



# Mistletoe Leaves



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September 2010

## SeptemberFest is September 11!

Bring the whole family to the Oklahoma History Center for SeptemberFest on Saturday, September 11, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is free, fun, family-friendly, and hands-on. Visitors get free admission to the museum all day long! Come early for easy parking.



**Celtic Praise Dance Troupe performing at SeptemberFest 2009. They will perform at 2 p.m. at this year's event (photo by Jason Bondy).**

Other indoor activities and demonstrations include fabric weavers, yarn spinners, lace making, basket weaving, Betsy the Queen of all Cows milking simulator, face painting and origami with the Asian Society, the Sons of the Union Veterans, the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife's fishing simulator, and Bazark the robot.

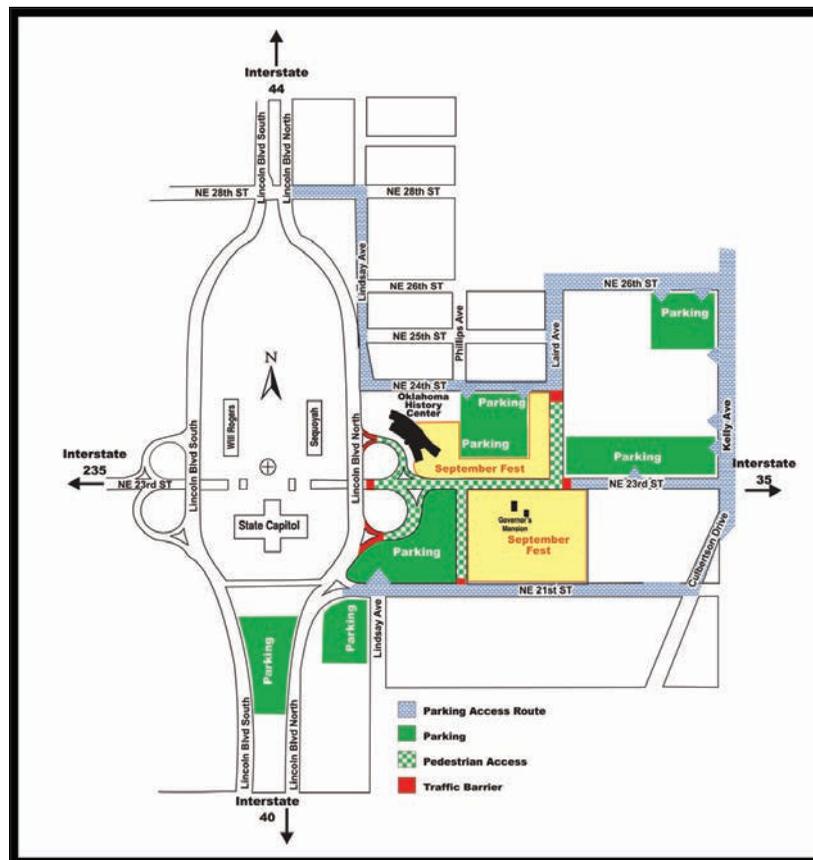
Outdoors on the grounds of the History Center will be Civil War infantry and weapons, a cannon from Ft. Sill, primitive hunting tools, the World War II Airborne Demonstration Team, Kevin Webb as Pawnee Bill, Critter Tales with live animals, tie-dyeing bandanas, rope-making, and more!

Questions? Contact Walter Eskridge at (405) 522-0791 or email [waltereskridge@okhistory.org](mailto:waltereskridge@okhistory.org).

Scheduled activities in the History Center include the following:

- Devon Great Hall (under the *Winnie Mae* airplane)
- 10:00-10:45 a.m. Lewis Johnson telling Indian stories and playing flute
- 10:45-11:40 a.m. Fun family games
- 12:00-12:45 p.m. Classen School of Advanced Studies Jazz Band
- 1:00-1:50 p.m. Fun family games
- 2:00-2:45 p.m. Celtic Praise Dance Troupe

**Map of parking for SeptemberFest. Parking areas are shaded in green.**



### SHPO seeks input for FY 2011 programs

On Friday, September 10, 2010, at 10:30 a.m., the State Historic Preservation (SHPO) staff will hold its annual public meeting to provide information about the statewide preservation program and to receive public input for development of the FY 2011 Historic Preservation Fund application to the Department of the Interior. The meeting will be in the Classroom, Oklahoma History Center, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City.

For more information, call the SHPO office at 405/521-6249 or email Betty Harris at [bharris@okhistory.org](mailto:bharris@okhistory.org).



**Kids enjoy tie-dyeing on the lawn of the History Center at SeptemberFest 2009 (photo by Jason Bondy).**



## Director's Column

By **Bob L. Blackburn**  
Executive Director

History proves that adversity should never be an excuse for giving up or slowing down.

The Cherokee genius Sequoyah created the only original syllabary in the Western Hemisphere while his tribe was under cultural assault and facing eventual removal to the Indian Territory.

Charles Colcord lost everything several times on the ranching frontiers of Texas, New Mexico, and the Cherokee Outlet before making the Land Run of 1889 and striking it rich in Oklahoma City real estate.

And C.R. Anthony plowed through the plunging purchasing power of the Great Depression to build a chain of clothing stores under the banner of cash and carry at lower prices.

