



Mistletoe Leaves



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September 2009



"Betsy, the Queen of All the Cows," a milking simulator, will be available for those who want to "try their hand." (OHS staff photo).

Make the scene on September 4

OHS continues its Rock 'n' Roll programming on Friday, September 4, with a special program of music and nostalgia.

Experience *The Scene* with KOMA and Ronnie Kaye, as seen on TV in Oklahoma City in the 1960s. The show will feature performances by The Five Americans, Jim Edgar and the Roadrunners, and other rock groups.

Tickets are \$15 and go on sale August 1. Order them in person at the History Center (at 2401 North Laird Ave.), or by phone at 405/522-0765 (both on a will-call basis).

This is an all-ages show. The doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the entertainment starts at 7 p.m. There will be dancing and refreshments, including soft drinks and a cash bar.

SHPO seeks input for FY 2010 programs

On Friday, September 11, at 10:30 a.m., the State Historic Preservation Office staff holds its annual public meeting to receive suggestions for the FY 2010 Historic Preservation Fund Grant Application to the Department of the Interior. The meeting happens in the Oklahoma History Center classroom, at 2401 North Laird Ave. in Oklahoma City.

Hard copies of the State Historic Preservation Plan are available to download at <www.okhistory.org/shpo> or may be obtained by calling the SHPO's offices at 405/521-6249 or by e-mail at <mheisch@okhistory.org>.

Cherokee Strip Celebration Tea and Open House is September 19

To commemorate the 1893 Cherokee Strip Land Run, the Cherokee Strip Historical Society and the Oklahoma Historical Society will host their annual Open House on September 19, from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at the Cherokee Strip Museum in Perry. Refreshments will be served.

Two exhibits will also open September 19. The exhibit "Bottles! Bottles! Bottles!" will provide a glimpse of the many different sizes and shapes of bottles used to hold everything from perfume to moonshine.

The ongoing exhibit *Photography: Images of Our Past* will present a new selection of images that highlight the extensive photographic collection that is housed at the Cherokee Strip Museum.

A display on *Noble County Towns* will showcase many early-day photos of Noble County's communities.

To find out more about Noble County go to <www.cherokee-strip-museum.org>.

For additional information get in touch with the staff at 2617 Fir in Perry, OK 73077. They may also be reached by telephone at 580/336-2405, or by sending e-mail to <csmuseum@okhistory.org>.

The Cherokee Strip Museum is open to the public Tuesdays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

SeptemberFest is September 12!

Did you ever want to milk a cow? Here's your chance. "Betsy, the Queen of All the Cows," a milking simulator, will make a repeat appearance when the Oklahoma History Center presents its annual contribution to SeptemberFest on Saturday, September 12, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The fun happens inside the center and outside on its grounds on Northeast Twenty-third Street, east of the Capitol building. As part of the event, free educational and cultural activities are available to the public. Other programming will also take place on the Governor's Mansion grounds, also on Twenty-third Street.

Indoors, the History Center venue will offer music and dance performances. These include Monty Harper's Kids' Songs, the Classen High School Jazz Band, and the Celtic Praise dance troupe. The Sugar Free All Stars will offer kid-friendly rock and roll.

The Oklahoma Museum of History galleries (inside the History Center) will be open free of charge. The exhibits offer a wide range of topics, including the recently opened and widely acclaimed *Another Hot Oklahoma Night: A Rock & Roll Exhibit*.

Outdoors, reenactors will present living history programs. These include cowboys with their horses; a chuck wagon and the cook; Civil War soldiers and their equipment; the bullwhip master; a guitar and mandolin craftsman; presentations on the early years in Indian Territory; wildlife programs with Critter Tales from Martin Park Nature Center; Pawnee Bill with his horse; silversmithing; blacksmithing; and a nineteenth-century photographer.

According to Walter Eskridge, the OHS staffer who's coordinating the event, "In 2008 SeptemberFest served an audience of 30,000 people, mostly families who enjoyed a variety of activities. This year will be even better. Entertainment, demonstrations, hands-on activities, and the museum galleries offer a great variety of fun, educational opportunities for everyone. The History Center provides for a wide range of interests, and visitors are all ages and walks of life. Parents and grandparents bring their children and grandchildren. Everyone learns something, and everyone has a lot of fun."

Picnic facilities are available along the Red River Journey on the History Center's grounds. Call 405/522-0791 for additional details. For a map of the grounds visit the OHS web site at <www.okhistory.org>.



Director's Column

By **Bob L. Blackburn**
Executive Director

Throughout my career in history, I have had the privilege of working with many people who contribute to the cause of history.

