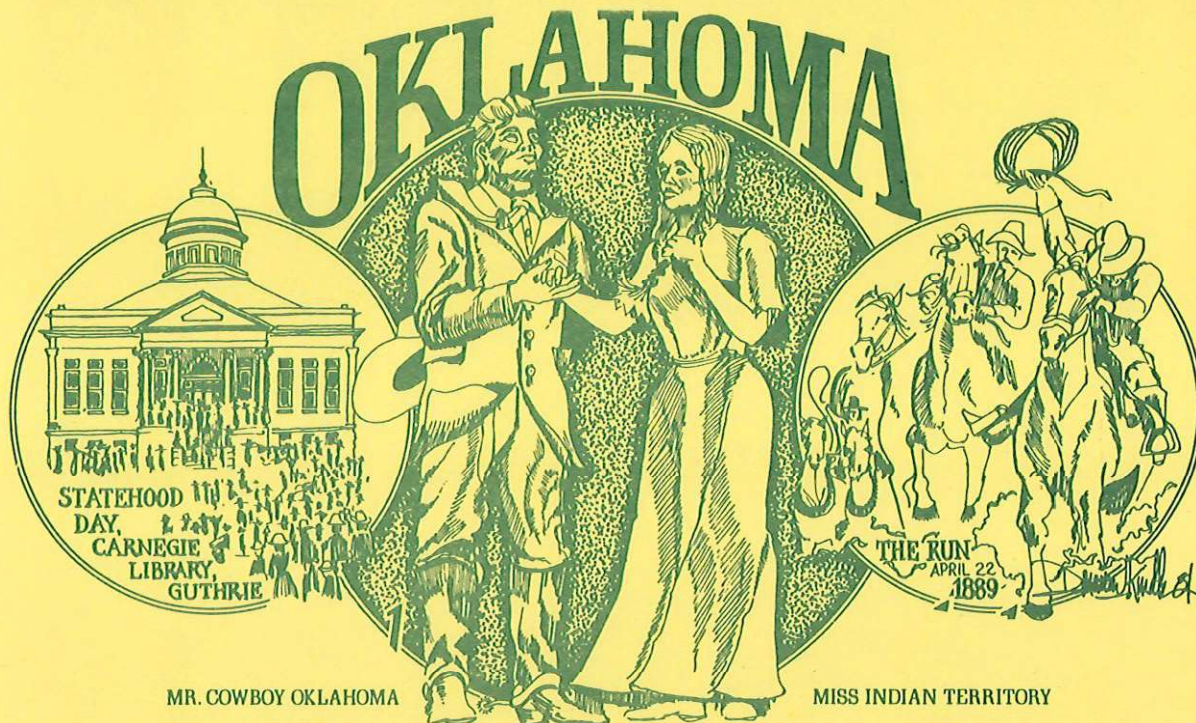




This is the story of the Wedding of Miss Indian Territory and Mr. Cowboy Oklahoma which was solemnized on the steps of the Carnegie Library in Guthrie, Oklahoma, the first state capital, on November 16, 1907. "The Wedding" was one of the highlights of the inauguration of Governor Charles N. Haskell, first governor of Oklahoma. The ceremony, inspired by the Governor's wife, was to celebrate statehood. By official presidential proclamation, Oklahoma and Indian Territory had been admitted to the Union as the 46th state. President Theodore Roosevelt signed the proclamation at 10:16 A.M., November 16, 1907, using a pen made from a quill plucked from an American eagle. The ceremony began with a marriage proposal by Mr. Cowboy Oklahoma to Miss Indian Territory. The bride was given in marriage by the Hon. William Durant, a prominent Choctaw Indian who later became a member of the State Legislature and Speaker of the House of Representatives. The ceremony was performed by Rev. W. H. Dodson of the First Baptist Church, Guthrie, Oklahoma. This is the ceremony which took place on that historical day.

The Proposal

C. G. JONES, MR. COWBOY OKLAHOMA: "I have been asked to perform the agreeable duty of proposing the marriage of Miss Indian Territory to Oklahoma. Permit me to say that nothing gives me greater pleasure. The president advises in his proclamation that the marriage is legal without regard to age or previous condition of servitude. The bridegroom is only 18 years old, but is capable of assuming all the matrimonial responsibilities of a stalwart youth. Though born in trouble and tribulation in the city of Washington, his 18 years on the plains has been one of tremendous activity and he has grown to the size of a giant. Like every well-regulated masculine individual, he is capable of taking care of himself, but he has grown tired of being alone. Because of his youth and inexperience, he is possessed of unconquerable modesty and has asked me to propose marriage to Miss Indian Territory.

Out of sympathy with the young bachelor, I now propose to Miss Indian Territory and ask that the proposal be accepted, and the union consummated here and now. It should be understood that nothing is to be said about the age of the bride. Youth and age are to be blended in harmonious union. Under the constitution and laws, no divorce can ever be granted.

This is not a case of love at first sight. At one time a gentleman by the name of Sequoyah tried to break up the courtship and failed. Miss Indian Territory, tired of the loneliness of single blessedness, has ever since indicated she is in favor of the marriage.

By authority invested in me by the high contracting parties, and in obedience to their request, I call upon Rev. Dodson to perform the ceremony."

The Acceptance

WILLIAM DURANT FOR MISS INDIAN TERRITORY: "To you, as representative of Mr. Oklahoma, I present the hand and fortune of Miss Indian Territory, convinced by his 18 years of persistent wooing, that his love is genuine, his suit sincere, and his purpose most honorable. I present to him Miss Indian Territory, who was reared a political orphan, tutored by federal guardians residing 1,000 miles from her habitation. Despite the circumstances of her youth which have cast a shade of sorrow over a face intended by nature to give back the warm smiles of God's pure sunshine, this beauteous maiden comes to him as the last descendant of the proudest race to ever trod foot on American soil; a race whose sons have never bowed to the feet of an oppressor; the original occupants of the American continent.

Although an orphan, Miss Indian Territory brings a dowry that equals in fertile fields, productive mines and sterling, upright citizenship, the fortunes of her wooer. To Oklahoma, into whose identity Miss Indian Territory is about to merge forever, must be entrusted the care of this princely estate. We resign it to you in the confident hope that it will be cared for, developed, and conserved to the unending glory of our new state and to the untold benefit of our people.

