



Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center groundbreaking and monument dedication planned in Enid on September 16, 2007

The first official event to transform the Museum of the Cherokee Strip in Enid, Oklahoma, into the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center will be held on September 16, 2007, at 1:20 p.m.

The groundbreaking festivities will begin with a boxed lunch (available by reservation for \$10) at 11 a.m. in the Humphrey Heritage Village adjacent to the museum. During lunch a variety of musical entertainment will be provided in the Village Gazebo. The Glidewell House, a restored 1907 Victorian home, will be open for viewing, as will the Turkey Creek School.

At 1:20 p.m. the official ceremony will begin with two songs by western music performer R. W. Hampton and a flyover from Vance Air Force Base. Master of ceremonies for the event will be Burns Hargis. Dr. Bob Blackburn will explain the concept of the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center and its importance to the state and nation. Lew Ward, chair of Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Inc., the local task force that was the prime mover in creating the Heritage Center, will speak about the center and those who have been involved in the process.

The actual breaking of the ground will be performed by local elementary school students. The group will comprise the winners of a recent essay contest. Enid native and world-famous opera star Leona Mitchell will perform "America the Beautiful" after the invocation.

During the ceremony, and after the groundbreaking, comes the unveiling and



dedication of *The Homesteaders* monument by Enid sculptor H. Holden. The life-and-a-half-sized monument depicts a pioneer family and will grace the southwest corner of the museum grounds. The statue was commissioned by Delores and Larry McClure of Enid. Following the ceremony the Greater Enid Arts and Humanities Alliance and the Sons & Daughters of the Cherokee Strip Pioneers will host a reception in the Humphrey Heritage Village.

Leona Mitchell will close the ceremony by singing the official state song, "Oklahoma!" For more information please call the museum at 580/237-1907.

The Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center project comprises expanding the

existing building by 12,000 square feet and renovating it. The fund-raising campaign's goal is \$8 million (\$7 million for construction and \$1 million for an endowment). Thus far, \$6.9 million has been raised. The Heritage Center will feature all-new exhibits, a reading and research room, a large Special Exhibits Gallery, increased collections storage, and an enlarged plaza area for events.

During construction, the museum will operate a space at Oakwood Mall where workshops, lectures, audio/video exhibits, and other activities will be available for the public. For more information on the mall exhibit call 580/237-1907.



Reenactors stage a stirring Federal charge (OHS staff photo).

Cabin Creek battle reenactments set for September 28-30

Hundreds of volunteers in Civil War attire, armed with all of the weaponry of war, will present the fifth reenactment of the engagements that took place on Cabin Creek, south of Vinita, during 1863 and 1864. The battles will be staged on the Krauser Farm, near the battlefield memorial site, three and one-half miles north of Pensacola off County Road 350. The Federal and Confederate camps will be open to the public from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The actual reenactments of the 1863 and 1864 engagements will take place on Saturday and Sunday at 1:30 p.m. Cost to attend is \$5 per adult, with children under age 12 admitted free of charge.

School children will attend "School Day" on September 28 from 9 to 12 a.m. "On that day, students from all around northeastern Oklahoma will be provided a vivid picture of military and civilian life during the Civil War," said OHS coordinator Whit Edwards.

The site is best known for the action that occurred there on September 18, 1864, but other Union-Confederate clashes took place in June and July 1863 and in October 1864, as the two sides struggled for control of supply routes through Indian Territory to Texas.

For more information contact Whit Edwards at 405/522-5235 or e-mail him at <wedwards@okhistory.org>. The battles are presented every three years and are coordinated by OHS Outreach Division staff. Visit the OHS web site at <www.okhistory.org> and click on "Cabin Creek Civil War Reenactment" for a brief history of the events.



Director's Column

By **Bob L. Blackburn**
Executive Director

In our little world of collecting, preserving, and sharing Oklahoma history, I can see the impact of higher standards.

In Clinton, the old Western Plains Museum satisfied the community from 1958 until the 1990s despite the fact that it had no modern exhibits, told no unified story, and owned no collections. After it was transferred from the Tourism Department to the Oklahoma Historical Society, we closed it and started the process of reinventing it, based on higher standards. The result was the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum that is recognized as the best museum on the Mother Road between Chicago and California.

At the Honey Springs Battlefield, the community seemed satisfied that land had been purchased to preserve the hallowed ground where so many had sacrificed their lives. With higher standards, reenactments drew increased attention to the site, and resources were gathered to build a bridge over Elk Creek and connect the various parts of the battlefield with a modern road. Archaeology discovered the details of the engagement, and trails were built to provide access. Some day, we will have an interpretive center to match those found at National Park Service sites.