Some, like Dr. John Carmichael of Woodward, contribute through their leadership and enthusiasm to build museums, celebrate centennials, and preserve historic sites.

Others, like Cheyenne Peace Chief Lawrence Hart, contribute through their willingness to share with others a deep understanding of the history that shaped their families, their communities, and their country.

Still others, like recently retired OHS historic home guru Shirley Pettengill, contribute through a life of service to something they passionately believe in.

Mike Adkins, a dear friend who recently lost his battle with cancer, was a man who shared all of these qualities.

Mike was a leader who bubbled with enthusiasm. He not only was willing to take the point on a project, but he also was able to lead through example. Others, seeing his dedication and determination, were willing to fall in and do their fair share.

In 1988, in recognition of his leadership, Mike was named Outstanding Teacher of the Year in Oklahoma.

Mike was always willing to share what he knew about history, a point that he proved time and again after he joined the staff of the Oklahoma Historical Society.

He organized the educational team that works with classroom teachers to prepare their students for visits to the museum. His understanding of history, combined with the experience of teaching for 26 years, gave Mike the ability to mesmerize students during programs and create educational trunks that brought history to life for thousands of children each year.

And then there is the passion that Mike brought to everything he did. You could see it when he described a new idea for an educational tool that might draw the interest of more students. You could see it in his performances when he appeared as a cowboy, a soldier, or a pioneer down on his luck. His love of history was visible for everyone to see.

We will miss Mike Adkins, but his legacy will live on in the students he inspired, the friends he made, and the colleagues he worked with. That legacy will live on in the Oklahoma History Center.

Yes, I have had the privilege of working with many people who contribute to the cause of history. Mike Adkins was one of the best.

Development News

By Paul F. Lambert

The Annual Donor Board list for the fiscal year that was completed on June 30, 2009, is printed in this issue of *Mistletoe Leaves*. This list includes donors to the Oklahoma Historical Society and the Friends of the Oklahoma History Center. We are grateful to each of these generous donors!

As we have indicated previously, private contributions such as these are used to support programs, collections, and exhibits. This has been our commitment for a number of years, and that policy will continue as we solicit donors during the present fiscal year.

On a related note, our membership grew dramatically during the last fiscal year, both in terms of the number of members and the dollar value of those memberships. At June 30 we had 8,350 members with a combined value of \$295,350. This is remarkable, considering the economic climate during much of that year. We are grateful for all of our members at every level of support. With our members' help, we believe that we will reach our goal of 10,000 members by December 31, 2010.

As we indicated last month, we hope to begin e-mail to communicate with members in the near future. In addition to updates and reminders of special events, we may look into sending membership renewal statements via e-mail and making it easy to renew online. If you would like to receive e-mail from the OHS, please let me have your e-mail address at <plambert@okhistory.org>. Members who do not wish to receive e-mail from us will continue to receive all communications as they have in the past.



New Members, July

*Indicates renewed membership at a higher level

Director's Circle

*Barney and Virginia Brown, Oklahoma City
Richard Hauschild, Edmond

Friend

*W. H. and Karen Anderson, Holdenville
Timothy E. Foley, Edmond
*Mr. and Mrs. Luster, Edmond
*John and Robin Tipsword, Oklahoma City

Family

*Mrs. Imogene B. Belew, Fairmount, GA
Cynthia Bower, Oklahoma City
Richard and Heather Braucher, Claremore
Angels Curtis, Oklahoma City
*Mike and Debbie Gately, Tulsa
Harold and Sue McMillan, Oklahoma City
John and Barbara Nesom, Oklahoma City
Caren Norrid and Carl Norrid, Tulsa
Jov and Reba Olkinetzky, Norman
Hazle Reeves, Pauls Valley
Carole Ryan, Edmond
Robert and Nancy Smith, Oklahoma City
Anna Thompson, Norman
Chuck R. Thompson, Norman
*Dr. Diane J. Willis, Norman

Institutional

Fort Worth Public Library, Fort Worth, TX
Republic Bank & Trust, Norman
Wynnewood Historical Society, Wynnewood

Individual

Deborah Aldridge, Tuttle
Evelyn Blevens, Oklahoma City
Joe Curtis, Shawnee
Steve Durham, Evanston, IL
Ronda Frizley, Gans
Haley Kinnamon, Fort Gibson
CMSgt. William K. Larsen, Oklahoma City
Dick Lorenz, Oklahoma City
Donna Moore, Oklahoma City
Cheryl Moore, Edmond
Logan Mounce, Tuttle
Billie Mysinger, Yukon
John Orr, Oklahoma City
W. R. Reichard, Broken Arrow
Marilyn C. Robbins, Oklahoma City
Stacey Root, Edmond
Todd Whatley, Dulles, VA

Oklahoma Historical Society
Membership Office: Alma Moore
405/522-5242
<ohsmembers@okhistory.org>

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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.