Oklahoma, your wooing has been long and persistent. For 18 years, you have sought the hand of our fair maiden in wedlock. If the object of your suit has at times seemed indifferent, it is but the evidence of a maiden's proper modesty, and not a shrinking from the union. In winning the hand, you take with it the heart. Your bride comes without coercion or persuasion, as the loving maiden confidently places her hand in that of the husband of her choice. The love she bears for you, as the love you feel for her, arises from kindred interest, mutual aspiration, and an unbounded admiration each for the other."

"The Wedding" statue was sculptured in 1976 by Fred Olds, well-known Oklahoma western artist and sculptor, to commemorate America's Bicentennial. The statue is located in front of the Oklahoma Territorial Museum, Guthrie, Oklahoma.

Copyright 1981 The Leather Shoppe, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Oklahoma County Historical Society

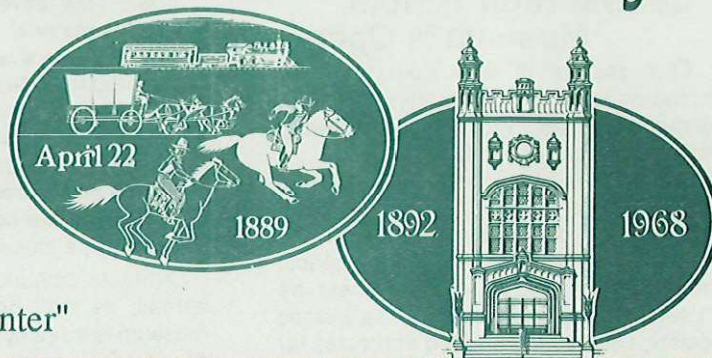
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Oklahoma County Historical Society

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Oklahoma City, OK 73118
Telephone (405) 521-1889

Home of the
"Museum of the Unassigned Lands"
and the
"Central High School Museum & Research Center"



October 1985

President's Message

Fall is here which means our next membership meeting is not far away, so mark your calendar for November 17th. On that Sunday we will elect new members to the board, unveil new displays and have an interesting speaker.

Although many good things actually happened since our last meeting, circumstances beyond our control made it impracticable to publish a newsletter before this time.

Museum Visitors of Note

Following the opening of The Museum of the Unassigned Lands last February, we have had three hundred and forty-two visitors view the displays. This is impressive, especially when one considers the determination a visitor must have in order to find our museum. Yet they came from Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, New York, Texas and Washington, D.C. It goes without saying that we have had numerous guests from our own state.

New Members

Over the summer the society received nine new members. They are Sonja Hunt, OKC, Teresa Ann Haynie, Midwest City, Margaret Woods, OKC, Barbara Farrer, Edmond, Henry D. Mai, St. Paul, Minnesota, Dr. Lewis C. Taylor, OKC, Mandi Lou Dyer, OKC, Charlene Coffman, OKC, and F. Andrew Fugitt, OKC. Our warmest welcome to the Oklahoma County Historical Society Family.

School Visitors

Since the Spring of this year, the Museum of the Unassigned Lands has had one hundred and thirty-six students from the following schools: Rainbow Day Care Center, Classen High School, Belle Isle Secondary School, and Plaza Towers Third Grade. The society wishes to thank volunteers Lucyl Shirk, Artist-in-Residence, Andrew Lester and Carolyn Farris of Voth Art Gallery in assisting with the tours.

Museum Answers Questions

Our Curator, Margaret Woods, has had several telephone and requests by letter for information on historical matters relating to the county. We are delighted to be of service to the community in this way.

Gifts and Donations

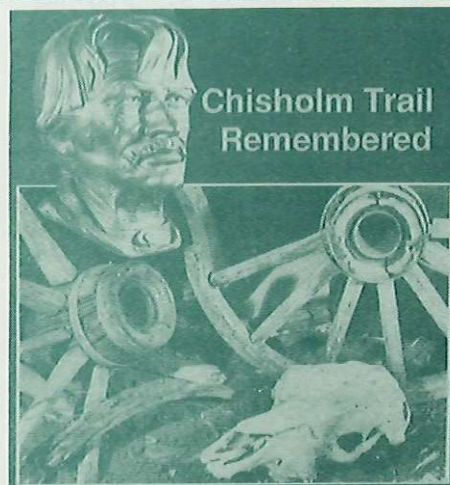
The museum of the Unassigned Lands has received the following artifacts and documents; Mrs. J. W. Hunt has donated a number of "Chronicles of Oklahoma" dating from 1948 to 1970. Allan M. Miller donated thirty-one consecutive years of the "Chronicles" from 1955 to 1980. A friend of Andrew Lester's, Paula Bishop, of Colorado Springs, gave the museum a nicely framed needle point picture of a horse and buggy. Margaret Woods has donated a copy of a paper she did on Cheyenne Legends, which will be added to our Archives. Finally, we will be expanding our parlor and retail displays with artifacts on loan from the State Historical Society.

William Welge, President

November Meeting Set

As you know, November the sixteenth is Statehood Day for Oklahoma. Since this falls on Saturday this year, we will have our Annual Wine & Cheese Fall Meeting on the seventeenth. At that time the membership will elect officers to the Board of Directors for 1986.

Pen Woods has prepared a presentation, "The Dawn of Statehood" which will be shown at that time. This audio-visual is unique, in that actual recordings of prominent people of the historic past may be heard in context with their position in the story. Bill Murray is a notable example.



Use of the Chisholm Trail by cattlemen was exceedingly popular and it was considered the best route from Texas to Kansas shipping points. Joseph G. McCoy, prominent cattleman of that day, tells of this in the following language, "It has more prairie, less timber, more

Continued on Page Two

Editorial

During the past few years, The Oklahoma County Historical Society, has been in a state of development and growth. We are still something of an embryo organization, but our presence is being felt and our potential is slowly (but surely) coming up to the expectations of those who initially believed in the possibilities and need for such a society.

The Museum of the Unassigned Lands is a reality today, acquisitions are being placed on display and visitors are enjoying and being informed of the past.

Those of you who hold the concept dear that there must be "an organized method of preservation and retention of our artifacts and documents," are the hero's of this organization. Your understanding of the needs, and your continued patience and support has been of inestimable value to our continued growth.

We appreciate you and the future will thank you!

Central High School Museum Is Open

Our society is now operating two museums in Oklahoma County. Both were opened this year and both are growing entities of which we can be proud.

Located in the One Bell Central Building, this museum is a beautiful example of cooperation between the business sector, who provides the space; an alumni organization, who hosts the museum during open hours; and a historic society, who conceptualized and cares for the structured program of operation.