This new world of higher standards can be seen in the current Centennial of 1907 Statehood celebration. More than \$30 million has been invested by the State of Oklahoma, while cities, companies, and individuals have contributed even more. When the centennial year comes to a close, we will be able to look back and say we were the stars of the Rose Bowl Parade, were the featured pavilion at Epcot Center, and were a state that threw a thousand parties celebrating our shared history.

Yes, I enjoy wearing two hats. And I love this state.

I enjoy wearing two hats.

On the one hand, I wear the hat of an Oklahoma native who is privileged to be part of a constantly changing, extended community. On the other hand, I am a historian who looks for events, trends, and turning points in the life of that community.

For the past 30 years I have seen history unfold one day at a time, set against a backdrop that extends centuries into the past yet lives in my acquired memory. It gives me a unique perspective on the present day.

Among my many observations of our state is a heightened demand for quality. You can see it in our architecture, our educational systems, our sports, and our art. It is as if we, as a community, have awakened to the fact that we can perform at the highest levels if we will simply set our standards higher.

For more than 70 years it was acceptable to most Oklahomans to have a capitol building that was partially completed. Many people even took pride in the "dome-less" capitol. Now that the dome is there and topped with a distinctive work of art, the pride comes out in all of us.

For more than 60 years it was acceptable to have a small, functionally flawed building to hold the state's most important historical collections. The demand for something better, combined with a rising awareness of our shared history, set in motion the effort that resulted in the Oklahoma History Center.

Development News

by Tim Zwink

Thank you for the great response to our notices in the recent *Mistletoe Leaves* about the most recent deadline for the Red River Journey monogrammed bricks. More than 300 bricks were reserved during this third phase of the monogrammed brick project that we have just completed. This means that most likely we will be adding another patio to accommodate the new bricks.

We are now in the process of hiring a contractor who will engrave and install the bricks. Our time line is to have the new bricks in place before our Statehood Day on November 16.

After this third installation, we will have well more than 4,000 bricks in our Red River Journey area at the History Center. These monogrammed bricks represent the multitude of individuals who together have forged the history of our great state. It is quite enjoyable to stroll along the Red River Journey walkway, view the varied bricks, and take in the stories they tell. I invite all of you to join in this gratifying experience.

For information on other ways to support the Oklahoma Historical Society, please contact me at 405/522-5217 or <tzwink@okhistory.org>.



New Members, July 2007

* Indicates renewed membership in a higher category

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Continued on Page 3

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

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Events

Guymon's Texas County Activity Center will be the venue for the Guymon Festival celebrating Hispanic heritage. Music, games, and children's activities will take place on September 16 from 12 noon to 11 p.m. Go to the web site <www.guymonok.org> or phone 580/338-5838 for information. (Special to ML)

Mayes County will commemorate the Oklahoma centennial with a celebration honoring prestatehood pioneers and their descendants. The event will take place on Saturday, September 15, in the Pryor Community Building. Telephone DeAnna Walker at 918/434-5192. (Special to ML)

Ponca City's Standing Bear Native American Park will host a Native American celebration with competition dancing, singing, food vendors, and traditional arts and crafts. The event will take place on Friday and Saturday, September 28-29. Go to <www.poncacitytourism.com> or phone 580/762-1514. (Special to ML)

The **Oklahoma Centennial Commission** announces the schedule for the Oklahoma Centennial Parade to be held on Sunday, October 14, at 2 p.m. The 1.5-hour tribute will begin near Stage Center, at West Sheridan and North Hudson Avenue, and will end at N.W. 8th Street and North Broadway Avenue. Oklahoma Centennial Commission Executive Director Blake Wade stated that "the Oklahoma Centennial Parade will be a grand celebration of Oklahoma and the many contributions we've made to agriculture, energy, aviation, sports, science, and of course, entertainment." Professionally designed floats, giant helium-filled balloons, performance groups, celebrities, and marching bands will follow a two-mile route. To learn more, visit www.okcentennialparade.com. (Special to ML)

Weatherford's Clark/Means Park will be the venue for the 33rd annual Southwest Festival of the Arts on September 8 from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Join in the fun with music, dance, art, and food. For additional information contact 580/772-7823 or e-mail <darliengarren@sbcglobal.net>. (Special to ML)

The Gene Autry Oklahoma Film and Music Festival will be held Wednesday through Sunday, September 26-30, at the Gene Autry Oklahoma Museum in **Gene Autry**. The annual event relives the music and memories of singing cowboys. Among this year's headline entertainers are Riders in the Sky and Oklahoma balladeer Les Gilliam. Oklahoma native Dale Robertson is just one of many film stars and celebrities attending the festival. Telephone 580/294-3047 or visit the museum web site at <www.geneautryokmuseum.com>. (Special to ML)