Meetings

The **Oklahoma Genealogical Society** will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, September 14, 2009, at 6 p.m. in the Chesapeake Events Center inside the Oklahoma History Center, 2401 North Laird Ave., in Oklahoma City. Please note that this is one week later than usual due to the Labor Day holiday. Mahlon G. Erickson will present a program entitled "Civil War Soldiers' Burials." The Oklahoma Historical Society Research Center will be staffed and remain open until 7:45 p.m. that evening. The meeting is free to OGS members, and a \$3 donation is suggested from nonmembers. (Special to ML)

Events

The **Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival** is slated for September 4-7 at the Choctaw Nation Capital Grounds near Tuskahoma. Activities will include an Intertribal Powwow, Choctaw cultural exhibitions, stickball games, arts and crafts, concerts, free carnival rides, and buffalo tours. Admission is free. For additional info call 580/924-8280 or toll free 800/522-6170. The capital grounds are located off U.S. Highway 271, south of Tuskahoma. (Special to ML)

The Oklahoma Humanities Council announces that a Smithsonian touring exhibit entitled *Journey Stories* is making its way around the state. Oklahoma is one of five states to debut the exhibit. *Journey Stories* features images, audio, and artifacts that represent individual stories relating to Americans' mobility to travel. From August 15 through September 25 it will be at the **Newkirk Public Library**, 116 North Maple St. For more info phone 580/362-3934. The next stop will be at **Sand Springs Cultural and Historical Museum**, 9 East Broadway. Plan to view the exhibit in Sand Springs from October 3 through November 13. Call 918/246-2509 for more information. Plans include stops in **Miami** from November 21 through December 30, **Durant** from January 9 through February 19, 2010, and **Chandler** from February 27 through April 11, 2010. *Journey Stories* is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and Oklahoma Humanities Council. (Special to ML)

The **Guymon Fiesta** is scheduled for Sunday, September 20, at the Texas County Activity Center in Guymon. From

noon until dark participants can celebrate the area's Hispanic culture with folkloric dances, live music, children's games, and food vendors. Admission is free, and the venue is handicap accessible. Phone 580/338-5838 for additional info. (Special to ML)

Make plans to attend **Dewey Western Heritage Weekend** on September 19-20. Downtown Dewey is the venue for the two-day extravaganza that will include the Tom Mix Festival and the Wild West Show, featuring trick riding, roping, and shooting. Admission to the event is free. For more information call 918/336-8708. (Special to ML)

Bird watchers can participate in daily pelican viewing tours at **Grand Lake O' the Cherokees** from September 25-27. During their fall migration the American White Pelicans visit Grand Lake. Contact Paula Davis at 918/786-2289 or <pdavis@glaok.com> for additional info. Scheduled hours are Friday from 3 to 8 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Special to ML)

Rodeo fans should plan to attend the International Professional Cowboy Association sanctioned rodeo at **Henryetta's Jim Shoulders Living Legends Rodeo Arena** on Sunday, September 6, at 8 p.m. and on Monday, September 7, at 2 p.m. Contact Roy Madden at 918/652-3331. The arena is located in historic Nichols Park. (Special to ML)

The Standing Bear Museum and Education Center in **Ponca City** will be the venue for the annual Standing Bear Powwow that features dancing, food, and craft vendors. The event will take place on Friday, September 25, from 6 to 11 p.m. and on Saturday, September 26, from noon until midnight. The museum is located at the intersection of U.S. Highways 60, 77, and 177. For more info call 580/762-1514. (Special to ML)

Enjoy the Oklahoma Scottish Festival slated for September 18-20, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 p.m., at **Tulsa's Riverparks West Festival Grounds**. Celebrate Celtic history and heritage through food, crafts, music, and sports of Scotland. Phone 918/740-7738 for information. (Special to ML)

Downtown **Checotah** is hosting an Okrafest on Saturday, September 12, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Planned activities include entertainment, games, children's activities, a car show, arts and crafts, and food vendors. Okra lovers will all enjoy free food, an okra-eating contest, as well

as foods made with okra. Call Linda Burns at 918/473-4178. (Special to ML)

For toe tapping and hand clapping to bluegrass, gospel, and country music go to the amphitheater in Runestone State Park, at **Heavener**, on Saturday, September 12, from 1 p.m. to dark. For more info call Vicki Hurst at 918/653-2241. (Special to ML)

