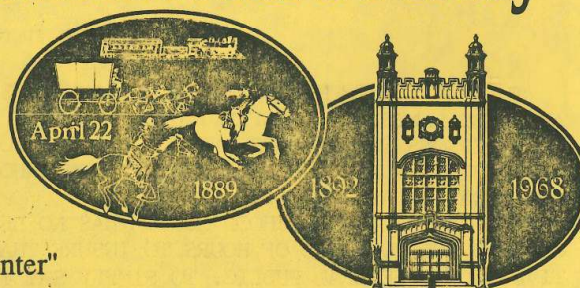


Oklahoma County Historical Society

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 & Research Center"



VOLUME SIX

SEPTEMBER 1986

NUMBER TWO

NEW DISPLAY INSTALLED

IF YOU HAVEN'T PAID THE MUSEUM OF THE UN-ASSIGNED LANDS A VISIT LATELY, THEN YOU HAVE NOT SEEN THE NEWEST DISPLAY ENTITLED "OKLAHOMA CITY THROUGH THE DECADES".

LOCATED JUST NORTH OF THE PEI PLAN, THIS AREA DEPICTS THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY SINCE 1889. PERIOD ADVERTISEMENTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS HELP RELATE THE STORY. ALSO INCLUDED ARE ARTIFACTS FROM THE BILTMORE AND HUCKINS HOTELS. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST ARE TWO CEILING FANS THAT WERE RESCUED FROM THE BILTMORE THAT ADORN THE DISPLAY AREA. THEY HAVE BEEN WIRED TO ADD LIGHT TO THE DISPLAY AND SHOW THEIR UNIQUE BEAUTY.

A SPECIAL NOTE OF THANKS GO TO PEN WOODS, BILL PEAVLER AND CURATOR MARGARET WOODS FOR PLANNING AND COMPLETING THE WORK ON THE DISPLAY.

BRICK COLLECTOR ON OETA

LUKE ROBISON, SOCIETY MEMBER, WAS RECENTLY FEATURED ON EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION STATION OETA DISCUSSING HIS EXTENSIVE BRICK COLLECTION. IT WAS THROUGH THE MUSEUM OF THE UNASSIGNED LANDS THAT LUKE WAS CONTACTED BY OETA.

WE ARE INDEED PLEASED THAT WE HAVE A PORTION OF LUKE'S COLLECTION AT THE MUSEUM AND WANT TO THANK LUKE FOR HIS DONATION.

ARTIFACTS FROM U.S.S. OKLAHOMA CITY PENDING

THE DESTROYER U.S.S. OKLAHOMA CITY HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR SCRAPING SOMETIME THIS SUMMER. THE SOCIETY HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY IN THE HOPES OF SECURING ARTIFACTS FOR THE MUSEUM OF THE UNASSIGNED LANDS.

WE HAVE BEEN VERY ENCOURAGED THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO ADD TO OUR COLLECT A 13,000lb. ANCHOR PLUS A PORTHOLE AND OTHER ITEMS FOR DISPLAY PURPOSES. LIFE MEMBER JOHN KIRKPATRICK HAS GRACIOUSLY OFFERED TO DEFRAY EXPENSES OF SHIPPING THE HEAVY EQUIPAGE FROM BREMETON, WASHINGTON TO OKLAHOMA CITY.

ONCE THE ARTIFACTS ARRIVE, PLANS WILL BE MADE TO CONSTRUCT AN OUTDOOR DISPLAY UTILIZING THE ANCHOR AS THE MAIN FOCAL POINT.

BOARD MEMBERS ILL

TWO OF OUR MOST ACTIVE BOARD MEMBERS HAVE BEEN ILL THESE PAST FEW MONTHS, BERNICE FLYNN AND CHARLES ABLE. CHARLES WHO PUBLISHES OUR NEWSLETTER, IS RECOVERING FROM A HEART ATTACK.

SENATOR NICKLES HELPS SOCIETY

WITH THE ADVENT OF RECEIVING ARTIFACTS FROM THE OLD U.S.S. OKLAHOMA CITY, IT WAS THOUGHT THAT WE NEEDED ARTIFACTS OF THE NEWLY COMMISSIONED SUBMARINE U.S.S. OKLAHOMA CITY. SENATOR DON NICKLES ASSISTED IN SECURING COLOR PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE DEDICATION CEREMONIES WHEN THE SHIP WAS CHRISTEN. THESE PHOTOS WILL BE ADDED TO OUR DISPLAY ON BOTH SHIPS ONCE ALL THE ARTIFACTS ARE RECEIVED.