Exhibits

The **Edmond Historical Society and Museum**, located at 431 S. Boulevard, is hosting a free traveling exhibit titled *The Purse & the Person: A Century of Women's Purses*. More than 100 purses and 100 artifacts found in women's purses will be on display through September 30. The museum is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturday from 1-4 p.m. Telephone 405/340-0078 or find more at <www.edmondhistory.org>. (Special to ML)

The Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center, located in Monnet Hall, 630 Parrington Oval, on the University of Oklahoma campus, **Norman**, is the venue for an exhibit entitled *Dick T. Morgan: An Oklahoma Representative in Interesting Times*. This display will run through December 2007. It highlights Morgan's career before and after his election as a U.S. Representative, serving from 1909 to 1920. Monnet Hall is open Monday through Fri-

day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Special to ML)

Happenings

Claremore's Expo Center will be the venue for a Bluegrass and Chili Festival from September 6 through 8. Visitors will enjoy the Mid-American Regional Chili Cook-off, a crafts and quilt show, a car show, children's activities, and regional and national artists of bluegrass, country, and gospel music. Event hours are Thursday 4 to 10 p.m., Friday 4 to 11 p.m., and Saturday 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. For information call 918/341-2818 or visit the web site at <www.claremore.org>. (Special to ML)

The *Smithsonian Magazine's* Third Annual **Museum Day** is a nationwide event scheduled for Saturday, September 29, 2007. Check with your local museums to determine whether they are participating, and you will get free general admission on that date. To print a free admission card, visit <www.smithsonianmagazine.com/museumday>. You will need to present the card at the participating museums. (Special to ML)

Tahlequah's Cherokee Heritage Center is hosting a Cherokee basketry class on September 15 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Experienced instructors will teach techniques in weaving a Cherokee basket. Students will not only complete a basket of their own but also learn the history of basket weaving and the gathering and dyeing of materials. Cost of the class is \$40. For preregistration information call Tonia Hogner-Weavel at 918/456-6007, extension 241, or toll free at 888/999-6007. You may also e-mail <tonia-weavel@cherokeeheritage.org>. On September 29 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. athletes will compete in the Cherokee games of stickball, chunky, and marbles at the Cherokee Heritage Center. Admission is free, and spectators are encouraged to participate. (Special to ML)

New Members, cont'd.

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Barre & Sharon Griffith, Lindsay
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Burlington
Orpheum Theatre, Okmulgee
Anadarko Community Library,
Anadarko
Town of Beaver, Beaver

Boom! Artillery practice is planned for Honey Springs

If you've ever wondered how military reenactors learn to shoot those big cannons and keep from being shot BY them, the staff of the Honey Springs Battlefield Site can answer all of your questions on Saturday, September 15.

The First Arkansas Light Artillery will host an artillery school on that date. Reenactors will learn firing drills, but more importantly, they will learn and practice safety procedures. These, of course, are very important for artillery reenactors as well as for infantry reenactors, who have to keep out of the way of the "business end" of the guns.

Infantry and artillery men will assemble for this training, and the general public is also invited to come out and watch. Cost of the school is \$5. Camping is allowed on Friday night.

For more information, contact Howard McKinnis of the battlefield Interpretive Center at 918/473-5572 or e-mail <howardmck@okhistory.org>. The Honey Springs Battlefield Site is located at 1863 Honey Springs Battlefield Road, near Checotah. The Interpretive Center is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



No Man's Land Historical Society to hold "first annual" Pioneer Gala

The No Man's Land Historical Society will hold its first annual Pioneer Gala fund raiser on October 20 at 7 p.m. at the Pickle Creek Center in Guymon, Oklahoma. Events for the night will include an art show from the Hitch family art collection, musical entertainment, and a historical rendition of life at Beer City by the Beer City Gals. Hors d'oeuvres will be served, as well as a wine selection from an Oklahoma winery. A silent auction will also be part of the festivities.

The highlight of the night will be the live auction of *Long, Long Trail*, a sculpture by artist Mary Spurgeon of Gate, Oklahoma. Mary Spurgeon grew up in Dodge City and taught school in Wyoming, eventually teaching for the Barby Ranch in Beaver. While teaching there, she met and married Bill Spurgeon, a horse trainer for the Barbys.

The Spurgeons' lives always revolved around horses and ranch work. After Bill's death, Mary took over the operation of their family ranch, which has been named an Oklahoma Centennial Ranch.