Like those rugged pioneers, we at the Oklahoma Historical Society are not going to give up or slow down just because of 23 percent budget cuts and the loss of almost 40 of our 160 employees. We are not going to take the advice of those who say this is a time for retrenching and taking cover until better times.

To us, these are the better times. We have a growing membership and a great board of directors. We have a staff that I would stack up against any historical organization in the country. And we have dreamers throughout our ranks.

We have people who dream about saving sites associated with the Civil War, the most important turning point in the history of the nation and the Indian Territory. This year, despite the budget cuts, we will invest \$1 million at Fort Gibson, \$1.9 million at Honey Springs Battlefield, and \$1 million at Fort Towson.

We have people who dream about the next generation of Smithsonian-quality exhibits at the Oklahoma History Center. This year, we will plan and design new exhibits on oil and gas since the 1950s, the wrecked riverboat *Heroine*, and the story of African Americans in Oklahoma. That dream is shared by our lead donors at Chesapeake Energy, Continental Resources, Devon Energy, and the Dean McGee Foundation.

We have people who dream about a new museum in the Brady District of Tulsa that will be in the ranks of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the Experience Music Project, the Country Music Hall of Fame, and the Grammy Museum. Last week, the OHS Board of Directors approved a full-time position for a project director for the Oklahoma Museum of Music and Popular Culture.

The list of dreams could go on, from saving heirloom artifacts and rare photographs to sharing the story of history with students and the general public.

Yes, history proves that adversity should never be an excuse for giving up or slowing down. So does the Oklahoma Historical Society.

*Dr. Bob*

## Development News

By Paul F. Lambert

During the next several months we will be conducting a major membership recruitment campaign. This will involve mailing special, large postcards to as many as 50,000 Oklahomans inviting them to join the OHS. We will make every effort to avoid having any postcards sent to current members, but given the large numbers involved, we have to rely on a computer screening process to eliminate members from the mailing lists. Because names and addresses vary for the same person, the computer will inadvertently allow some member names to remain on the prospect mailing lists. If you receive such a postcard, please understand the situation and pass it on to someone who should be a member of the OHS.

In addition, we are working with our webmaster, our IT director, and OK.gov to revamp the store component of our OHS website, [www.okhistory.org](http://www.okhistory.org), to make online transactions on the site easier and less time consuming. This will include joining or renewing membership, making donations to the Annual Giving Campaign, participating in the Family Tree or Legacy Limestone Paver projects, and purchasing items from our Gift Shop and Research Center. The store and online payment elements also will change in appearance to resemble more closely the other parts of our website.

We already have eliminated the \$2.00 transaction charge that previously was added on to membership and donations, and we are working to reduce the number of "clicks" that are required to make membership payments and donations. This makeover will result in a website more user friendly and convenient. Once the revisions are completed, we will invite members to consider renewing online, thereby saving both the OHS and members time and money. Of course, those who prefer to receive renewal invoices and return them with their checks will continue to be able to do that. As always, we are grateful for our members support however they choose to give it!



## New Members, July 2010

\*Indicates renewed membership at a higher level

### Director's Circle

\*Mr. and Mrs. Don Kaspereit, Oklahoma City

### Friend

Michael Abernathie, Tulsa  
\*Mr. and Mrs. David Anderson, Choctaw  
Roger Booker, Edmond  
\*Mr. and Mrs. James Bose, Stillwater  
\*William Cleary, Oklahoma City  
\*Oakley Deisenroth, Tulsa  
Patrick Dorr, Stillwater  
Virgie English, Midwest City  
Marcus and Tresa Evans, Oklahoma City  
\*Joe Price Fallin, Oklahoma City  
Dr. and Mrs. James Grim, Oklahoma City  
Jerry Hill, Edmond  
\*Mr. and Mrs. Jim Holder, Alva  
\*LaVeta Martin, Oklahoma City  
Russell Martin, Tulsa  
\*Mr. and Mrs. Larry Pulliam, Springer  
Basil Rayan, Edmond  
Mike Sikes, Tulsa

### Family

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Arnold, Bethany  
Mr. and Mrs. John Burks, Edmond  
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Caputo, Edmond  
Hollis Utah Cox, Iberville, LA  
Roy Crossfield, Tanner, AL  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Davidson, Hinton  
Barbara Emerson, Moore  
Mr. and Mrs. John D. Hartley, Norman  
Christina Keeling, Oklahoma City  
Don and Bett Ketcher, Oklahoma City  
Dr. and Mrs. Wayne King, Oklahoma City  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Lail, Tulsa  
Mr. and Mrs. Kyle Lewis, Lawton  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lombardy, Oklahoma City  
Mr. and Mrs. Orville McKinney, Oklahoma City  
Wilhelmina McKittrick, Oklahoma City  
Mr. and Mrs. Ryan McMullen, Stillwater  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Minick, Oklahoma City  
Mr. and Mrs. Terry Patterson, Norman  
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Russell, Nichols Hills  
Dean and Kimberly Scherer, Yukon  
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Simmons, Oklahoma City  
\*Mr. and Mrs. Jack Uselton, Livingston, TX  
\*Mary Jo Watson, Oklahoma City  
Mr. and Mrs. Will Welden, Oklahoma City

### Institutional

Sand Springs Cultural & History Museum, Sand Springs  
Southwestern Urban Foundation, Oklahoma City  
University of Science & Arts of Oklahoma, Chickasha

cont'd. on page 7

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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, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Dr., Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7917, 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 have its regular monthly meeting on Monday, September 13, at 6 p.m. at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. The topic of discussion will be "Scrapbooks vs. Archival Preservation." Speaker Jeanne Prince will explain the difference between scrapbooking and preserving documents and photographs. Examples of materials to use for preservation of photographs, records, journals, and books will be given.