ANNUAL FALL HOUSE TOUR SCHEDULED

THE TWENTIETH ANNUAL HERITAGE HILLS FALL HOUSE TOUR WILL BE OCTOBER 5th, 1986 FROM NOON UNTIL 5:30 p.m. AN ADDED FEATURE TO THE TOUR WILL BE DISPLAYS OF CLASSIC AUTOMOBILES, AND A JAZZ ENSEMBLE WILL PERFORM. TICKETS FOR THIS EVENT ARE \$6.00 FOR ADULTS AND \$2.00 FOR CHILDREN UNDER 12. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT MRS. MIKE MIZE, 509 N.W. 15th, OKC 73103 OR CALL 528-2559.

CURATOR REPORTS ATTENDANCE

MARGARET WOODS, CURATOR OF THE MUSEUM OF THE UNASSIGNED LANDS REPORTS THAT THE MUSEUM HAS HAD AN INCREASE OF ATTENDANCE OVER 1985 FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1986. LISTED BELOW ARE THE FIGURES:

	1986	1985
Jan.	28	5
Feb.	81	20
Mar.	80	46
Apr.	63	149
May	105	13
Jun.	26	37
Total	383	270

(The figures above do not include the April meeting for 1986.)

WEDDING DRESS DONATED

LUCYL SHIRK RECENTLY DONATED HER MOTHER'S WEDDING DRESS TO THE MUSEUM OF THE UNASSIGNED LANDS. COMPLETELY RESTORED, THIS BEAUTIFUL GOWN HAS BEEN PLACED ON DISPLAY. OUR CURATOR, MARGARET WOODS HAS DONE AN OUTSTANDING JOB OF DEVELOPING THE DISPLAY AREA FOR THE GOWN. BE SURE TO TAKE A LOOK DURING YOUR NEXT VISIT TO THE MUSEUM.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

THIS SEPTEMBER MARKS THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE MUSEUM OF THE UN-ASSIGNED LANDS. AS I REFLECT UPON ALL THAT HAS TRANSPIRED DURING THAT TIME, THERE ARE MANY PERSONS WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF OUR ORGANIZATION. I AM GRATEFUL TO ALL THESE DEDICATED PERSONS WHO HAVE UNSELFISHLY MADE TIME TO MAKE THIS ORGANIZATION A SUCCESS.

THE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL MUSEUM HAS NO LESS THE DEDICATION OF INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED HUNDREDS OF HOURS TO INSURE THAT THE MUSEUM IS INSTRUCTIVE AS IT IS INFORMATIVE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC. TO SIMPLY SAY THANK YOU TO THOSE INDIVIDUALS IS HARDLY ADEQUATE, BUT HOPEFULLY WILL SUFFICE.

WORD HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE AMERICAN MUSEUM ASSOCIATION WHICH IS MOST DISCOURAGING TO MUSEUMS AND HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES. THE TAX REFORM BILL PRESENTLY BEFORE CONGRESS HAS DEALT MUSEUMS AND THE LIKE A MAJOR BLOW BY DELETING THE TAX DEDUCTION ON DONATIONS WHETHER IT BE ARTIFACTS OR MONETARY DONATIONS. THIS DEDUCTION IS THE LIFE-BLOOD TO NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS OURS TO CONTINUE OPERATING.

WE HAVE LOST ROUND ONE, BUT WE ARE NOT OUT. I CAN NOT URGE EACH ONE OF YOU ENOUGH TO JOIN ME IN WRITING TO OUR CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION PROTESTING THIS ACTION. WE MUST HAVE THIS DEDUCTION RESTORED!