Ardmore's downtown area will come alive on September 17-19 for the Black Gold Festival. In commemoration of Ardmore's oil heritage the festivities will include live music, street dances, and an art expo. Activities will occur from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, and from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. James Lamey at 580/226-6246 is the contact person. (Special to ML)

The Ben Troyer Farm, located two miles north of **Clarita**, will be the site for the Amish Auction, Crafts and Antique Show. Scheduled for Saturday, September 12, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., plan on enjoying a display of crafts, antiques, farm equipment, livestock, tack, collectibles, and quilts. A bake sale is slated, and attendees can have lunch as they browse. Call Norman Miller at 580/428-3458. (Special to ML)

Alva's Regional Airport is the venue for the Oklahoma Festival of Flight. Scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, September 26-27, from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., visitors will appreciate one of Oklahoma's largest free fly-in and air show. There will be static aircraft displays and children's activities. Telephone Tyson Tucker at 580/327-3706. (Special to ML)

An art show and book sale are scheduled for Saturday, September 19, at the Tillman County Courthouse, in **Frederick**. Food vendors and entertainment will be present, and the Pioneer Heritage Townsite will be open. The event is free. For more info call Sharon Bennett at 580/335-2126. (Special to ML)

With the fall season upon us, those seeking family fun that includes hay rides, a petting zoo, pumpkins, and a corn maze are invited to the Wild Things Farm, located at 700 Beaty, **Pocola**. "Fall Fun on the Farm" is slated for September 21 through October 31. Hours are Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Monday through Friday by appointment. Call Cathie Greene at 918/626-4053. (Special to ML)

Hidden Collections . . .

The George Washington Hicks Collection

By Larry O'Dell

Missionaries played a significant role, not only in Oklahoma's development, but in the preservation of its history. Through Reverend Hicks's journal and photographs, the George Washington Hicks Collection (2007.107) documents the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century in western Oklahoma. The collection includes photographs of Kiowa, Comanche, Apache, and Cheyenne peoples and their physical culture, as well as various rural church buildings and geographical landmarks such as Saddle Mountain.

George W. Hicks, who was a Cherokee, attended Bacone College in Muskogee. In 1892 the American Baptist Home Missionary Society commissioned him to establish a school for the Wichita Indians near Anadarko. He later worked with the Comanche and the Kiowa Agency. Reverend Hicks retired in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He died in 1937.

The collection holds the diaries of Reverend Hicks in which he describes his work with the Plains Indians. There are also three notebooks of reminiscences written by his wife. The collection's highlights are the many photographs taken by the missionary, including images of Quanah Parker, Geronimo, Big Tree, and Gotebo (pictured above). Several of these images have been digitized and can be viewed in the Research Division's online catalogue at the Oklahoma Historical Society's web site at <www.okhistory.org>.

Researchers may access the papers in person at the Oklahoma History Center in the John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick Research Center.



Dried flowers and herbs, wreaths & tussie-mussie

On Friday, September 18, the Murrell Home at Park Hill will offer a workshop on historic methods of drying plants to retain color and make arrangements.

Participants will use dried items to make at least one product to take home. The interesting creations will include potpourri and sachets, household soaps, oils, and bath additives, and some edible things from the kitchen.

No previous knowledge is necessary, but space is limited, so book your place early. The cost is \$20 and includes all of the materials. Phone 918/456-2751 for reservations, before September 16.

Civil War Life at Honey Springs

On Saturday, September 19, from 1 to 4 p.m. the Honey Springs Battlefield Site will host a Civil War Life program. It will feature reenactors presenting noncombat demonstrations, such as camp setting, *Manual of Arms* drilling, cooking, and a discussion about refugees both white and slave.

The battlefield site is located at 1863 Honey Springs Battlefield Road, outside Checotah.

Call 918/473-5572 for information or e-mail <honeysprings@okhistory.org>.

OHS Kids! Student Art Contest 2009 is under way

We are launching another OHS Kids! Student Art Contest. The competition will begin on September 1 and will continue through October 30, 2009. This year's theme is "Oklahoma Symbols." The contest is open to grades 1-3 and 4-6.

First-, second-, and third-place prizes will be awarded in each category. In addition, the teachers of the first-place winners will also receive a prize.

The first-place winner in each category will receive a one-year Oklahoma Historical Society Family Membership, an Oklahoma History Center T-Shirt, and an Oklahoma Symbols Coloring Book.

Second-place champs will get one Family Pass to the Oklahoma History Center, an Oklahoma Symbols Magnet, and an Oklahoma Symbols Coloring Book.

Third-place winners will receive a Family Pass to the Oklahoma History Center and an Oklahoma Symbols Coloring Book.