## Events

The Tom Mix Festival kicks off Dewey Western Heritage Days on Saturday, September 18, in downtown Dewey. Activities start at 9 a.m. with live music, children's games, antique tractor shows, a longhorn cattle drive through downtown Dewey, gun fighters, food vendors, and a parade at 3 p.m. On Sunday, September 19, the Prairie Song Pioneer Village will be open at 9:30 a.m. for a chuck wagon breakfast followed by "Sermon on the Mount." The Wild West Show starts at 1:30 p.m. For more information call 918/440-3205 or send an email to [tommix@cableone.net](mailto:tommix@cableone.net).

The Adams Corner Rural Village at the Cherokee Heritage Center in Tahlequah presents Fiber Arts Day the first Saturday of each month until the end of the year. Admission to the Cherokee Heritage Center is \$8.50 for adults and \$5 for children. The first Saturday of each month members of any of the three federally-recognized Cherokee tribes and one guest are admitted free. For more information, contact Karen Cooper at 918/456-6007.

The Cherokee Heritage Center presents its 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Cherokee Homecoming Art Show and Sale now through September 26. Members of any of the three federally-recognized Cherokee tribes are eligible to enter. The art show has two divisions, traditional and contemporary, with numerous media represented. For more information, please contact the Cherokee Heritage Center at 918/456-6007 or toll free at 888/999-6007. You can also visit [www.cherokeeheritage.org](http://www.cherokeeheritage.org) to get more information.

The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Bluegrass and Chili Festival will be held in Claremore September 9 to 11 featuring the Mid-America Regional Chili Cook-Off, a car show, kiddie koral, and three stages of entertainment.

Listen to bluegrass, country, and gospel music as you enjoy some of Oklahoma's best chili. The event is at Claremore's Expo Center. For more information call 918/341-2818.

Tulsa's River West Festival Park will host the Oklahoma Scottish Festival September 17 to 19. The festival offers food, crafts, music, and highland games. Visitors can see Scottish and Irish dance demonstrations, piping, Scottish heavy athletic competitions with more than sixty athletes, and much more. The festival runs 5 to 11 p.m. on Friday, 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturday, and 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Sunday.

## Exhibits

Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa is launching a new exhibit entitled *History in Focus: Photographic Images from the Gilcrease Collection* to showcase more than 75 of the museum's most significant photographic portraits, landscapes, and historical scenes from its collection of over 10,000 historical photographs. Many of the displayed photographs have Oklahoma themes, including a photograph of the 1889 Land Run. Others are of famous people such as Abraham Lincoln, Robert E. Lee, Sitting Bull, and Osage Chief Bacon Rind. The exhibition is located in Helmerich Hall and Gallery 4 of the museum and will be on display through October 10. Gilcrease is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Contact 918/596-2700 for more information.

Baby carriages are the subject of a new exhibit at the Museum of the Great Plains in Lawton. *Baby Carriages: 1940s to Present* is on exhibit now through October 31 in Gallery A of the museum. The Museum of the Great Plains is open seven days a week, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday. For more information, see [www.museumgreatplains.org](http://www.museumgreatplains.org).

## Workshops

On September 1 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. the Oklahoma Historical Records Advisory Board is sponsoring a day-long "Introduction to Archives" at the Oklahoma History Center. The workshop is geared toward staff members who work with archives but have had no formal archives training. Participants will learn how to determine what items should be archived, how to connect preservation to the processing and storage of collections, and basic processing methodologies. The instructor is Rebecca Elder, preservation

consultant with AMIGOS Library Services. The cost for the session is \$40. For more information contact Susan Feller at the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, 200 N.E. 18th St., Oklahoma City, OK 73105.

The Oklahoma Historical Records Advisory Board, in conjunction with the American Association for State and Local History/Oklahoma Museums Association 2010 Annual Meeting, will hold three pre-conference workshops with the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. On September 22 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sherelyn Ogden, head of conservation for the Minnesota Historical Society, will give a workshop on the "Care of Folded and Rolled Documents." Registration is \$50 and includes materials, refreshments, and lunch. On September 22 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. a session will be presented on "Common Ground: Best NAGPRA Practices for Museums and Tribes." The cost for this session is \$20 and includes registration and lunch. Both of these sessions are at the Oklahoma History Center. The last event on September 22 is a tour of the Chickasaw Cultural Center entitled "Heartbeat of a Nation: Chickasaw Cultural Center" that departs from the downtown Oklahoma City Sheraton and takes a daylong bus tour to the Chickasaw Cultural Center. The fee is \$55 and includes bus transportation, museum admission, and lunch. For more information, contact Susan Feller at the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, 200 N.E. 18th St., Oklahoma City, OK 73105.