Although Mary Spurgeon had an interest in art from early childhood, she did not begin sculpting until age 72. Most of her work reflects her love of ranch life. Her sculptures have not only gained state attention, but national recognition as well.

Her larger-than-life-size sculpture of Wyatt Earp is on the Dodge City downtown Trail of Fame, and one of her paintings hangs in the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame. Her work has been exhibited in galleries in Wyoming and Denver. In addition to exhibiting at the Governor's Gallery at the State Capitol, one of her sculptures is on display in the Oklahoma Senate Gallery. Recently her work was featured on OETA-TV.

According to Spurgeon, her sculptures "are a result of the emotional response to the memory of a recalled event, or to the idealization of an unfulfilled desire. We occasionally live an imaginary life through the creation of a work of art." *Long, Long Trail*, a 12" by 24" by 8" piece, depicts a horseback cowboy pushing a calf and cow along the trail. The council considered Spurgeon for its first Pioneer Gala not only because of the quality of her work, but for her historical connection to No Man's Land.



With the Pioneer Gala, the NMLHS Council is beginning a new tradition of gathering people together to celebrate the pioneering spirit of No Man's Land. The event proceeds will go to the NMLHS Building Fund, a project on-going for more than two decades. Advance admission tickets to the Pioneer Gala are available to NMLHS members for \$15 and to non-members for \$25.

Oklahoma Genealogical Society meets September 10

The regular monthly meeting of OGS will be held Monday, September 10, at the Oklahoma History Center. The subject will be "Historical Records, 1847 to 1888: A Time Capsule of the Cherokee National Female Seminary." Victoria Sheffler, archivist at Northeastern State University, will discuss the time capsule that was placed in a cornerstone of a building of the Cherokee National Seminary. Opened in 1989, the 1888 capsule contained materials printed in Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw, and English. She will describe the condition of the papers when found and the information contained in the documents. An Oklahoma City native, Sheffler created the NSU Archives in the 1980s and has been its manager since that time.

All meetings are free and open to the public. The program will begin at 6 p.m.

Tom Mix Annual Festival Weekend is September 22-23

Tom Mix (Serge Darragrاند) will lead a parade through Dewey, Oklahoma, on Saturday, September 22, to kick off the annual Tom Mix Festival and Western Heritage Weekend. Pawnee Bill (Wayne Spears) and Buffalo Bill (John Ooley) will assist Mix as grand marshals.

Richard Jenson, Alabama author, will be present for a book signing with his tome *The Amazing Tom Mix*, William Waken and John Birdeno will exhibit their Tom Mix collections in the Tom Mix Museum lobby, and Paul Mix will screen some of his cousin Tom's movies. All of these events occur on Saturday.

On Sunday a Wild West Show will take place.

The Tom Mix Museum, an OHS affiliate, is located at 721 N. Delaware in Dewey. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Sunday 1 to 4 p.m. Free admission. Call 918/534-1555.

Centennial Chisholm Trail Cattle Drive to visit Kingfisher County

They're pointing them north. It will be a quite a sight for twenty-first-century Oklahomans to see 450 cattle moving across the plains. Plans for the Centennial Chisholm Trail Cattle Drive are under way. The Chisholm Trail Museum in Kingfisher is assisting in coordinating the logistics for Kingfisher County's section of the event, which commemorates the trail's 140th anniversary. The cattle and cowboys (and cowgirls) will wind their way northward through Oklahoma and go through Kingfisher County from September 24 through 28.

Various towns along the route are planning cookouts, evening meals, and breakfasts for the trail crew. Floyd Townsend, trail foreman for the Kingfisher County area, has mapped out a route. Plans call for the herd to bed down at Okarche on September 24, two miles north of Kingfisher on September 25, Dover on September 26, and Bison (near Hennessey) on September 27. The whole shebang will arrive at Enid (in Garfield County) on September 28.

For more details, contact Renee Mitchell, Chisholm Trail Museum Manager, in Kingfisher at 580/375-5176.

OHS Places . . .

Jim Thorpe House

706 E. Boston
Yale, OK 74085-4004
Phone: 918/387-2815
Hours: Tues.-Sat., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sun., 1-5 p.m.
Closed Mondays.

Admission: Free; donations are accepted.



Considered one of the United States's greatest athletes during the twentieth century, James Francis "Jim" Thorpe was born near Prague, Indian Territory, on May 28, 1887 or 1888. Generally considered to be Sac and Fox, he also had Potawatomi, Menomini, Kickapoo, Irish, and French ancestry. In 1903 he enrolled at Carlisle Indian School in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, where he joined the track team and played halfback for the football team. In 1909 Thorpe left Carlisle to play semiprofessional baseball in North Carolina. He returned to Carlisle and starred in football victories in 1911 and 1912.