The teachers of the first-place winners will get an Oklahoma Symbols prize pack including an Oklahoma Bulletin Board Set, an Oklahoma Symbols Projects Book, and The Big Oklahoma Reproducible Activity Book.

For registration forms and rules, as well as information on Oklahoma symbols and emblems, visit the OHS web site and page at <www.okhistory.org/kids/contests>.

FORT WASHITA
CIVIL WAR WEEKEND
SEPTEMBER 25-26TH, 2009

\$5.00 PER CAR FRIDAY 9 AM-2 PM

Educators and historians will give a glimpse into the past with 15 living-history Education stations including: Civil War music, games, food, fashions, weapons, medical treatment, drill, cavalry, infantry, artillery, signal corps, refugees and more!

\$5.00 PER CAR SATURDAY 9 AM-5 PM

Civil War Reenactors from 4 states will converge at Ft. Washita near Madill to present a re-creation of a Civil War battle from Oklahoma's rich history.
LECTURE SERIES PRESENTED AT 11, 12, & 3:30 PM
BATTLE-1:30

 **580-924-6502**
ftwashita@okhistory.org
www.okhistory.org



Celebrate the autumnal equinox at the Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center

As the end of summer nears and crops are ready for harvest, it is also time for the busk or Green Corn Ceremony, one of the most important observances held by the eastern Native Americans. The Green Corn ceremony was a harvest and renewal ceremony that took place around the autumnal equinox in our area. If you would like to hear about the Green Corn Ceremony and other special ceremonies that took place in prehistoric times, come to the Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center on September 22 and 23 for the Autumnal Equinox Walks. There will be a series of guided walks, and visitors can learn from an archaeologist and ask questions, too.

Each day there will be a walk at 11 a.m., 2 p.m., and 7 p.m., led by archaeologist and site manager Dennis Peterson. Each tour will take about two hours and require a mile of easy walking. Peterson will tell about this unique prehistoric Native American mound site, the types of mounds, why

they were created, and why some of the mounds are aligned for the sunsets of the solstices and equinoxes. He will tell the history of the excavations, explain Native American ceremonies and stories, relate tales about the unusual happenings associated with the mounds, and answer your questions.

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

The Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, the only prehistoric Native American site open to the public in Oklahoma, is administered by the Oklahoma Historical Society.

The center is open Wednesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. and



Sunday from 12 noon until 5 p.m. Admission, except for special programs, is free, but donations are appreciated. The center is located three miles east of Spiro, Oklahoma, on Highway 9/271 and four miles north on Lock and Dam Road.

For further information, or to schedule a group or school tour, call 918/962-2062 or e-mail <spiromds@ipa.net>.

OHS Places . . .

Sequoyah's Cabin

Route 1, Box 141

Sallisaw, OK 74955-9744

Phone: 918/775-2413

Open: Tues.-Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m.;

Sat.-Sun., 2 p.m.-5 p.m.

Closed: Mondays and legal holidays

Admission: Free; donations are accepted.

Directions: Three miles north from Sallisaw on U.S. Highway 59 and then seven miles east on State Highway 101.

Travelers to eastern Oklahoma should visit Sequoyah's Cabin, near Sallisaw and the Oklahoma-Arkansas state line. The cabin serves as a state museum and an interpretive center. Furnishings in the cabin replicate how it might have been outfitted by Sequoyah. Situated near the museum is a bronze sculpture of Sequoyah accomplished by sculptor Fred Olds.

Sequoyah (ca. 1778-1843), also known as George Guess or Gist, created the Cherokee syllabary, which was adopted by the Cherokee Nation in 1821. He was born near Tuskegee, Tennessee, and lived in Alabama and Arkansas before coming to Indian Territory in 1829. That year, he built a one-room cabin near present Sallisaw. There he farmed and worked as a blacksmith.

Sequoyah's Cabin became the property of the Oklahoma Historical Society in 1936. Between 1936 and 1937 a Works Progress Administration (WPA) work project enclosed the cabin in a stone building. The secretary of the interior designated the site as a National Historic Landmark in 1966. In 2006 Sequoyah's Cabin became the nation's sixth landmark to be listed in the National Literary Landmark Register. Anyone interested in reading about Sequoyah should consult Stan Hoig's *Sequoyah: The Cherokee Genius* (Oklahoma Historical Society, 1995).

Sequoyah's Cabin offers new living history program

This spring, the Sequoyah's Cabin historic site began a new program for schools and other groups of all ages. A presenter in period attire will explain the life of a typical Cherokee in the 1800s. The instruction will explain clothing, customs, weapons, and fur trapping. Visitors will also be able to participate in a game of Cherokee stickball.

