the Oklahoma City Civic Center Auditorium, where it remained for decades.

The organ was last played by Wally Brown on August 7, 1998, for its "farewell concert." It was dismantled by Winchester Organ Company and stored. In 1998 the City of Oklahoma City donated it to the Oklahoma Historical Society. The organ console and pipes have been reassembled and installed at the History Center, and the Kilgen Theater



Ken Wright, organist for WKY, at the Kilgen Organ keyboard (OHS photo).

Organ is ready to make its second debut. Various radio and television personalities will participate in the evening's program, added Blackburn. Light hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served, and valet parking will be provided.

Tickets are \$25 per person, and advance reservations are required. As seating is limited, a prompt response will guarantee a place. Reserve by calling 405/522-0861 or by e-mailing <lcornell@okhistory.org>. Also register online at <www.okhistory.org>.



Original wood carving of Pan once decorated the pipes in WKY's studio (Staff photo).

PERIODICALS

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Smithsonian Affiliations
Membership Program