In 1912 Jim Thorpe represented the United States in the Olympics held in Stockholm, Sweden, winning gold medals in the pentathlon and decathlon. Shortly thereafter, he was stripped of the medals when a newspaper reporter revealed his semiprofessional baseball career. During the next two decades he distinguished himself as a baseball and football player. In the 1930s he worked as a film extra in Hollywood. On March 28, 1953, he died in Lometa, California.

As an Oklahoma Historical Society affiliate managed by the Jim Thorpe Foundation, the Jim Thorpe House preserves and displays his former home, which contains artifacts from Thorpe and his family. Located in Yale, Oklahoma (approximately sixteen miles east of Stillwater on State Highway 51), the house was listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NR 71000673) in 1971. To learn more about the legendary athlete read "The Jim Thorpe Family: From Wisconsin to Indian Territory, Part I," and "The Jim Thorpe Family, Part II," by Grace F. Thorpe, published in *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* 59 (Spring and Summer 1981). See also "Jim Thorpe's 100th Birthday: A Pictorial Tribute," by Carl K. Sadler, in *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* 65 (Spring 1987).

It Takes More Than Money . . .

. . . to create collections and exhibits that fulfill the Historical Society's goals. It takes more than money to build collections that help OHS educate the public and provide research opportunities. It takes the donation of an artifact, an art work, a document, or a whole collection of those things that help us tell Oklahoma's story. It also takes many people—volunteers who put their time where others put their money or their artifacts.

This occasional column will report donations to the Oklahoma Historical Society sites and museums, the Oklahoma Museum of History, and the OHS Research Division, as well as other notable contributions to the organization.



Board leadership

On July 25 at the quarterly meeting of the OHS Board of Directors, directors reappointed by Governor Brad Henry were sworn in by Supreme Court Justice Yvonne Kauger. Left to right: Mary Brett, Shirley Nero, Jack Haley (elected at large by membership), and James Waldo (*T. Zinn photo*).

Volunteerism

Also at the Board meeting, Laura Martin (left) and Bill Welge (right) presented the Research Division volunteer-of-the-quarter recognition to Derrald Fendley and Ernie Leonard. Fendley and Leonard assisted with preparing the division's fixed assets inventory (*T. Zinn photo*).



Enjoy music under the stars at the Ferguson House on September 15

The Friends of the Ferguson Home will showcase their annual event, "Music Under the Stars," on the lawn of the T. B. Ferguson House on Saturday, September 15. The event begins at 6 p.m.

Old-time country music and gospel songs will be performed by local and statewide talent groups. Refreshments will be served at intermission by the members of the Friends group. The house will be open for tours during the evening.

The Ferguson House was the home of Oklahoma's sixth territorial governor, Thompson B. Ferguson, and his wife, Elva Shartel Ferguson. They were journalists who founded and ran the *Watonga Republican* newspaper. It is still in publication.

The Ferguson House is located at 519 N. Weigle Street in Watonga. Phone the Ferguson's staff at 580/623-5069 for additional information.

There is no admission fee.

FORT SUPPLY CAVALRY DAY is September 15. Living history events will commemorate the fort's role as a defender of the frontier from 1868 to 1894. Event hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For information call Bob Rea at 580/766-3767.

Hidden Collections . . .

by Larry O'Dell

Due to the volume of manuscripts that the Research Division has accumulated, especially the last ten years, it often relies on college students, who volunteer or intern with the Oklahoma Historical Society, to assist with the processing. This summer one intern, Jordan Thompson of Haverford College in Pennsylvania, did an excellent job describing the Griffith Amusement Company Collection (2007.126). Without Thompson's work, and that of other volunteers, it would take much longer for many collections to become available for use by researchers.

In 1915 three brothers, H. J., L. C., and R. E. Griffith began operating theaters in Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico. The Consolidated Amusement Company was the first of many corporate names that wound through a series of mergers, sell-offs, and splits, including the Griffith Amusement Company. In 1949 Henry Griffing, who had been a lawyer for the brothers, began to take control of the enterprise. He ran the operations until a 1960 plane crash ended his life.



The records continue through 1970, when R.K.O. General became the parent company as Griffith remnants merged into Cable Com-General, Inc. Thompson has written a more detailed and comprehensive history that accompanies the finding aid.

The papers span 1916 to 1970 and comprise seven cubic feet. The majority of documents relate to business transactions, but there are also scrapbooks and newspaper articles.