LISTED BELOW ARE THE ADDRESSES OF OUR TWO UNITED STATES SENATORS AND LOCAL CONGRESSMEN WHO NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU ON THIS VERY IMPORTANT MATTER:

HONORABLE SENATOR DAVID BOREN
RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

HONORABLE SENATOR DON NICKLES
DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

CONGRESSMAN MICKEY EDWARDS
2434 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

CONGRESSMAN GLENN ENGLISH
2235 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

CONGRESSMAN DAVE McCURDY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

SHOULD THIS STAND AS IS, THE AMERICAN MUSEUM ASSOCIATION SUGGESTS THAT IF YOU ARE CONTEMPLATING DONATING ITEMS OR FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO A MUSEUM OR HISTORICAL ORGANIZATION, TO DO SO IN 1986 TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS DEDUCTION BEFORE IT IS LOST.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE, I AM COMPLETING MY THIRD TERM AS YOUR PRESIDENT. MUCH HAS TAKEN PLACE IN THAT TIME PERIOD. WE HAVE MOVED FROM DOWNTOWN TO MELTON PARK ON THE BROADWAY EXTENSION, OPENED TWO VERY FINE MUSEUMS, PUBLISHED TWO BOOKS OF HISTORICAL INTEREST AND AS A CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT, THIS SOCIETY WAS NAMED THE 1986 RECIPIENT OF THE CHARLES COLCORD HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD.

ALL OF THIS WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE DEDICATION AND CO-OPERATION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OUR MEMBERS. WHO EVER THE NEXT PRESIDENT WILL BE NEXT YEAR WILL FIND THE GREAT SUPPORT WHICH I HAVE HAD WHICH HAS MADE THE JOB SO MUCH EASIER. I WANT TO THANK THE BOARDS PRESENT AND PAST FOR ALL THE HELP AND SUPPORT. I HAVE TRULY ENJOYED THE EXPERIENCE.

SINCERELY,

WILLIAM D. WELGE

Oklahoma County Historical Society

4300 North Sewell
Oklahoma City, Okla. 73118

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Oklahoma County Historical Society

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



November 26, 1984

TWO NEW MUSEUMS DEDICATED

Museum of the Unassigned Lands



□ Mr. and Mrs. Howard Melton were presented a plaque in appreciation for their concern, interest, and contribution of housing for the Museum of the Unassigned Lands.

On September 16, 1984, the Oklahoma County Historical Society dedicated a second museum! This time it was the Museum of the Unassigned Lands, and as with the Central High School Museum, the dedication was the culmination of much planning and work.

William Welge, our president, reviewed the history of the Society. He spoke of our future, the potential for accumulation, display and retention of historic material.

Charles Able, vice president, touched on the dedication of the Central High School Museum. He observed, "this can properly be considered a unique gem placed in a setting that is the very center of a great city. Our society will appreciate high visibility after the first of the year, when it is open to the public."

Pendelton Woods, past president of the society, the initiating and motivating force in this newest museum, thanked his many committee workers and spoke of the plans for future development and additions.

Pen told of the station materials that KTVY will be installing for display. He spoke of the legacy this represents in the form of early-day television broadcast equipment. OG&E and Kerr-McGee are also preparing materials which will be ready after the first of the year.

Just before the formal ribbon cutting, presentations were made by President Welge to Mr. and Mrs. Melton for the gracious considerations they offered through the provision of housing facilities for our museum. Presentations were also made to Pen Woods and Charles Able for their work in relation to the two museums.

Refreshments were exceptional. In the course of the afternoon more than a hundred and fifty people signed in and toured the museum.

November Meeting Scheduled

We will have a general membership meeting on Thursday, November 29th - 7:00 pm at the Museum of the Unassigned Lands, which is located at 4300 North Sewell.

This will be a special opportunity for those of our people who did not get to attend the dedication in September. The abundance of memorabilia we have on hand is impressive, even though the arrangement and display is not ready for public viewing.

The program will be a slide-illustrated "Journey to the Center of One Bell Central," followed by the annual election

In August, we saw our efforts bear fruit as we dedicated the Central High School Museum. No museum anywhere has any better appointments for its size. This is to be the finest cultural gift we could have prepared for the people of Oklahoma City.

The dedication program was an outstanding highlight. The setting was the new plaza on the west side of the One Bell Central Building, with the 45th Army Band furnishing music. Mr. John Parsons, president of the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company then greeted more than fourteen hundred alumni of the school and assured them that the "elevator tickets they had purchased as freshmen would now be honored." He was referring to the four elevators that have been installed as opposed to the one freight elevator the school formerly had!

Senator David Boren read a greeting from Mr. T. H. Bell, Secretary of Education. Dedicatory remarks were presented by Charles Able, Vice President of our society, who chairs the museum committee.