Artifacts continue to come in from alumni, as they become aware that the museum is a reality. In addition to this type of material, much documentation in the form of yearbooks, school publications, diplomas, commencement exercise programs, scrap books and miscellaneous news clips are on hand. Such items can be displayed to only a limited extent. These items, are of considerable interest to both researchers and alumni, but cannot be exposed for extreme handling.

To fill this need, the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company has contributed a Microfilm Reader, which will make our museum a resource center! Genealogists will appreciate the value of having access to the commencement exercise programs, which lists both graduates and the teaching staff for a given year.

The yearbook holds a unique place in the hearts of the alumni. Many who could not afford to buy such a book at the time they graduated can now examine their content via the microfilm reader. As with other records, this would not be possible were only a single book exists.

Photographs also are in limited supply and cannot be put on display in a limited space museum. However, the microfilm reader will make possible the presentation of a story in historic annual order for those who want to browse through time.

It will take several months to photograph this material, but the beginning has been made. We even have an alumni who has offered to do the work for us!

The Central High School Museum, is open each week from 10:00 to 2:00 on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Visit us soon and enjoy seeing the growth that will take place in the coming months. As we said before, a museum is a growing entity.

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Did You Know?

Gifts to the Oklahoma County Historical Society are tax deductible as are your dues. Furthermore, if you have a Life Membership, it will continue to support the work of the society. Only the income from Life Memberships is used.

Chisholm Trail (From Page 1)

small streams and less large ones, and altogether better grass and fewer flies—no civilized Indian tax or wild Indian disturbances—than any other route yet driven over, and is also much shorter in distance because direct from Red River to Kansas." It is an established fact that the grass was of such fine quality along the Chisholm Trail that cattle frequently gained weight during the trip. The herds were moved only five or ten miles each day. Most cattlemen started their herds from ranges in the Spring and arrived at the shipping points in the Fall, thus having their cattle on the trail during the time that grass was at its best.

The first movement of cattle up the Chisholm Trail was in 1867, and this route was in continuous use until shortly before the opening of the Unassigned Lands of Oklahoma Territory to settlement in 1889. The turning of the country, through which the Chisholm Trail passed, into farm lands made use of the Trail impossible, and the extension of railroads to the West and into Texas made it unnecessary.

Oklahoma County Historical Society

4300 North Sewell
Oklahoma City, OK 73118

You are invited
to
Fall Annual Meeting
of the
Oklahoma County Historical Society
November 17, 1985
3:00 to 5:00 PM
at the
Museum of the Unassigned Lands
4300 North Sewell

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Oklahoma County Historical Society

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Telephone (405) 521-1889

Home of the
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and the

"Central High School Museum & Research Center"



November 5th, 1986

This is Your Invitation

*All Members
Oklahoma County Historical Society
are invited to attend
The Annual Fall Meeting
and Election of Officers*

*at
The One Bell Central Building
801 North Harvey
November 16th, 1986
From 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm*

The Wedding of Gristmill Jones

When one reflects on the events surrounding November 16th, 1907, and the creating of this new state of Oklahoma, an image comes to mind of a crisp fall day and a great throng of humanity crowding into the Territorial Capitol of Guthrie, jostling for a coveted position in order to witness the birth of a state. Although Guthrie commanded center stage on that day, a prominent Oklahoma City business man played an important role in that unfolding drama.

To signify the uniting of Indian and Oklahoma Territories a mock "wedding" was performed. The businessman turned-groom who represented Oklahoma Territory was Charles G. "Gristmill" Jones. Born in 1856, Jones was a native of Cumberland County, Illinois. A youth of limited educational opportunities, he located in Oklahoma City less than a year after the run of '89 and engaged in the milling business, hence the unusual nickname.

Our groom distinguished himself by being elected to the First Territorial Legislature in 1890. Also the Fifth
(Continued on page two)

Our Second Museum

We know you will be there because you will not want to miss the opportunity to tour the society's museum now located in the former Central High School building. This will be the first time our society will have had a chance to view this fine example of how a landmark structure can be retained as a historic site while providing an outstanding facility for the new owner.

The Southwestern Bell Telephone Company has been acclaimed by civic, state, and national organizations for the consideration given to efficient planning, care, and the beauty attained in restructuring this 1910 building.

Anyone who attended high school in Oklahoma City before 1926 went to Oklahoma High School. It was founded in 1892 and was the only high school in our city until conditions demanded two additional high schools be established, at which time it's name was changed to Central High School.

The Oklahoma County Historic Society has responsibility for the care of artifacts and documents in the museum. A visit to the museum is a must for anyone interested in our county history. This is a logical supplement to The Museum of the Unassigned Lands. Charles Able, who is vice president of our society, has been appointed its curator.

The phone company and the alumni association have each prepared special presentations of the refurbishing program (which took more than two years) and a tribute to the high school that occupied the building from 1910 to 1968.

At this final meeting of 1986, we will also be electing officers and members of the board of directors, so be sure to come and make your wishes known. There will be a special award presented to Miss Edna Couch.

Cars may be parked on the west side of the building. There are ramps and elevators, for handicapped persons with wheel chairs, etc. You may wish to invite guests who are prospective members. Refreshments will be served after we tour the museum and building.

Membership dues in the Oklahoma County Historical Society cost so little - - but accomplish so much!

Potpourri

If you are stumped for a gift idea the Society has three publications that would make great stocking stuffers: *A History of Oklahoma County - - Heart of the Promised Land*; *Physical Legacy of Oklahoma County*; and our latest book, *The Central Theme*, a history of Central High School. All would make a delightful surprise to add to ones library. Give us a call and we will arrange to fill your order. The next item involves a gift suggestion also.

We are fast using up the year of 1986 and the time is at hand for the renewal of annual memberships in our Historical Society. We are heavily dependent on these dues for our financial support.

This is a good time to consider the gift of a membership to a friend for Christmas. By doing so, you will not only be supporting the many programs of the society, but you will also be opening the door to the colorful past of Oklahoma County - - this can be a "Historic Christmas."

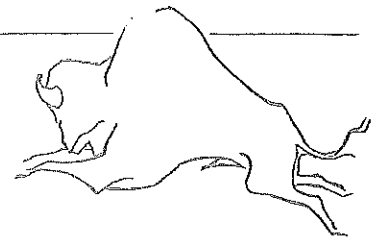
The Museum of The Unassigned Lands was recently featured in Oklahoma Museum Association's newsletter.