## Twenty-year Members Renew in July

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

- Billie Mysinger, Yukon, December 1, 1977
- Steven Fiser, Oklahoma City, March 1, 1982
- Mary Jo Watson, Oklahoma City, August 1, 1984
- Talbot Library/Museum, Colcord, May 1, 1985
- Oklahoma Christian University Library, Oklahoma City, September 1, 1985
- Ardmore Public Library, Ardmore, July 23, 1986
- Beth Heimann, Annapolis, MD, October, 27, 1986
- Molly Levite Griffis, Norman, June 2, 1987
- Steven and Donna Byas, Norman, July 22, 1987
- Stanley and Jean Warren, Oklahoma City, June 16, 1988
- Fort Smith National Historical Society, Fort Smith, AR, July 5, 1988
- Carolyn Neuerburg Calloway, McClellan, CA, May 4, 1990
- Mark and Lou Curnutte, Vinita, July 30, 1990

## “A Day at Rose Hill School” slated to begin September 1 at the Cherokee Strip Museum in Perry



**Miss Rupp, schoolmarm at Rose Hill School, teaches a lesson.**

civic activities were held in this building. Rose Hill School changed 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. Afterward, the building continued to be used as a social center for the community. 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 the living history program “A Day at Rose Hill School.” During the school year, different fourth-grade classes travel to Perry to experience a 1910 school day. The young “scholars” spend about two weeks in preparation for their trip back in time. Food, games, songs, personal hygiene, and punishment are among things discussed. The lessons are done in conjunction with an introduction to Oklahoma history. As they leave the museum to walk to school, the students

### Sign outside Rose Hill School.



The Cherokee Strip Museum in Perry is pleased to announce the beginning of the 2010-11 school year and its award-winning program, “A Day at Rose Hill School.” School begins on September 1 with a class from Glencoe attending the first session. Since the program’s inception in 1988, there have more than 60,500 fourth graders who have stepped back in time with this educational experience with history.

The Rose Hill schoolhouse was constructed in 1895 in Black Bear Township, District 32. It was located five miles north of Perry and one mile east. Like many other country schoolhouses, it served both as a place of learning and as a community center. Spelling bees, plays, pie suppers, cakewalks, and other educational and civic activities were held in this building. Rose Hill School changed 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. Afterward, the building continued to be used as a social center for the community. 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.

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More than three thousand students, teachers, and parents spend a day at Rose Hill each year, and tourists are also allowed to witness this step back in time. There are fifty-six schools already scheduled for 141 different days of classes for this school year. 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 classroom, but they must be quiet or risk getting into trouble with the schoolmarm.

For more information, contact Peggy Haxton at 580/336-2405 or at [csmuseum@okhistory.org](mailto:csmuseum@okhistory.org).

## Candlelight Tour at Historic Doaksville

You are invited to come and experience the history of southeastern Oklahoma.

The annual Doaksville Candlelight Tour will be held October 1 and 2. Doaksville was the ending point for the Choctaw Trail of Tears and became the first Choctaw 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 and officially ended the Civil War on June 23, 1865.

This year’s event will concentrate on the town’s history just before the beginning of the Civil War, the obstacles that faced the Choctaw government, and other events that molded this dramatic time in U.S. history.

The tour will start and end with a short hayride under the stars. A guide will take the visitor on a forty-five minute walking tour through the streets of this once-prominent town. After the tour the hayride will return everyone to the starting point.

The charge for the event is \$6 for adults and \$4 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 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or at [fttowson@okhistory.org](mailto:fttowson@okhistory.org).



**See the living history at the Doaksville Candlelight Tour!**

### OHS Fall Book Sale, September 30 - October 2

Don’t miss our biggest book sale of the year! The sale includes books on a variety of topics including history, geology, education, genealogy, and more. Shop for rare and out-of-print books as well as microfilm, maps, photos, CDs, records and videos.

The book sale runs 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Thursday and Friday, September 30 and October 1; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, October 2.

## Cherokee Strip Celebration Tea and Open House on September 18

On Saturday, September 18, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. the Cherokee Strip Museum in Perry and the Oklahoma Historical Society will host their annual Cherokee Strip Celebration Tea and Open House. This event is intended to commemorate the historic 1893 Cherokee Strip Land Run. Refreshments will be served.

The Cherokee Strip Museum is open to the public Tuesdays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The museum is located at 2617 Fir in Perry.

The Celebration Tea and Open House are a part of the 117<sup>th</sup> Cherokee Strip Celebration in Perry, September 13-18. Festivities include a carnival, an arts and crafts festival, a rodeo, and food vendors. At 10:30 a.m. on September 18, a Cherokee Strip parade will be held in downtown Perry.

For more information, contact Peggy Haxton at 580/336-2405 or [csmuseum@okhistory.org](mailto:csmuseum@okhistory.org).

## Peter Conser Home to hold Quilt and Tractor Show September 18

The Friends of Peter Conser will hold a Quilt and Tractor Show on Saturday, September 18, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Peter Conser Home. The day's activities will also include an Arts and Crafts Show.

For entertainment, the Friends of Peter Conser have booked the SE OK Kids to perform. The group is comprised of approximately forty youngsters ranging in age from six to eighteen. Members present acts showcasing their talent in vocal music, instrumental music, dance, and drama. Other entertainment is also scheduled for the day.