As with most business collections, the papers give a glimpse of the individuals who formed the company and their role in its evolution. Also included are a wealth of photographs relating to the business. Most images picture the company's regional theaters.

Thanks to the contribution of students such as Jordan Thompson, OHS collections can help tell the story of Oklahoma's movie theaters and film distribution. The Griffith Collection may be viewed by historians and interested individuals at the John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick Research Center in the Oklahoma History Center.

Photo left: Okmulgee's Orpheum, 1936. Below: Elk Theater, Elk City, 1936.



Learn to make Victorian chapeaux at Pawnee Bill Ranch and Murrell House in September

"No previous knowledge or experience is necessary," says Martha Ray, OHS Historic Homes Director, referring to her hat-making lessons. While that may be true, a love of Victorian hats should be a requisite for all who plan to attend the activities offered this month at OHS sites.

On September 10 the **Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum** is pleased to present a bonnet-making class. It will be taught from 6:30 to 9 p.m. by Martha Ray. Cost of participating in the learning activity is \$15. Reservations and payments are appreciated prior to the day of the class. Participants should bring their own scissors. At the end of the class you will have a finished bonnet to decorate as you wish and take home!

The very next night, on September 11 the Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum is offering a hatbox-making class, also from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Construct a hat box to protect the bonnet that you made the night before! Taught by Martha Ray of the Oklahoma Historical Society, this class also costs \$15, and advance notification is requested. Scissors are also required. For more information contact Historical Interpreter Brandon Reid at 918/762-2513. The Pawnee Bill Ranch is near Pawnee at 1141 Pawnee Bill Road.

The **Murrell House** will offer Martha Ray's Victorian hat-making class on September 21. No respectable Victorian woman would allow the sun to reach her face and freckle her delicate skin. Let Martha Ray show you how to protect your beauty from the Oklahoma sun with your own self-made hat. The preregistration and payment suggestions apply for this class, which will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Murrell House at Park Hill.

Ladies' Camp of Instruction at Murrell House September 22

The "Ladies' Camp of Instruction" will be held on Saturday, September 22 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Ladies' Camp is an instructional workshop for women who are interested in learning how to become historical reenactors. Attendees will learn about customs and fashions from the mid-nineteenth century. Cost is \$20 and includes all materials. Ladies' Camp attendees may receive a discount of \$5 off the registration fee by joining the Friends of the Murrell Home support organization at a cost of \$10 for the year.

The Murrell Home is located at 19479 E. Murrell Home Road in Park Hill. To register for workshops, or for more information, please contact the Murrell staff at 918/456-2751 or <murrellhome@okhistory.org>. Space is limited, and payment must be received by September 19 to secure a reservation. No previous knowledge is necessary for any of the workshops.

Night and day will be equal for Spiro Mounds equinox walk

As the end of summer nears and crops are ready for harvest, the Busk or Green Corn Ceremony approaches. The most important of ceremonies for the eastern Native Americans, Green Corn is a harvest and renewal celebration that took place in our area around the autumnal equinox. If you would like to hear about this and other special prehistoric-era observances, come to the Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center on September 22 and 23 for the Autumnal Equinox Walks. You can learn from an archaeologist and ask questions, too.

Each day, archaeologist and manager Dennis Peterson will conduct walks at 11 a.m., 2 p.m., and 7 p.m. Each will take about two hours and require a mile of easy walking. Peterson will describe this unique prehistoric Native American mound site and discuss the types of mounds, why they were created, and why some of the mounds are aligned for the sunsets of the solstices and equinoxes.

The fee for this series of tours of \$3 for adults and \$2 for children. No reservations are required unless the group is large.

The OHS's Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center is Oklahoma's only prehistoric Native American site open to the public. The center is open Wednesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Sunday from noon until 5 p.m. Admission, except for special programs, is free. The center is located 3 miles east of Spiro, Oklahoma, on Highway 9/271 and 4 miles north on Lock and Dam Road. For information or for a group or school tour call 918/962-2062. E-mail <spiomds@ipa.net>.

Higher Education banquet set for October 2

A signature event in Oklahoma Higher Education will be held in the Oklahoma History Center on October 2, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. The Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame will induct twelve individuals in recognition of their contributions to the state's higher education efforts.