Curator, Margaret Woods reports that beginning November 23rd, the museum of The Unassigned Lands will open a special exhibit entitled "A Territorial Christmas," which will feature Antique toys. You will want to drop in and see this seasonal offering.

(Wedding Of Gristmill Jones - Continued)
and Sixth Legislative Assemblies and later served in the First and Second State Legislatures. Tall and fair-haired, Jones noted for his exact appearance, wore the best stripped trousers and black coat that could be found for the occasion.

Oklahoma County Historical Society
4300 North Sewell
Oklahoma City, OK 73118

Buffalo



Bar-B-Que Planned

Mark your calendar for April 22, 1987 when the Oklahoma County Historical Society will host a special kick-off Buffalo Bar-B-Que for the 1989 celebration of our state's one hundreth birthday. Artist-in-residence, Andrew Lester has graciously arranged to supply the buffalo for the event. Life Member, Lucyl Shirk is chairman of our Centennial Committee.

By the end of the year society members, will begin receiving the "Centennial Clarion," a newsletter which will keep them informed of the events planned for this once-in-a-century celebration. This added bonus is another good reason for being a member of our society.

Jones' opening statement began with, "I have been ask to perform the agreeable duty of proposing marriage to Miss Indian Territory." Thus began an eighteen year sequence of events which culminated in the the birth of the forty-sixth state of the union.

Thus it was, through this man, that our city played a prominent part in what was otherwise a major event over-shadowed by the city of Guthrie.

Gristmill Jones returned to Oklahoma City at the end of that momentous day to continue his business, civic, and political activities. He excelled as a railroad promoter, which Oklahoma City can attest to this day. He ran on the Republican ticket for governor in 1910. His notable career and mark on the state of Oklahoma came to a close in 1911 upon his death.

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*Edna has a
ms of a whole book
ready but no \$10,000
to publish it*

SPECIAL SEASONAL GREETINGS TO MOST SPECIAL FRIENDS IN 1986 AND 1987

I hope you don't mind being called "Most Special." Among the group are my very own very few relatives; Jim's relatives, who have so kindly adopted me as a real blood-line aunt, instead of an "only-by-marriage aunt"; friends and neighbors of earlier days whose contacts I cherish; genealogical and O.S.U. associated friends; and other varied friends of high school, college, D.A.R., 1812, Colonial Dames of Elliott and Oklahoma.

I used to love writing notes on about 300 cards and would start by Nov.

1. Now I can't even write one card because of a loosened piece of steel bar in my right arm. The surgeon is unwilling to repair it as long as the pain is endurable. Some of the pieces in my left arm are shifting also. My latest accident of which you may not be aware is ^{broken} 5 and/or cracked bones in my left hip which happened on April 15, 1986, in Washington D.C. I did not fall-osteoporosis is my worsening enemy, not a lady's running a red light at 50 m.p.h. Out of the last two and a half years, I have spent more than 9 months in hospitals and nursing homes. I can now walk a little without a walker. I also have a wheel chair and a three-wheeler for transportation. I am so grateful to "make another Christmas." Your cards, letters, and visits contributed so much in making me try to live; however my can't-do's frustrate me. At least I had 79 good, happy, and productive years as I look forward to my 82nd birthday this coming March- all made more so because of your part in my life. (past, present, and future)

At first, I had planned to do two letters with a paragraph that I could use to thank you individually somehow; but too many "Most Special Friends" for which I am especially grateful.

For this letter I am especially grateful to Ted Bourne who typed it, made copies, and addressed it. Ted began to work for me Jan, 15, 1985 and is now unofficially adopted by us. He is studying to become a Physical Therapist and also has a full-time job. He manages to find time to help me on weekends when

he's not busy. Now we have Peter (from Poland) who helps me about 5 hours a day. He also goes to night school, as does his wife Lucie. She helps me on some Sundays by hanging up my clothes. (I can get the hangers down, but not back up!) The visiting nurse comes by weekly to give me a good bath and shampoo, Poor sweetheart Jim does the cooking, laundry, and some cleaning. I get to bed around 9:30 P.M. Imagine my going to bed at that time. I'm up at 5:30 A.M.-glad for another day, I might add. I'll watch some early morning T.V. and I enjoy reading the daily paper.

I am looking forward to getting a catalog together on the vast amount of books and periodicals of genealogical and family histories. They still have to be computerized. Then, I want to have published by computer, some family histories almost completed that I have worked on for 40 years.

At least I can still hope and plan for the present and future. Even though I'm almost 82, I try to keep in mind and be grateful for the friends that I have.

Ted and Peter let me know when I'm feeling sorry for myself. Jim, Billie, and Virginia keep me active as possible.

Thank you for another Christmas and New Year's visit with you.

Dorothy DeWitt Wilkinson

Dorothy DeWitt Wilkinson

Oklahoma County Historical Society

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MARCH 1987

CENTENNIAL BAR-B-QUE - April 26th

Museum Musings of Central High

There has been a stirring among the alumni, and many priceless photographs, documents, and memorabilia have been received for display. It takes patience and time to get a movement of this kind going and we feel quite rewarded by some of the items that have come to us within the past three months.

One of the largest single collections came from a former teacher. In February, one of Central's most outstanding conductors, Mr. L. M. Calavan, came back to town to be inducted into the Oklahoma Music Educator's Hall of Fame. The OHS Concert and Marching Bands formed a great part of the school's activities and this collection is very meaningful to our museum.

"Cal" brought a suit case filled with scrap books and photographs and we placed them in the school's historic files. One of the problems expressed by many, concerns things that museums have which cannot be placed in a position for the public to handle. To copy a photograph seems to be a practical solution, although costly and time-consuming. However, we did copy each picture! These are now being made into books, and you will soon be able to "visit and handle" them at the Central High School Museum, located in the One Bell Central Building. The museum is open from ten to two o'clock Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Another collection, also being reproduced, involves photographs of stage productions by the drama department. Maybelle Conger turned over her entire group of pictures, which span her thirty years as teaching speech and drama at the high school, which was closed in 1968. If you haven't visited this sister museum to our Museum of the Unassigned Lands, you are missing something worthwhile.