The Telephone Company received universal praise from the alumni, for the care and consideration shown in preserving the building's appearance and memory, even in the renaming. Our host provided refreshments and each of the former students was presented a special memento of the day. These were in the form of brass number plates which had been saved when the lockers were removed from the halls. Each of the prized plates had been carefully mounted on a stained walnut block.

Marble display cases had been built in the area of the new museum, the tile floors, doors, and ceiling were carefully restored and additional furnishings are to be installed prior to the time of the public opening.

Many of our own board members were present. Bill Welge saw the work of many months come to fruition in the museum. John Green used his new Batamax Video equipment to record his tour of the building. Jack Moses, fussed with last minute arrangements in the display cases. As an architect, Bill Peavler expressed his admiration of the innovative design and restoration work. Our artist in residence, Andrew Lester, proudly explained to pleased alumni, his sculpture of Mary D. Couch, the first teacher of the high school. Charles Able appreciated the hospitality and generosity of the Phone Company.

Many of our society members were present as alumni and enjoyed the satisfaction of the dedication. This museum is something in which we can all be proud to have had a part



□ Mr. Andrew Lester, our artist in residence, has displayed a series of busts in the museum which are of historical interest. These busts may be purchased, with a portion of the price being placed in a scholarship fund. Andrew has a most interesting background in the fields of history, art, and teaching. We are fortunate that we have such a

You Can (Must) Help

In a postive, tactful, diplomatic and persuasive ways; we want to excite, motivate and compell our membership to desire to be of realistic assistance to the society. Here are some considerations for you to examine and act upon. Are we approaching this subject properly? Great!

First, this is an advantageous time to make a special cash donation. As you know, our society is a tax exempt organization. We can all benefit from such a contribution before the first of the year. Good Idea!

Second, dues are payable on a calandar year basis. Inasmuch as the first of January is the target date anyway, why not send your ten dollars in early. Teriffic though!!

Third, if you's is an individual subscription, consider making it a Life Membership this month. Many do not realize that in so doing they can perpetually aid the society. You see, each \$100.00 Life Membership is invested, with only the income used each year. Exceptional approach!

Fourth, worthwhile things do have a cost value. It is not to late to send in your '84 dues, if you have not done so!

Finally, you are going to find out right now how such money will be put to work. This publication and mailing is costly, although the production time and even the material was contributed. Museums cost money. The Central High School Museum is privately subscribed by the alumni of that school. Promotion continues for a fund to sustain this effort. The facility was provided by the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company. That is nice!

The Museum of the Unassigned Lands is dependant upon your dues and special contributions. The facility is provided by Mr. & Mrs. Howard Melton, and that is nice. But we are in need of display cases, lighting and other fixlures, and we need them now. The catagory of "special contributions" is an area that we invite you to seriously consider at this time.

Thank you.



□ At this season we can be both thankful and joyous for this country in which we live. We know the value of our heritage and appreciate those who made these blessings possible. In turn, we now have the opportunity and the responsibility to assemble, retain, and preserve historical memorabilia and records for those who will follow in our footsteps. May the Lord bless you always, and in all ways.

William D. Welge, President

Nominating Committee

Vecancies on the board of directors will be created by members who are completing their three year terms in December. Your president has appointed Charles Able and Jack Moses as a nominating committee.

Their recommendations will be presented for your consideration at the general membership meeting on November 29th.

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Oklahoma City, Okla. 73118

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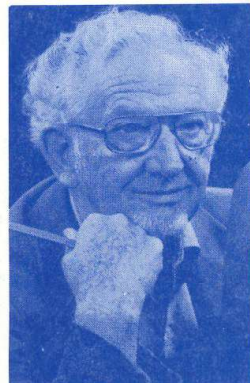
ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Andrew Lester displayed his latest work at the dedication of the Central High School Museum in August. He chose for his subject, Mrs. Mary D. Couch, the first teacher/principal of Central, and the bust will be placed on permant display in the school's museum.

Much favorable comment was expressed by those who had the opportunity to visit with the famous artist and see his rendering of "Mary D." This sculpture was interpreted from photographs. Several, who remembered her, observed that he had indeed captured her likeness quite well.

Andrew is a great-grandson of Davy Crockett, was born in his grandfather's house near Cheyenne, Oklahoma and moved to Oklahoma City at the age of four. He attended Putnam City High and Oklahoma University.