Inductees include: Alvin Alcorn of the University of Central Oklahoma; James P. Brill of the University of Tulsa; Billy Crynes of the University of Oklahoma; B. Curtis Hamm of Oklahoma State University; Jacob Larson of the University of Oklahoma; Charles Mankin of the University of Oklahoma; Jean Bell Manning of Langston University; Lloyd Musselman of Oklahoma City University; Jeanine Rhea of Oklahoma State University; and Gary Smith of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. Posthumous Special Recognition inductees include Jesse Thatcher Bost, first woman to graduate from Oklahoma A&M University (now Oklahoma State University), and U.S. Rep. Alice Mary Robertson, who directed the school that became Henry Kendall College and later became the University of Tulsa.

The Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Dinner is open to the public, and interested persons may obtain ticket information by calling 405/522-3569 by September 24.

October seminar to educate preservationists about mid-twentieth-century buildings

The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is pleased to announce that the National Preservation Institute (NPI) will present its two-day seminar, "Identification and Evaluation of Mid-20th-Century Buildings," in Oklahoma City on October 16-17, 2007. The seminars will take place in the classroom of the Oklahoma History Center at 2401 N. Laird Avenue.

In post-World War II America, buildings, suburbs, and towns sprang up like lawn weeds. The seminar will address how these structures fit into today's and tomorrow's historic preservation patterns. Emphasizing the 1950s, faculty will examine era-specific factors that help identify and evaluate postwar buildings in terms of their significance for listing in the National Register of Historic Places; identify new mid-twentieth-century construction methods and materials, from pre-fabs to Lustron Steel, concrete, panel-wall, and aluminum; and much more.

The seminar is designed for architectural historians, federal, state, and local agency cultural resource managers, and preservation consultants. Because NPI is a provider of the American Institute of Architects Continuing Education System credits, architects will want to review the registration materials for details.

The faculty are well qualified. James C. Massey, architectural historian and planner, is a contributing editor of *Old House Journal*, and historic preservation consultant to historic property owners on the use of federal and state rehabilitation tax credits. Shirley Maxwell, historian, is a historic preservation consultant, contributing editor to *Old House Journal*, and co-author of *House Styles in America* and other publications.

The NPI, a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization, offers specialized information, continuing education, and professional training to those involved in the management, preservation, and stewardship of our cultural heritage. NPI also offers seminars in historic preservation and cultural resource management. NPI serves a broad spectrum of professionals from both the government and private sectors.

The SHPO will be the cooperating organization with NPI to present these special seminar in Oklahoma.

For registration information and other details, visit NPI's web site at <www.npi.org> or telephone Deputy SHPO Melvena Heisch at 405/522-4484. She may also be contacted by e-mail at <mheisch@okhistory.org>.

Gift Shop News

by Russ Haynes

Hello from the Gift Shop! The heat is finally here. I'm looking forward to fall, but for those of you who like to read a good book by the pool, please take a look at some of the new books we have for sale.

AFRICAN AMERICAN SOLDIER IN THE CIVIL WAR: USCT 1862-1866 by Mark Lardas. Number 114 in Osprey Publishing's Warrior Series. Examines the journey of the African American slave to soldier to free man, and provides a fascinating insight into the impact that these brave men had on the war and how it influenced their lives thereafter. Includes 8 pages of color artwork illustrating the soldiers and their equipment. 64 pages. Paperback. \$17.95

A CENTURY OF DISHONOR: A Sketch of the United States Government's Dealings with Some of the Indian Tribes by Helen Hunt Jackson. First published in 1881, *A Century of Dishonor* is classic account of the U.S. government's flawed Indian policy and the unfair treatment afforded North American Indians by expansionist Americans. Includes information on the Delaware, Cheyenne, Nez Perce, Sioux, Ponca, Winnebago, and Cherokee Indians. 528 pages. Paperback. \$19.95

IMAGES OF AMERICA: Broken Arrow: City of Roses and Pure Water by Donald Wise. Presents a collection of vintage images that illustrates the development of the town from an agricultural trade center to a prosperous city of diversified light industry and a center of education. 128 pages. Paperback. \$19.99

100 OKLAHOMA OUTLAWS, GANGSTER, AND LAWYERS, 1839-1939 by Dan Anderson and Lawrence Yadon. Presents interesting and little-known facts about this romanticized era. Includes information on Bonnie and Clyde, Belle Starr, Machine Gun Kelly, the James brothers, the Youngers, the Doolins, the Daltons, and other well-known and unknown criminals and officials. 336 pages. Paperback. \$16.95

The Gift Shop is located at the main entrance to the Oklahoma History Center, at 2401 N. Laird Avenue in Oklahoma City. Please stop by any time you are in town. As usual, OHS membership discount applies to in-person, mail, and internet orders.

To order, please use the order form included or call 405/522-5214. Please make checks payable to the Oklahoma Historical Society. Overseas members must email us for a shipping quote before submitting an order. For questions and suggestions call or e-mail <giftshop@okhistory.org>. Thanks once again for your patronage, and we look forward to hearing from each and every one of you.