By-Laws To Be Amended

At the annual meeting of the membership, last November, a motion was entertained to increase the number of members composing our governing body, and an executive committee serving as officers. One of the obvious benefits would be a larger number of interested members functioning in active roles in the leadership of the society. The board hopes to finalize a

Our society is co-sponsoring a kick-off celebration Bar-B-Que on the 98th anniversary of the Run of '89. This tremendous event will be held Sunday, April 26th from 3:00 to 7:00 PM. As you know, daylight savings time goes into effect that day, so we will take advantage of the extra hour to celebrate! There will be numerous activities to delight all ages. Will Rogers Park is the place so make plans now to attend. You are encouraged to show you spirit by dressing in the clothing of the 1890 - 1900 time period. However don't let that stop you, come share in the fun. You will receive more information as the date draws near.

Board Elects Officers For '87

The Board of Directors in its February meeting elected officers for the year. Re-elected for a fourth term, as president, is Bill Welge. President-elect (Vice President) is Bill Peavler. Mr. Peavler will continue as treasure until the end of this year. Secretary Joann Voth with Bernice Flynn was re-elected as Membership secretary. Jack Moses was added to the board of directors.

Story of the Boomer Movement and Run to Be Detailed

The next issue of this newsletter will begin a two year project to depict the Boomer Movement into the unassigned lands region which ultimately opened the area for settlement in '89. Edna Couch, a life member, has consented to write the articles. We are looking forward to "remembering a century ago," the determination of land seekers demanding this, known as Oklahoma or the Unassigned Lands be opened to settlement. The struggle that failed, mingled with limited success, will once again be recounted. Edna has spent a number of years researching and gathering historical data on the Boomer Movement and for the first time will share some of the interesting background of why these people fought a government for the right to have this land.

Centennial Logo To Be Displayed

The Museum of the Unassigned Lands is proud to announce the opening of a limited showing of all the drawings of the Centennial logo submitted to the committee. The showing opens March 15th through April 25th, 1987.

Land Grab Forecast?

We thought you might find interest in this reproduction of a news item from Washington, circa 1880:

THE EVENING STAR.

WASHINGTON.
TUESDAY.....November 30, 1880.

CROSBY S. NOYES....Editor.

The Evening Star has a regular, permanent, bona fide daily circulation more than double that of any other daily paper published in Washington, and equal to that of all the other daily papers here added together.

THE STAR office is connected with the Telephone Exchange. Advertisements, orders for the paper by mail or otherwise, news, or any information or business can be sent day or night, free of charge.

"Oklahoma."

There is, perhaps, more bluster than defiant determination in the declaration of a few men that they intend next month to invade the Indian territory with over 6,000 armed men and establish themselves in possession of certain lands under the territorial designation of "Oklahoma." That there is a project to seize upon those lands nobody can doubt. Adventurers have succeeded in obtaining capital from some source to fit up an expedition with the avowed purpose of entering and holding Oklahoma. Considerable money has been expended upon the project, and this is an indication that there is seriousness at the bottom of it. But it is scarcely probable that the men who are directing this enterprise are desperate enough to put into execution their threat to maintain themselves in the territory, even against United States troops. They are perhaps counting upon simply a wordy protest from the government against their occupation of the coveted land. They remember the invasion of the Black Hills and the feeble opposition the government interposed to that movement. The Oklahoma expedition will hardly dare to level a gun at Uncle Sam or any representative of his. The discussion, it does seem, ought to be settled without any great difficulty or delay. If the rich lands now called Oklahoma are subject to settlement, the way to settle them and utilize them should be opened. If, on the contrary, these lands belong to the Indians, or are, under any sort of treaty, held for them, the government will no doubt protect their rights. The lands are certainly rich, fertile and valuable. In the hands of the whites they would, in a few years, produce thousands of dollars; but this argument can be answered by pointing to the millions of rich acres which are open to settlement without any sort of question. Why, then, do not the men who are seeking Oklahoma select land where they can get a clear title, if it is land they want? This is a question that has not been satisfactorily answered. Members of Congress have declared, in their places on the floor, their belief that the Oklahoma movement concealed a scheme that would not bear too much light. In short, it is asserted that if the title of the Indians, as tribes, to the lands can be set aside or destroyed, thousands of the choicest acres of the Indian Territory would fall into the possession of certain railroads, as "land grants." At the coming session of Congress an effort will be made to ascertain who furnished the large amount of money necessary to fit up the expedition now threatening the invasion, and to find out other particulars of the movement that have been kept secret.

Lot's Of Fun In The April Sun!

There Were Bands, Displays & Games For Everyone



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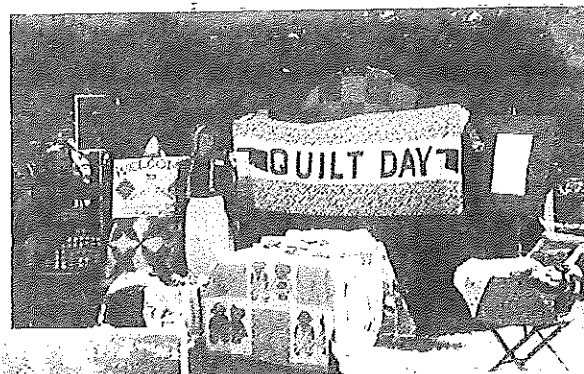
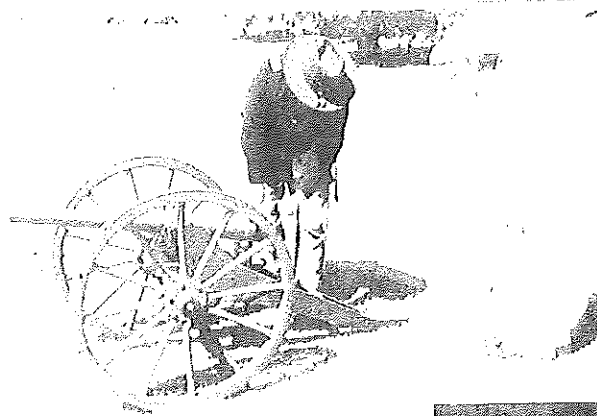
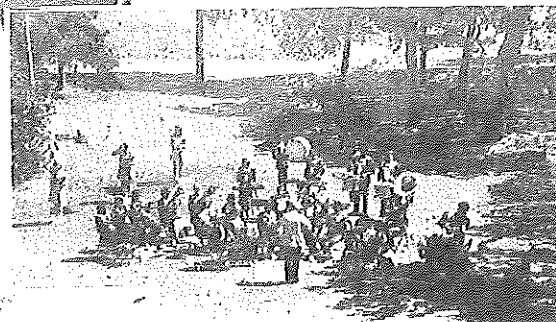
THE STAR office is connected with the Telephone Exchange. Advertisements, orders for the paper by mail or otherwise, news, or any information or business can be sent day or night, free of charge.