The program is available free of charge from September 1 through October 31. Reservations are required, and the programming is subject to weather conditions.

For additional information, or for a school or group reservation, contact Jerry Dobbs at 918/775-2423. He may also be reached by e-mail at <seqcabin@okhistory.org>.



Tour Doaksville by candlelight on October 2-3

Come and experience the history of southeastern Oklahoma.

The annual Doaksville Candlelight Tour will be held on Friday, October 2, and on Saturday, October 3, 2009. Doaksville was the ending point for the Choctaw Trail of Tears and became the Choctaws' first capital in the mid-1830s. The town served as a major metropolitan establishment in the region. At Doaksville, Confederate General Stand Watie laid down his arms, ending the Civil War in Indian Territory, on June 23, 1865.

This year's event will concentrate on the town's early years and the establishment of the Doaks trading post as well as the topic of the Republic of Texas and its fight for independence in 1836. The presentations will also feature information about the obstacles that faced the Choctaw government and other events that molded this dramatic time in U.S. history.

The tour will begin with a short hayride under the stars. Then a guide will take visitors on a forty-five-minute walking tour along the streets of the once-prominent town. After the tour the hayride will return everyone to the starting point.

The charge for the event is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children aged six to twelve. Children six and under are free. To make a reservation contact the Fort Towson Historic Site at 580/873-2634, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or by e-mail at <ftowson@okhistory.org>.

“A Day at Rose Hill School” to be presented for seven schools in September

The Cherokee Strip Museum in Perry is excited to begin its twenty-second year of the award-winning program, “A Day at Rose Hill School.” In September classes from seven different Oklahoma schools will attend, making a total of nineteen presentations. To date, nearly 57,800 children have stepped back in time with this program, which was developed by the Oklahoma Historical Society in 1988. A day at the historic schoolhouse enables fourth-grade children to learn history by experiencing history.

The Rose Hill building was constructed in 1895 in Black Bear Township, District 32. It was located five miles north of Perry and one mile east. Not only was the building used as a school, but, like other country schoolhouses, it also served as the community’s hub. Spelling bees, literaries, plays, pie suppers, cakewalks, and, at one time, church services were also held in this building. Rose Hill has changed very little over the years. A cloakroom was added, as were a bell tower, a back door, and electric lights. Classes consisting of eight grades were held in the structure until the late 1940s. It continued to be used as a social gathering place. In 1970 the schoolhouse was moved to the grounds of the Cherokee Strip Museum. In 2008 railings and a platform were added to the front porch for accessibility.

In 1988 Rose Hill School took on a new role, becoming the site of a living history program entitled “A Day at Rose Hill School.” Every day of the school year a different fourth-grade class travels to Perry to experience a day in 1910. The “scholars” spend about two weeks in preparation for their trip back in time. Food, games, songs, personal hygiene, and punishments are among things discussed. These lessons are done in conjunction with an introduction to Oklahoma history. As they leave the museum to walk to school, the scholars are directed to the time bridge. As they cross the time bridge over the creek, they travel back in time to 1910.

More than three thousand scholars, teachers, and parents spend a day at Rose Hill each year, and tourists are also allowed to peek back into time. Already scheduled to attend this year are fifty-four different schools on 144 days. Scholars will be greeted by one of the Rose Hill schoolmarms, Miss Rupp or Miss Walton. Visitors are welcome to sit in the back of the room, but they must be quiet or risk getting in trouble with the schoolmarm.

For more information, or if you are a teacher and want to make a reservation, contact Peggy Haxton at 580/336-2405 or by e-mail at <rosehill@okhistory.org>.

Conser House quilt and tractor show set for September 19

The Friends of Peter Conser Home have set the date for their annual quilt show, tractor show, and lawnmower races. This year the event will take place on Saturday, September 19, at the Peter Conser House in Heavener.

Quilt show pre-entry forms may be obtained at the Peter Conser House, located at 47114 Conser Creek Road and must be mailed by September 12 to Conser Quilt Show, P.O. Box 13, Hodgen, OK 74939. Applications will also be available on check-in day. Ladies (or gentlemen) must bring their quilts or quilted items to the Peter Conser House on Thursday, September 17, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Quilts will be judged on Friday, September 18.

The competition is open to anyone who would like to show a quilted piece(s). If you have quilted items for sale, please include the price. Categories are bed quilts (king size to twin size, 86 x 62 or larger), hand quilted or machine quilted; small lap quilts or baby quilts (smaller than 86 x 62), hand quilted or machine quilted; wall hangings, hand quilted or machine quilted; tops; miscellaneous quilted items, hand quilted or machine quilted; and antique quilts.