GIFT SHOP ORDER FORM

QTY	TITLE	PRICE
SUBTOTAL		
LESS 10% FOR OHS MEMBERS		
OKLA. RESIDENTS ADD 8.375% SALES TAX		
SHIPPING/HANDLING (see chart)		
TOTAL AMOUNT OF PURCHASE		
Name		
Address		
City State Zip		
Check (include current D.L.# and exp. date)		
Money Order/Mastercard/Visa		
Credit Card No. & Exp. Date		
Signature		
SHIPPING/HANDLING US only		
\$.00 to \$15.00 = \$4.50		
15.01 to 30.00 = \$5.50		
30.01 to 50.00 = \$6.50		
50.01 to 75.00 = \$7.50		
75.01 to 100.00 = \$10.00		

Museum of Cherokee Strip opens satellite in Enid's Oakwood Mall

The Museum of the Cherokee Strip in Enid, Oklahoma, has closed and is beginning its transformation into the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center. While this is under way, the museum will open a satellite space at Oakwood Mall on West Owen K. Garriott. It will have panel displays, video stations, a children's coloring area, education trunks with hands-on materials, a land run information research station, and an area for lectures and demonstrations. The exhibit will be accessible Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The official opening will be on Tuesday, September 4. During September the Mall Museum will host an Oklahoma History lecture by Glen McIntyre at noon on September 12, a lecture by Dr. Charles Mankin, director of the Oklahoma Geological Society at noon on September 19, and a lace-making demonstration by the Lace Guild of Oklahoma on Saturday, September 29 from 1 to 3 p.m. There is no charge for attending any of these activities, and the Mall Museum itself will be free to the public. In months to come there will be additional lectures and activities at the Mall Museum, and they will be announced in *Mistletoe Leaves*.

For more information call Glen McIntyre at 580/237-1907.

See page 1 for the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center groundbreaking!!

SHPO announces Centennial Farm and Ranch designations

Melvena Heisch, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, and Glen Roberson, coordinator of the Centennial Farm and Ranch Program, announce that seventy-five families have received Oklahoma Centennial Farm/Ranch Awards for 2007. There are 1,120 total members in the program as of June. The Oklahoma Historical Society and the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture have been sponsoring the awards for eighteen years.

To qualify for a Farm or Ranch Award, a property must be owned by a family member for at least 100 years and must be operated by a family member, occupied by a family member, or leased out by a family member over 65 years of age. The property must include a minimum of 40 acres and have gross annual sales of at least \$1,000.

For more information on the Centennial Farm and Ranch Program, contact Roberson at 405/522-6387 or by e-mail at <groberon@okhistory.org>.

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Mistletoe Leaves

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A Swallow Returns: The Chinese Experience in Oklahoma opens at Oklahoma History Center September 21-22

The Oklahoma Museum of History announces a new exhibit that will open on the weekend of September 21-22, 2007. *A Swallow Returns: The Chinese Experience in Oklahoma* tells the story of Chinese immigration to the Sooner State from territorial times to the present day. The year-long exhibit will be located in the Inasmuch Foundation Gallery at the Oklahoma History Center. Mike Bell and Susan de Quevedo of the OMH staff developed the exhibit in collaboration with the Oklahoma Chinese Community Foundation. The curators interviewed people from the Oklahoma City and Tulsa Chinese communities.

Among the stories related in the exhibit is one from the Eng family, who owned and operated the well-known Mandarin Café in downtown Tulsa during the 1930s and 1940s. The owner's children share their family's history and experiences working in and living above the restaurant. In addition to telling personal stories, the exhibit will display objects that individuals brought with them on their journey to Oklahoma, for example, a Chinese/English dictionary, musical instruments, and traditional clothing. Chinese artifacts from the museum's collections are included as well.

The exhibit title, *A Swallow Returns: The Chinese Experience in Oklahoma*, refers to a Chinese story about a swallow that flies away from home but returns to the same area to nest again. In the early 1900s Chinese individuals left their families in China to look for work in America, but the sojourners always hoped to go back to live in their Asian homeland. Today, hundreds of Chinese families have made Oklahoma their home, but they visit China and then, much like the swallow, return to the Sooner State.



History Center volunteer training is September 15

The next training session for new volunteers is September 15, 2007. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer for the OHC should contact Robbin Davis at 405/522-0754 or visit <www.okhistorycenter.org> for more information.

On average OHC volunteers donate more than 800 hours a month. There are currently 162 volunteers.