"Oklahoma."

There is, perhaps, more bluster than defiant determination in the declaration of a few men that they intend next month to invade the Indian territory with over 5,000 armed men and establish themselves in possession of certain lands under the territorial designation of "Oklahoma." That there is a project to seize upon those lands nobody can doubt. Adventurers have succeeded in obtaining capital from some source to fit up an expedition with the avowed purpose of entering and holding Oklahoma. Considerable money has been expended upon the project, and this is an indication that there is seriousness at the bottom of it. But it is scarcely probable that the men who are directing this enterprise are desperate enough to put into execution their threat to maintain themselves in the territory, even against United States troops. They are perhaps counting upon simply a wordy protest from the government against their occupation of the coveted land. They remember the invasion of the Black Hills and the feeble opposition the government interposed to that movement. The Oklahoma expedition will hardly dare to level a gun at Uncle Sam or any representative of his. The discussion, it does seem, ought to be settled without any great difficulty or delay. If the rich lands now called Oklahoma are subject to settlement, the way to settle them and utilize them should be opened. If, on the contrary, these lands belong to the Indians, or are, under any sort of treaty, held for them, the government will no doubt protect their rights. The lands are certainly rich, fertile and valuable. In the hands of the whites they would, in a few years, produce thousands of dollars; but this argument can be answered by pointing to the millions of rich acres which are open to settlement without any sort of question. Why, then, do not the men who are seeking Oklahoma select land where they can get a clear title, if it is land they want? This is a question that has not been satisfactorily answered. Members of Congress have declared, in their places on the floor, their belief that the Oklahoma movement concealed a scheme that would not bear too much light. In short, it is asserted that if the title of the Indians, as tribes, to the lands can be set aside or destroyed, thousands of the choicest acres of the Indian Territory would fall into the possession of certain railroads, as "land grants." At the coming session of Congress an effort will be made to ascertain who furnished the large amount of money necessary to fit up the expedition now threatening the invasion, and to find out other particulars of the movement.

Lot's Of Fun In The April Sun!

There Were Bands, Displays & Games For Everyone



Oklahoma County Historical Society

4300 North Sewell
Oklahoma City, OK 73118
Telephone (405) 521-1889

Home of the
"Museum of the Unassigned Lands"
and the
"Central High School Museum"



November 30, 1987

By-Laws Amended

At their annual meeting in November, the membership voted unanimously to ammend the by-laws to increase the size of the board and provide for an advisory committee. This should add greater flexibility to the board and provide a wide range of input.

The membership elected Luke Robison and Suzanne Silvester and re-elected Bill Goff to the board for the coming year. As some of you know, Luke has donated to the Museum of The Unassigned Lands a marvelous collection of early Oklahoma bricks. Bill Goff has rendered the society service over the years with his willingness to help in many ways. He was a strong support last April with our Centennial Celebration at Will Rogers Park. Ms Silvester will add a new dimension to the board and we look forward to her serving in the serving in the coming year.

On behalf of the Society, Pen Woods presentated President Welge an engraved plaque: *"In recognition and appreciation for his dedicated and superb leadership of the Oklahoma County Historical Society for four years as president, and for his outstanding contributions to the development of two museums opened during his administration."* President Welge thanked all those in attendance for their support.

Those who were unable to attend this meeting, missed an excellent program on early aviation in Oklahoma by Keith Tolman of the State Museum.

Edmond, 1887 - 1889

The following excerpts are from the Indian-Pioneer History Collection, Volume 87 at the Oklahoma Historical Society Archives Division. This interview was

Society Awarded Grant

The Oklahoma County Historical Society in late September applied for a feasibility study greant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation to conduct such a study on the Bourne Dairy in Northeastern Oklahoma City. On October 30, 1987 the following letter was received from Clark J. Strickland, Regional Director of the trust out of the Denver office. "I am pleased to inform you that the application for a grant from the National Trust has been approved. The National Trust is very supportive of your efforts to preserve the Bourne Dairy."

As president, I am extremely pleased that our society has been singled out by the National Trust for this project. Once the matching funds are secured, the project will commence, hopefully, by December 15th.

Time To Renew

Once again we ask our faithful annual members to renew their membership for the coming year. The society utilizes these funds to operate two museums, this newsletter, and a host of other projects. By renewing today, you receive the added advantage of having the Centennial Clarion, which is the official newspaper of the Oklahoma Centennial Committee sent as a bonus to let you know of the Centennial events during the coming year.

With the holidays a few weeks away, why not give that certain friend or loved one a membership to the Oklahoma County Historical Society. If you purchase a membership for \$25.00 we will add the book "Oklahoma County: Heart of the Promised Land" absolutely free! You will want to take

Central's Museum Upgraded

The Central High School Museum will be completely redecorated in time for the Christmas holidays, according to the curator, Charles Able.

"We are in the process of mounting each of the representative class rings and other jewelry on individual blocks of styrofoam (red and black, of course) and all items will be rearranged in the cases in order to provide a more interesting sequence of viewing for the visitor.

"We are consistantly receiving objects of memorabilia and our priorities are directed toward placing these in the museum displays. After that we have targeted organization of the files of photographs, books, publications, printed programs, tickets, newspaper clippings, and other historic material that abound from this schools past."When these files are in order we will be able to manage and better publish correlated information of the past.

"The high school yearbooks are now on microfilm, which will also be available to museum visitors before the first of the year."

We are proud of this museum and recommend it as a place to take your out-of-town guests.

"Give Oklahoma" For The Hollidays

Oklahoma's rich and colorful heritage can be discovered in the growing selection of literature on Oklahoma. One way to foster knowledge and pride in our state's history is by "giving Oklahoma for the Holidays."

The public is invited to attend "Meet the Authors" Autograph Party sponsored by the Oklahoma Heritage Association on Sunday, December 6 from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm at the Oklahoma Heritage Center, 201 Northwest 14th Street, Oklahoma City.

In addition to meeting our noted Oklahoma authors, Greg Burns, one of our state's highly regarded artists, will also be present to sign his limited edition prints and watercolors.