For the tractor buffs, the show offers a variety of antique tractors on display. Anyone who has a tractor and would like to show if off may bring it to the event.

For more information on the quilt and tractor show call 918/653-2986.



A vintage Fordson Tractor (Library of Congress LC3b43922u).

The lawnmower races will be held again this year. In 2008 there were several heats. The participants are required to stand in the starting line, run and jump on the mower, start it, and race around the track. Bring a lawn chair and watch the races. If you would like to enter, call 918/653-2187 for a list of the classes and specifications.

The Peter Conser House is located four miles south of Heavener and three miles west of Hodgen. From Heavener, go south on Highway 59 for four miles, turn west on Conser Creek Road, and then go three miles. For information on the Peter Conser Historic House call 918/653-2493.



Sod House to present “Rock Mary” lecture September 12

Art Peters of Hinton will be at the Sod House Museum on Saturday, September 12, at 10 a.m. to present a lecture titled “History of Rock Mary and the California Road through Oklahoma.”

Peters, who serves as curator/director of the Hinton Historical Museum, has spent the past three years researching and documenting Rock Mary and the California Road through Caddo County and other points in western Oklahoma, including the Antelope Hills area.

The Rock Mary landmark is situated in northern Caddo County along the California wagon road and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Used during the gold rush, the wagon road was first surveyed from Fort Smith to Santa Fe by the Marcy Expedition in 1849. As that first group of military men traversed this region, they named the first mound, west of Hinton, “Rock Mary,” after a young girl traveling with the emigrant party that they were escorting.

Rock Mary, one of the three “signature” rocks between Fort Smith and California, is located three miles west of Red Rock Canyon State Park. Wagon ruts are still visible today. Other canyons throughout Caddo County also have wagon ruts, some of which became so deep that the wagons had to move over and start a new pathway.

Peters will illustrate his talk with photographs of the wagon ruts in the sandstone canyons. He’ll describe how the ruts were made and also explain why the wagons would leave the more level roadway and enter the canyons in the first place.

He will tell the history of how Rock Mary was named and explain that it is possible to know exactly which mound, among the series of mounds, is the true landmark. His talk also includes information about carvings left by pioneers on Rock Mary and in Rock Mary Canyon.

In 1853, four years after the naming of Rock Mary, a railroad survey was completed through the area along the same route. Traveling with this expedition was an artist who drew sketches of rock formations in the terrain along the way. Peters will present photos of the artist’s sketches and paintings and compare them with his personal photos of those precise locations today.

The Sod House Museum is operated by the Oklahoma Historical Society. For more information telephone Renee Mitchell at 580/463-2441 or send her an e-mail at <sodhouse@okhistory.org>.

Annual Donor Board

July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009

This list is to recognize donors to the Annual Fund Campaign of the Oklahoma Historical Society and the Friends of the Oklahoma History Center during the recently completed fiscal year. The Annual Donor Board is prominently located on the first floor of the History Center.

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Twenty-year Members Renew in July

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

Gerald E. Baehler, Broken Arrow, May 1, 1974
Billie Mysinger, Yukon, December 1, 1977
Lewis Culver, Little Rock, AR, May 1, 1980
Elk City High School, Elk City, August 1, 1981
Joy Smith, Valliant, July 1, 1982
Mary Jo Watson, Oklahoma City, August 1, 1984
Oklahoma Christian University Library, Oklahoma City, September 1, 1985
William L. Anderson, Cullowhee, NC, December 1, 1985
Ardmore Public Library, Ardmore, July 23, 1986
Omer Kircher, Norman, November 14, 1986
Thomas Burnell Colbert, Marshalltown, IA, July 6, 1987
Brenda Granger, Oklahoma City, July 6, 1987
Steven and Donna Byas, Norman, July 22, 1987
LTC. Stanley E. Botts, Waukomis, March 21, 1988
Stanley and Jean Warren, Oklahoma City, June 16, 1988
Fort Smith National Historical Society, Fort Smith, AR, July 5, 1988
W. H. and Karen Anderson, Holdenville, July 6, 1988
McCurtain County Historical Society, Idabel, July 14, 1988
D. L. Myers, Tulsa, December 16, 1988
Rex George, Oklahoma City, June 20, 1989

Pawnee Bill Ranch sets September workshop schedule

Quilts, homemade perfumes, and hammered things are on the instructional schedule for this month at the Pawnee Bill Ranch Historic Site, according to Erin Brown of the ranch staff.

In addition to the regular Quilt Block of the Month class, scheduled for September 7, the events will include a Homemade Perfumes and Oils Workshop on Thursday, September 24. This interesting session will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the museum conference room. Martha Ray will teach students how to prepare perfumed bath products and oils from natural materials. This includes soap, bath salts, bath vinegars, talcum powder, and hand lotion. She'll also discuss the history of women's hygiene.