The Quilt and Tractor Show is open to anyone who would like to enter a quilt or tractor or to operate a booth. For more information on the Quilt and Tractor Show, call 918/653-2986. For more information on the Arts and Crafts Show booths, call 918/658-2014 or send an email to [jerryduncan@windstream.net](mailto:jerryduncan@windstream.net).

The Peter Conser Home is located at 47114 Conser Creek Road, Heavener, which is four miles south of Heavener and three miles west of Hodgen. Take Hwy 59 South four miles south of Heavener, turn west onto Conser Creek Road, then go three more miles. For more information, contact the Peter Conser Home at 918/653-2493 or via email at [peterconser@okhistory.org](mailto:peterconser@okhistory.org).

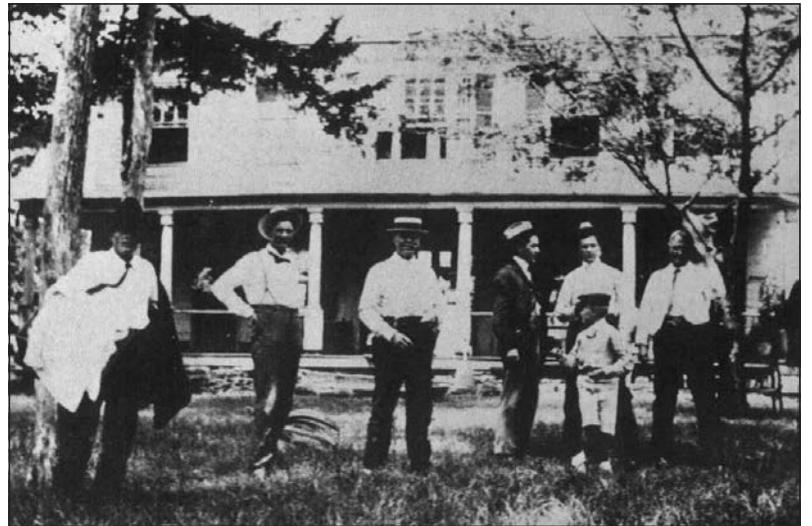
## Fall Dig at Rose Hill Plantation Site

The Oklahoma Historical Society's Rose Hill Plantation site in Choctaw County will be the focus of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society 2010 Fall Dig, October 6-10.

Rose Hill was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in early 2010. The OHS Museums and Sites Division and the State Historic Preservation Office have been conducting joint research to increase the amount of historical information related to the site.

Joining the research team from the Oklahoma Archeological Survey are Amanda Regnier, Scott W. Hammerstedt, and Lee Bement. Geophysical testing was performed in the immediate area where the home is thought to be located in preparation for the fall excavations. The team plans to perform a coring test in late August or early September to help further define the research area. The core of the research will center on the plantation homesite and surrounding area. This testing will help researchers delineate the size and type of construction used as well as provide archeological information that will be used to further the interpretation of the site.

For more information or participation in the excavation, contact Fort Towson staff at 580-873-2634 or by e-mail at [jdavis@okhistory.org](mailto:jdavis@okhistory.org). For membership information in the Oklahoma Anthropological Society, contact Jana Brown, membership chair, by e-mail at [educator@museumgreatplains.org](mailto:educator@museumgreatplains.org)



**Rose Hill Plantation.**

## Glass Plate collection received by Photo Archives

Bill Welge, director of the OHS Research Division, is pleased to announce the recent addition of fifty-five glass plate negatives in remarkable condition to the OHS Photo Archives. The rare images include Oklahoma Panhandle farming operations and individual portraits that were taken from 1900 to the 1940s.

Christopher Cave of Denver, Colo., received these glass plate negatives from a local woman who had them stored in a garage. In researching the origins of the images, Cave found that one of the images was of Gray, Oklahoma Territory, and was taken by Ward Brothers photographers. He subsequently contacted Ron Kuykendall of Beaver, who, in turn, contacted Jacque Swanner, curator of the Jones and Plummer Trail Museum, operated by the Beaver County Historical Society (BCHS), about acquiring the collection.

Because of the long-standing relationship between the OHS Research Division and BCHS over the years, Ms. Swanner collaborated with Mr. Welge about the collection, ultimately agreeing that the original images would be housed with the OHS, but copyright would be shared by both the OHS and BCHS.

With travel limited due to budget shortfalls, Welge enlisted the support of the Friends of the OHS Archives (FOHSA) to provide for travel to retrieve the glass plates. He and Chester Cowen, OHS photographic archivist, then traveled to Denver to personally collect and pack the fragile items for safe transport back to the OHS. The images are currently being processed for public use.

As Bill Welge noted, the Research Division and OHS is indebted to Ms. Swanner, Mr. Kuykendall, Mr. Cave, and the FOHSA for partnering to collect, preserve, and share a fabulous collection for all Oklahomans to enjoy.



**Bill Welge, left, and Chester Cowen with the glass plate negatives (photo by Rachel Mosman).**

**Image from Ward Brothers Photographic Shop in Oklahoma Territory, circa 1906.**



## The Jack T. Conn Collection of Banking Artifacts

In July Dr. Michael J. Hightower's travels on behalf of the OHS Oklahoma Bank and Commerce History Project took him to the Citizens' Bank of Ada, home of Jack Conn's collection of bank artifacts. Items included a Marchant calculating machine (circa 1911), a Cumming perforator, several change machines (circa 1890 and 1900), and a check sorter (circa 1911).