Edmond, '87-'89

(Continued from Page 1)

conducted in May of 1937. Mrs. Minnie Steen relates her early experiences about Edmond before and after the Run of '89:

My husband's father came to Oklahoma Territory in November, 1887. He had been working as engineer of a piledriver for the Santa Fe Railroad Company, in New Ingalls, New Mexico. When the company located a watering and coaling station for the Santa Fe trains in Edmond, he was transferred.

A well had to be dug and it started in the Spring of 1886. It was slow work, so in the following year, 1887, they brought Mr. John N. Steen from New Mexico, to take charge of the construction work. For some reason the digging was not completed until May of 1888, just two years from the time it was started. When well was finished it was thirty feet in diameter and one hundred twenty-eight feet deep. One hundred and ten carloads of rock were required for its walls. Mr. Steen built a two-room house in which the pump was installed. When this was completed he sent for his family. My husband, Charley Steen, was just one year and ten months old at that time. He was the first white child in Edmond.

The Steen family and the few men necessary for the station work were the only inhabitants of Edmond. The most interesting events were the arrival of the trains, one passenger and one freight train a day, which stopped for coal and water. It took quite a while for this and sometimes passengers got off the train to visit with Mrs. Steen and Charley.

The day of the Opening was one never to be forgotten. Train loads of people came. Some were on horseback, some in wasgons and some were walking. Mrs. Steen had prepared twelve large hams and plenty of bread and coffee for these hungry people, as most of them had arrived without food.

By the end of the day on April 22, Edmond was inhabited by hundreds of land-hungry souls. It is a tribute to early pioneers like the Steen's who stayed and helped make Edmond, what it is today.

Oklahoma County Historical Society
4300 North Sewell
Oklahoma City, OK 73118

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Oklahoma County Historical Society

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Oklahoma City, OK 73118
Telephone (405) 521-1889

Home of the
"Museum of the Unassigned Lands"
and the
"Central High School Museum"



July 22, 1988

Plaques To Be Returned, Monuments Placed

Cardinal Award Set To Honor Alumni

The board of directors of the Oklahoma County Historical Society, who has the care of Central High School's museum, will extend the scope of that organization's activities to include a series of awards to distinguished alumni of that school.

Committee Appointed

Bill Peavler, the president, immediately appointed a committee, composed, with one exception, of alumni: Frances Percival '46, Lucyl Shirk '36, Hallie Collins '42, Jack Moses '44, Doris Taylor '24, Charles Able '35, and William A. Welge (past president of the society, and the one "outsider" on the committee).

The decision to embark on such a program was determined at the March meeting and selection of candidates will begin this fall.

Committee To Examine Nominees

Peavler explained, "Qualifications will be spelled out and recommendation forms will be sent to the Central High School alumni. Their mailing list now includes more than five thousand names. As recommendations come in, nominees will be screened by the committee and awards will be made accordingly."

Medallion Designed

Jack Moses, was commissioned to design a medallion which is now being sculpted. The elements are sig-

Benefit Yard Sale To Be Held In August

The Museum of the Unassigned Lands and the Daughters of the American Revolution are joining forces to hold a benefit yard sale on August 20, and 21. The sale will take place on the grounds of the Museum of the Unassigned Lands, and the money raised will be used to aid both organizations.

Anyone wishing to donate items for the fund raiser may bring their items to the building north of the museum on Mondays or Thursday between the hours of 9:00 am to 2:00 pm or call 525-3603 or 842-1317 and a representative of the society will pick up your donation. This can be a golden opportunity to clear out that closet or area of the garage and benefit your county historical society. We look forward to hearing from you.

nificant of the school's activities between 1892 and 1968.

The cardinal was the emblem used throughout the years, and until 1926 the school was known as Oklahoma High School. See drawing next page.

Star points (12) represent each aspect of the educational process: English, Mathematics, Physical Education, Art, Music, Social Studies, Science, Industrial Arts, Foreign Language, Home Economics, Drama/Debate, and Distributive Education.

What to do about the three plaques that had recently been located by Carl Saddler? That was the subject faced by the newly appointed committee which met July 14th. Bill Pitts, chairman, Charles Able and Carl Saddler explored the cost, location and time of the next meeting with a representative of the Willis Granite Company.

Here's the story It seems that Mr. Saddler had located three plaques which had been removed from historic Oklahoma City buildings during the downtown renovation of the 1960s. Mr. Charles Nesbitt heard about the situation, purchased the plaques from an Arkansas City dealer for \$380.00 and donated them to our society — to be appropriately reinstalled.

The plaques (these are cast metal plates) marked the location of the Huckins Hotel (Governor Haskell signed the paper there on June 12, 1910 which declared Oklahoma City to be the state capitol), the Oklahoma Times Newspaper (first published on May 9, 1889), and the Citizen's Bank on May 30, 1889. Each site has been located on an early-day Oklahoma City map.

A statement on the bank marker indicated that the 89ers had sponsored its installation. Mr. Jonathan Wood, president of the 89ers Association indicated that his organiza-

(Continued on next page)

Board of Directors

Charles F. Able 842-8497 — Jim Cloud 751-3631 — Mary Ruth Ferguson 235-5846 — Bernice Flynn 732-3187
Bill Goff 399-2831 — Merle Melton 528-4211 — Jack Moses 842-5274 — Bill Peavler 521-2491 — Bill Pitts 521-2491
Luke Robison 732-3610 — Dewitt Roland 771-3145 — Lucyl Shirk 427-9496 — Suzanne Silvester 842-1317
Bill Welge 521-2491 — Pen Woods 478-5190

Do You Have A Question?

Here's Someone To Call!

Society Co-Hosts" Barn Again" Presentation

On May 10th the Oklahoma Heritage Association, General and Mrs. Don Ferrell and the Oklahoma County Historical society co-hosted a reception for Clark Strickland, Director, Mountain Plains Region of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Mr. Strickland spoke on the emphasis of rural heritage with an excellent slide presentation entitled, "Barn Again". Over forty persons attended the reception for Strickland who came in from Denver, Colorado to help promote National Historic Preservation Week (May 8 - 14).

County Historian & Deputy Appointed

Mary Ruth Ferguson has been appointed County Historian and one of the duties will be to maintain contact with the Oklahoma Historical Society. J. Blake Wade, Acting Executive director of the State Society, recently contacted all County Historical Societies with the request that County Historians be appointed to make recommendations and suggestions. Pen Woods was appointed Deputy and will work with Mary Ruth in contacts with OHS.