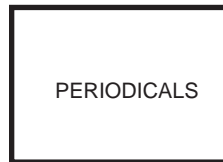
The cost is \$15 per person, and everyone will take home a great-smelling item to use.

An "Introduction to Blacksmithing" seminar will occur on Saturday, September 26, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This all-day affair costs \$20. The class will be conducted in the historic ranch blacksmith shop. Participants will have the opportunity to try a hand at learning a true heritage skill and build some muscles in the process! The class is for beginners.

Call the Pawnee Bill Ranch staff for information at 580/762-2513 or e-mail them at <pawnee_bill@okhistory.org>.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Mistletoe Leaves

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Oklahoma Historical Society announces new hours of operation for History Center in Oklahoma City

As a result of state budget cuts, the Oklahoma History Center and Research Library have changed their hours of operation. The new hours began on Saturday, August 1, 2009. The Museum of Oklahoma History and the John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick Research Library will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday thru Saturday. The Oklahoma History Center building, including the museum exhibits, the library, and all offices, will be closed entirely on Sunday.

Regular weekday and Saturday programming at the Oklahoma History Center and Research Library will continue, as will other exhibit and education programs of the Oklahoma Historical Society.

The Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors approved these changes on July 22, 2009, at their regular meeting, as part of the agency's operating budget for the State's Fiscal 2010 year. The board also approved several staff changes, modifications to some programs, and other cost-savings measures.

These changes do not affect any of the offices of the Oklahoma Historical Society, including the State Historic Preservation Office, and regular office hours remain in effect from Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information contact Dan Provo, History Center director, at 405/522-5248.



Smithsonian Affiliations
Membership Program

Enid archivist to speak during Cherokee Strip Days

Archivist Glen McIntyre of the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center will deliver a 12 noon presentation titled "The Making of the Governor, 1890" on Wednesday, September 16, as the center celebrates Cherokee Strip Days with the Enid community. The event takes place in the Humphrey Heritage Village Church, on the grounds of the Heritage Center.

In his presentation McIntyre will explore the efforts of those serving on the local Republican Territorial Committee to advance the candidacy of Kingfisher resident J. V. Admire as territorial governor. McIntyre will place Admire's candidacy in the context of the politics of the period and will demonstrate how the race for governor related to attempts to select the territorial capital.

The program is free and open to the public. Attendees are welcome to bring lunch and visit with the speaker following the lecture. The historic buildings in the Humphrey Heritage Village will be open for tours following the program.

The Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center is located at 407 South Fourth St. in Enid. Call 580/237-1907 for additional details.

Museum to host photo and art contest in September

With hundreds of visitors a month at the Chisholm Trail Museum and Governor Seay Mansion in Kingfisher, memories are being created. In September the museum will host a photo/art show and contest to put those memories on display. Unique views of the mansion and the Pioneer Village buildings are sought for the event.

The pieces will be displayed in the museum throughout the month of September and will be simultaneously judged by the public. Prizes will be awarded to the top three places. All of the works will also be carefully photographed for possible use in museum promotional programs. Professional and amateur artists of any age are encouraged to participate.

Entries for the show must be in place at the museum by September 1. There is no fee to enter. The Chisholm Trail Museum and Governor Seay Mansion are located at 605 Zellers Avenue in Kingfisher. The museum is open Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 405/375-5176.

Let's Have a Party!

Oklahoma's Women of Rock 'n' Roll opens September 19

Let's Have a Party, the satellite exhibit that accompanies *Another Hot Oklahoma Night*, will open on September 19 at the Pioneer Woman Museum in Ponca City. The new exhibit features the women of Oklahoma Rock 'n' Roll.

The festivities begin with a free outdoor concert on the lawn adjacent to the museum. Visitors are welcome to bring blankets and lawn chairs.

At 1:15 p.m. Wanda Jackson will be presented with the 2009 Pioneer Woman Award.

Concert Schedule

11:00-12:00 Me and the Boys
12:15-1:15 Unmarked Cars
1:15-1:30 Wanda Jackson Presentation
1:30-2:30 The Burton Band
2:45-3:45 The Romantic Disaster
4:00-5:00 Pinkie & the Wes Reynolds Band



Later that evening, at the Poncan Theater, the City of Ponca City will host a concert featuring Wanda Jackson and Becky Hobbs. To buy tickets, contact the Ponca City Chamber of Commerce at 580/765-4400, or the Poncan Theater at 580/765-0943.

The Pioneer Woman Museum is located at 701 Monument Road in Ponca City.