These and other contraptions that tell the story of Oklahoma banking were displayed in Citizen's Bank when it opened in the 1960s and will be part of the Oklahoma History Center's exhibit on banking and commerce, slated for opening in 2012. Thanks go to the late Jack T. Conn for preserving these artifacts for future generations.

To learn how you and bankers in your community can participate in the Oklahoma Bank and Commerce History Project, please contact Dr. Hightower at [mhightower@okhistory.org](mailto:mhightower@okhistory.org) or you can call 434/249-6043.

## September Quilt Block Class at Pawnee Bill Ranch

On September 14 from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. Pawnee Bill Ranch will host its Quilt Block of the Month class. Martha Ray is the instructor. The workshop cost is \$5.00 and will be held in the museum conference room. These classes are scheduled for the second Tuesday of every month through the rest of this year. For more information, contact Anna Davis at 918/762-2513 or [pawneebill@okhistory.org](mailto:pawneebill@okhistory.org).

# Celebrate Cherokee Strip Days with the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center

The Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center welcomes schools and families to the Humphrey Heritage Village at 507 S. 4th Street in Enid, Oklahoma, to enjoy music, historical demonstrations, and chuck wagon cooking on September 17 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

In addition to the special activities, the village features authentic historical buildings including the only surviving original 1893 United States Land Office, the 1902 Village Church, an 1895 one-room county school, Turkey Creek School, and the 1905 Victorian home and family belongings of J.W. and Alice Glidewell.

The center will also feature a temporary exhibit entitled *Cherokee Nation: A Portrait of a People* September 17-18 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and September 19 from 2 to 4 p.m. Artist David Fitzgerald will make a presentation about the exhibit on September 19. The exhibit showcases Fitzgerald's work of fifty-five portraits of Cherokee tribal leaders, couples, families, and individuals, shown with quotes from those pictured about the Cherokee culture, history, and homeland.

An Oklahoma Historical Society destination, the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center has evolved from a smaller collection housed in the Cherokee Strip Museum in Enid. In 2004 community supporters began an \$8 million capital campaign to renovate and expand the Cherokee Strip Museum into a regional attraction with more extensive exhibits and a new, 24,000-square-foot facility.

"Several years ago we recognized the need to create a much larger, more comprehensive museum in Enid," said Dr. Bob L. Blackburn, executive director of Oklahoma Historical Society. "From that need, we created the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center. We hope someday to be able to create similar regional heritage centers throughout the state using this as the model. We appreciate the local support of the Enid community, which made the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center possible."

The center does not officially open until November 5, but the center's board and staff members are eager to renew the center's participation in Enid's Cherokee Strip Days, which celebrates the 117th anniversary of the 1893 Land Run.

"Being involved in Cherokee Strip Days is a wonderful prelude to the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center's grand opening in November," said Lew Ward, board chairman of the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center support group. "We are so grateful for the community's support, and we are excited to give back to the community with enriching, educational experiences at the center."

## CALL FOR PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

### "Winds of Change: Life on the Southern Plains"

The Oklahoma Historical Society is seeking papers and presentations for the OHS Annual Meeting, which will be held April 27, 28, and 29 at the Cherokee Strip Conference Center, Enid, Oklahoma. A total of ten concurrent paper sessions will be held on Thursday, April 28, and Friday, April 29.

The theme for the Annual Meeting is "Winds of Change: Life on the Southern Plains." This is a broad theme that is relevant to the plains regions of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas. Emphasis will be placed on Oklahoma topics, but presentations on topics that relate to the history and culture of the region will be considered. Presentations should be limited to twenty or thirty minutes in length, depending on the number of participants in each session.

One-page proposals should include the title of the presentation; a 100-word description of the presentation; the name, address, phone number, and email address of the presenter; and a short curriculum vitae or brief biographical sketch. Those who submit proposals will be notified of their status by early January of 2011 if not earlier.

Please submit proposals as early as possible with the deadline for submissions being Friday, December 3, 2010, to: Annual Meeting Committee, Attn: Paul Lambert, Oklahoma Historical Society, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73105. Proposals and inquiries also may be submitted to Paul Lambert at [plambert@okhistory.org](mailto:plambert@okhistory.org) or 405/522-5217.

## Hidden Collections . . .

### The Wiley Post Collection

By Larry O'Dell

The Oklahoma Historical Society holds some seminal artifacts and archival collections. One of these is the Wiley Post Collection (75.22). Many of the artifacts are showcased in the Oklahoma Museum of History, but researchers can also see another side of Post through his papers and personal items. Oklahomans have studied Post's materials at OHS for decades.

Post, a Maysville native, worked as an oilfield roughneck as a young man and became a pioneer in aviation. He faced adversity in his youth, losing an eye and spending some time in prison. He found his bearings and future when he obtained an airplane. In the early 1930s he won air derbies and set many records for his flights around the world. Post also developed a pressurized suit for high altitude flying in his famous *Winnie Mae* airplane. In 1935 he crashed an experimental plane in Alaska, killing himself and his passenger, famed humorist Will Rogers.