Oklahoma County Historical Society
4300 North Sewell
Oklahoma City, OK 73118



Cardinal Award Sub-Committee Meets

Chairman Jack Moses and his awards sub-committee meet to begin work on the first presentations. Assisted by Hallie Collins, Doris Taylor and Lucyl Shirk, Jack will have an interesting report at the next Board of Directors meeting, August 1st. Meetings are held at the Museum of the Unassigned Lands, 4300 North Sewell at 5:50 pm. All members welcome

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Monuments (Continued)

tion would be interested in participating in the replacement program.

In addition to the three plaques, Charles Able, curator of the Central High School Museum, has suggested additional monuments, marking each of the four locations of Oklahoma High School prior to the time when the school was moved into the building at 819 North Robinson (now the One Bell Central Building, where the school's museum is located).

Ownership of the sites must be explored and the feasibility of placement of the plaques or of erecting monuments in or near the appropriate locations.

It was tentatively planned that each plaque or monument would be dedicated on a different day during the 1989 year of celebration. Stay tuned.

Attention All Members — Second Notice

All of those on our mailing list were recently contacted and ask to examine their feelings with relation to their financial support of the Oklahoma County Historical Society. A number responded when so reminded. If you did not follow through with this matter, please do so — your support is most important to the work we are doing.

Annual dues are \$10.00 each year. Have you paid your dues for 1988? If not, won't you please send us your check now? With the increased postage; the operating expenses of the museum; and special projects that we are planning we need your continued support.

Thanks for reminding me: ☐ I want to continue supporting the Society.

Annual \$10.00 ☐ Sustaining \$50.00 ☐ Life \$100.00 ☐ Other \$

Student \$2.00 at (School's Name)

☐ My Check for \$ is inclosed

☐ Sorry, Please remove my name from the rolls

Name Phone ()

Mailing Address

City State Zip

Oklahoma County Historical Society

Home of the
"Museum of the Unassigned Lands"
4300 North Sewell
Oklahoma City, Okla. 73118



November 1988

Society To Hold Annual Meeting

The Board of Directors has slated Sunday, November 20th, from 3 - 5 PM for the annual meeting of the society membership. The meeting will be held at the Central High School Museum (One Bell Central Building). Park on the west side and enter the lower level.

Our guest speaker will be Dr. Stan Hoig, noted historian and retired professor of Journalism

from Central State University. Dr. Hoig's topic is David L. Payne, the Oklahoma Boomer.

Hoig has authored numerous books and articles on western America. He was the recipient of the Western Writers of America "Golden Spur" award for his work, *Peace Chiefs of the Cheyenne*. We are indeed delighted to have this distinguished historian as our guest speaker.

Society Receives \$\$\$\$\$\$\$

The Oklahoma City Community Foundation recently disbursed annual funds to member organizations who have invested monies in the foundation. Your society is one of those members. Each time the society receives a life membership of \$100.00, it is invested with the foundation in our designated account. To date the society has nearly \$34,000 invested. As a result, the society received a check for \$2,696.00 from the interest earned on our account. These monies will be used during the coming year for acquisitions, construction/remodeling, and maintenance of the Museum of the Unassigned Lands.

If you have considered upgrading your membership to a life status, your tax deductible contribution will work for the society as a perpetual gift which enables us to continue preserving our county heritage



Bill Peavler, president of the Society accepting a check from Nancy Anthony, Executive Director of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. The presentation was made at the October 3rd meeting of the Society's Board of Directors.

Garage Sale Update

As most of our members know, last August the society held a two-day yard sale on the grounds of the Museum of the Unassigned Lands. Business was brisk! After all expenses were paid, the society realized a net of \$1,330.

A number of our members came out to help in this fund raising event. A big thank you to Suzanne Silvester and family who ramrodded the event. Also kudo's to the employees of the Melton Company and Mojar Lab for all their valuable assistance. Also members like Charles Able, Mr. and Mrs. Burt Smith, Bernice Crockett, Bill Goff, Luke and Anna Robison, Raymond Box, Mary Jean Hansen, Bill Pitts, Lucyl Shirk, Pen and Margaret Woods, Howard and Merle Melton, Bernice Flynn, Bill and Charlotte Peavler and Bill Welge for spending all or part of the time assisting in selling or loading merchandise. A grateful note of appreciation to all of our members who contributed items for the sale and especially those who brought something!

"Society To Celebrate 10th Anniversary"

The Oklahoma County Historical Society is TEN YEARS OLD! Yes, ten years ago this October, a group of "preservationists" (anyone dedicated to the collection and preservation of historic structures, manuscripts, oral histories, photographs, etc.), came together to form the nucleus of this society.

With this occasion in mind, a special reception will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting November 20th. All members past and present are cordially invited to attend.

Bunky Reproduced

Currently on sale at the Museum of the Unassigned Lands is the newly republished work of Bunky entitled, The First Eight Months of Oklahoma City. The classic account of early Oklahoma City from the first day of the run was originally published in 1890. The Women's Posse of the Westerners has reproduced this work in its original format. We are pleased to announce that we have it on sale for \$8.95. There is no sales tax. Limited quantities are available, so hurry if you want a copy. For information call: 521-1889.

Sooner Festival '88

The Oklahoma County Historical Society assisted in presenting Sooner Festival '88 at Hafer Park in Edmond the weekend of October 22 and 23. The society was in charge of the Pioneer display and had a number of artifacts from our museum. Also on display were photographs of early Oklahoma City

Curator Attends Meeting

Margaret Woods, Curator of the Museum of the Unassigned Lands attended the two-day annual meeting of the Oklahoma Museum Association held at the Frank Phillips Home at Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

Museum Report

Curator Margaret Woods reports that a anonymous donation of \$400.00 was received by the museum during the month of August. We need more friends like that!

State Historical Society Has New Director

Governor and Mrs. Henry Bellmon,
Cabinet Secretary and Mrs. Glenn Sullivan,
Cabinet Secretary Sandy Garrett
and Officers and Directors
of the Oklahoma Historical Society

cordially invite you to
a Reception
Introducing Dr. David Salay,
Executive Director and
State Historic Preservation Officer,
and Mrs. Salay

Sunday, November 13, 1988
2:00 — 5:00 p.m.

Wiley Post Historical Building
2100 North Lincoln Boulevard
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Oklahoma County Historical Society
4300 North Sewell
Oklahoma City, OK 73118

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