The collection contains documents relating to his flights, including flight logs, compass delineations, maps, and maintenance records. The archive also holds his pilot's license, passport, and visa. Some fascinating items are the correspondence and telegrams, although many are just congratulatory. There are also folders relating to memorials to him and Rogers, biographies, and his estate. The photographs in the collection document his short but prolific career, proving to be invaluable materials. The Wiley Post Collection can be viewed on the Research Division's online catalogue at the Oklahoma Historical Society's website: [www.okhistory.org](http://www.okhistory.org). The originals can be accessed at the Oklahoma History Center in the John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick Research Center.



### Melvena Heisch and SHPO Staff Honored

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Melvena Heisch and her staff received the Cyrus Avery Award from the National Route 66 Association during that organization's awards banquet on June 19. The event was held at the Downstream Casino at Quapaw, Oklahoma.

The award recognized Heisch and the SHPO staff for their efforts over the past twenty-five years to record historic Route 66-related resources and roadbed segments through survey efforts in the 1980s and in 2002. In addition, SHPO has successfully nominated dozens of Route 66-related properties to the National Register of Historic Places.

Route 66 Association President Jim Crowley observed that Heisch and the SHPO staff "have always stood out from the crowd," and that the selection "was one of the easiest things we have ever done."

## OHS Places . . .

### Henry Overholser Mansion

405 Northwest Fifteenth Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73103  
Phone: 405/528-8485 or 405/525-5325  
Hours: Tues.-Sat., 10 a.m.–3 p.m.  
Admission: Adults \$5  
Seniors \$3  
Children, 6–18 \$1  
Children under age 6, free

Prominent Oklahoma City entrepreneur Henry Overholser had his three-story, Victorian-style home designed by architect W. S. Matthews and constructed at Northwest Fifteenth and Hudson in 1903. Overholser had come to the newly established town of Oklahoma City a few days after the 1889 land run. A man with a vision, he had several railroad carloads of prefabricated, wood-frame buildings shipped to town soon after his arrival. He subsequently erected six business buildings along Grand (now Sheridan) Avenue. Within a two-year period he had the Grand Avenue Hotel and the Overholser Opera House built. Divorced from his first wife, he married Anna Ione Murphy on October 23, 1889, and they had one daughter, Henry Ione, born on April 5, 1905. While Overholser worked to bring new businesses to the young city, his wife became prominent in social circles by hosting balls, charity events, luncheons, and dinners.

The Overholser Mansion served the couple well as they entertained important individuals. The twenty-room, brick-and-stone house has leaded-glass windows, nine fireplaces, and hardwood floors. With woodwork of Antwerp oak and mahogany used throughout, the home was furnished with hand-loomed carpets, oriental rugs, brocaded silk draperies, and lace and linen curtains. The third floor



was used as a ballroom. Guests invited to a reception in spring 1904 probably entered through one of two formal entrances, the one on the east, with its massive double doors, or the one on the south, under a *porte cochère*. A two-story carriage house, which served as a garage and servants' quarters, is situated west of the home.

Using funds raised primarily by the Oklahoma Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, the Oklahoma Historical Society acquired the property in 1972. Currently an affiliate of the OHS, the mansion is operated by Preservation Oklahoma, a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving Oklahoma's historic places. The National Society of Colonial Dames of America, Historical Preservation, Inc., the Women's Architectural League, and the Friends of the Overholser have aided in the restoration and operation of the Overholser House. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places (NR 70000586) in 1970.

### SHPO to cooperate with NPI on "Digital and Traditional Photography of Cultural Resources" seminar

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is pleased to announce that the National Preservation Institute (NPI) will present its two-day seminar entitled "Digital and Traditional Photography of Cultural Resources" in Oklahoma City on September 29-30, 2010, in the Classroom, Oklahoma History Center, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive.

William Lebovich, architectural historian and photographer, is the seminar instructor. He will discuss the full range of important issues related to the production of quality photo documentation for a variety of historic preservation-related projects.

Lebovich will review the use of digital and traditional 35 mm photography techniques for mitigation documentation and for National Register of Historic Places nomination packages, with an emphasis on survey work, presentations, publications, and the web. Also, he will compare camera formats and traditional vs. digital output options, discuss requirements for reviewing agencies and archival processes, and explore issues involved in contracting and supervising photographic projects. An agenda is available online at [www.npi.org](http://www.npi.org).

The NPI is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization offering specialized information, continuing education, and professional training to those involved in the management, preservation, and stewardship of our cultural heritage. The SHPO will serve as the cooperating organization with NPI to present this special seminar in Oklahoma.

A registration form is available online at [www.npi.org/register.html](http://www.npi.org/register.html). The registration fee for the two-day seminar is \$500.

For more information, contact Jere Gibber, executive director, National Preservation Institute, P.O. Box 1702, Alexandria, VA 22313; 703/765-0100; FAX 703/768-9350; or [info@npi.org](mailto:info@npi.org); [www.npi.org](http://www.npi.org).

### New Members, cont'd.

#### Individual

Randy Clark, Grandfield  
Deborah Cowell, Haysville, KS  
Chloe Davis, Elk City  
William Gillespie, Shawnee  
Frank Kullmann, Allendale, NY  
Doris Bush Maher, Tulsa  
Gregory Oppel, Edmond  
Capi Powell, Grove  
Susan Rice, Pryor  
Dee Richardson, Muskogee  
Jim Ricker, Guthrie  
Sheldon Shook, Amarillo, TX  
Charlene Smith, Tulsa  
Jean E.M. Smith, Dallas, TX  
Melvin Todd, Oklahoma City  
Relvis Zeigler, San Antonio, TX

### OHS Board Member and Staff involved in AASLH and OMA Annual Meetings in Oklahoma City

The American Association for State and Local History and the Oklahoma Museums Association will hold joint annual meetings September 22-25 in Oklahoma City.

Participants will be able to choose from many different offerings, including more than seventy sessions, prominent speakers, educational workshops, and captivating tours.

One new feature appearing for the first time as part of the AASLH program is a Tribal Track. Sessions and speakers on tribal-related topics are scheduled throughout the program. Susan Feller, development officer of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, coordinated this new array of offerings.

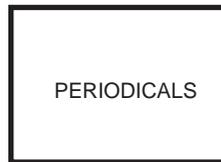
Members of the OHS board and staff also have notable roles in this year's conference. Samonia Meredith, OHS board member, serves on the Host Committee. Dan Provo, Oklahoma History Center director, is on the Program Committee and Host Committee. Robbin Davis, OHS volunteer coordinator, is also on the Host Committee and is a volunteer coordinator for the conference.

Many other OHS staff will participate in the AASLH/OMA meetings in various capacities. In addition to assisting with event planning and public relations promotions, some staff will present papers, others will be tour leaders, and a number will provide living history characters for conference activities.

For more information on the AASLH/OMH joint annual meetings, visit the website [www.aaslh.org/anmeeting](http://www.aaslh.org/anmeeting) or [www.okmuseums.org](http://www.okmuseums.org).

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

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# Mistletoe Leaves

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## Route 66 Museum to Celebrate 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

On September 19, 2010, the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum in Clinton will be celebrating fifteen years of promotion and preservation of Route 66. Along with the anniversary festivities, the museum will also be hosting the 2010 Oklahoma Route 66 Association's Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and welcoming hundreds of H.O.G.s (Harley Owners Group) on their 2010 Rally, Motoring the Mother Road. The festivities that are free to the public will begin at 2 p.m. (entertainment and refreshments will begin at 1 p.m.) in the museum's famed Wow! Room.

With more than 550,000 visitors in fifteen years, the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum has captivated the attention of people from around the world. The museum, originally opened on September 23, 1995, promotes the history of Route 66 by telling its story from beginning to end. To open the day's events, Museum Director Pat Smith will speak about the success of the museum. As an added bonus, museum volunteers will share their favorite Route 66 memories or stories.

Next, the Oklahoma Route 66 Association will induct two special Oklahomans into the Oklahoma Route 66 Hall of Fame. Inductions are held every two years for individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the promotion or preservation of Route 66. The selection includes a nomination and committee process conducted by the association. The winners' plaques are displayed in the museum's Hall of Fame (located in the Wow! Room).

Approximately 600 H.O.G.s traveling Route 66 in the 2010 Rally will join the festivities. The Rally is a two-week excursion beginning in Chicago on September 11 and ending in Los Angeles on September 25. The H.O.G.s will be stopping at the museum throughout the day as they make their way to Amarillo.

The Oklahoma Route 66 Museum will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Attendees are invited to share the museum's birthday cake while listening to the rock 'n roll hits heard in most cars as they traveled Route 66. The event is sponsored by the Oklahoma Historical Society, the Oklahoma Route 66 Association, and the Friends of the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum, Inc. The museum is located at 2229 W. Gary Blvd. in Clinton. Regular admission is \$4 for adults, \$3 for seniors, and \$1 for children. For further information, please contact Pat Smith at 580/323-7866 or by email at [rt66mus@okhistory.org](mailto:rt66mus@okhistory.org).



Smithsonian Affiliations  
Membership Program

### The History Center presents "Oklahomans in the World Series"

Mark your calendars for a special program with Fritz Buckallew, Carl Hubbell biographer, at the Oklahoma History Center. This special programming is hosted by the museum and 46 Starr Press on Thursday, October 7, 2010. Admission is free. The History Center will open at 6:00 p.m., and the program will begin at 7:00 p.m.

This program will look at a number of Oklahoma's major league players and will focus on Carl Hubbell and his World Series record. Hubbell made World Series appearances in 1933, 1936, and 1937 and won MVP in 1936 and 1937. Hubbell found his way onto the All Star team nine times before his induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1947.

Reporters asked him yearly about his legendary moment at the 1934 All-Star game. He struck out five consecutive batters there—a feat for the ages, considering that all five All-Stars he bested were to become among the brightest figures in baseball's Hall of Fame. Lou Gehrig, Joe Cronin, Al Simmons, Jimmie Foxx, and Babe Ruth all failed to master Hub's baffling screwball while the crowd was hushed in disbelief.

Biographer Fritz Buckallew will be available to sign copies of his book, *A Pitcher's Moment: Carl Hubbell and the Quest for Baseball Immortality*. The book chronicles Carl Hubbell's rise from a small Oklahoma town through fifteen years of major league pitching excellence. The book also looks at his influence beyond that as a top executive with his Giants (in New York and San Francisco). It is a compelling tale of a pitcher who became much more than a baseball player.

For more information on "Oklahomans in the World Series" please contact Jason Harris at 405-522-0785 or by email at [jharris@okhistory.org](mailto:jharris@okhistory.org).