Many pieces of his collection will be on display at the dedication Sunday, and you will have a chance to talk with him, at which time you will find that he is also a most interesting historian, which is reflected in figures he sculps.

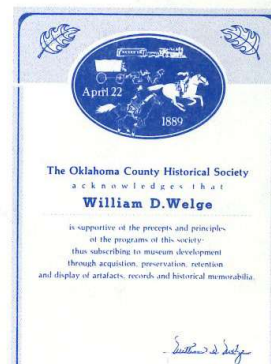


Andrew Lester will be on hand to display and discuss his latest work, the bust of Mary D. Couch, who, in 1892, was the first principal/teacher of Oklahoma High School.

NEW MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE ARE READY

Here we have reproduced our president's own new membership certificate, and who would be a more proper person to sign it than that person himself?

These certificates are suitable for framing and yours will be waiting for you to pick up after the dedication program.



MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Oklahoma County Historical Society
Melton Building
July 22, 1982

Present were: Pendleton Woods, Bill Welge, Bill Peavler, Neal Horton, Joan Voth, and Merle Melton.

Treasurer's report by Bill Peavler showed \$1,181 in special account and \$3,806 in checking account.

Neal Horton moved, and Bill Peavler seconded a motion that we invest all except \$600 of treasury in a 90-day note, in view of the fact that we will not be making improvement expenditures prior to our move to a more permanent location. Motion was passed.

Bill Welge, reporting for Museum Committee, said that our newspaper front pages are in process of being sealed in the best known preservation method by Monty Mosteller. Project is about two-thirds completed.

Pen Woods, reporting on outdoor artifacts, said that we arranged for removal of the Ellis building sign in the Leadership Square area prior to the demolition of the building and that they will go into the Clarence Ford Park, along with other building artifacts. It is now located in the Local Federal Building.

Neal Horton suggested that we expedite the removal because artifacts so stored often disappear.

Pen Woods asked if any members have knowledge of other artifacts:

Neal Horton offered marble from the Colcord Building, removed by Urban Renewal. The offer was accepted and Neal will deliver it to the Melton Building, with identification taped to it.

Pen Woods has marble from the Biltmore Hotel which he will donate.

Bill Peavler understands that columns from the Huckins may be in the Airport Area. He will check to attempt to locate it.

Bill Peavler inquired about the Springlake Carousel. Pen Woods will check with Roy Stewart about checking this out with the Vocational Educational officials.

Howard Melton reported on building locations. Two possibilities are renovation of the Santa Fe Station, if it can be acquired, and construction of a new building at NW 44 St., overlooking Broadway Extension. Historical Society members seemed to favor the station, but the possibility of obtaining it appears remote.

A motion was made by Bill Welge, and seconded by Bill Peavler that we move with the Melton Company and the Voth Gallery to whichever location Mr. Melton is able to work out. Motion was passed.

Pen Woods reported that excellent cases from two museums are practically assured, and that we should be able to get whatever number we need.

Discussion was held concerning the facade easement owned by the Society. Bill Peavler was asked to look into it, discuss it with Howard Melton, and bring a recommendation to the board.

Future meetings were discussed. Tentatively, it was planned to have the fall membership meeting at the Oklahoma Historical Society, to include a talk on the Boomer movement by Edna Couch, followed by a trip through the recently re-developed museum gallery on the third floor. It was planned to consider for the winter meeting a trip to Norman for dinner in the Student Union, followed by orientation and a visit through the Western History Archives, conducted by Jack Haley.

Meeting was adjourned.

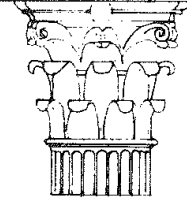
Pendleton Woods
President

HISTORICAL MINUTES

OKLAHOMA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume II, Number 1

Editor: Mike Everman



WINE AND CHEESE PARTY APRIL 20 HIGHLIGHTS ANNUAL MEETING

A wine and cheese party will be held at the Oklahoma Heritage Center at 7:30 PM Tuesday, April 20, celebrating the anniversary of the Oklahoma County Historical Society. Mixed with wine and cheese will be a short slide show of pre-statehood Oklahoma City presented by Roy P. Stewart, author of Born Grown: An Oklahoma City History, and his associate in the preparation of the book, Pendleton Woods. You will hear short reports on the exciting activities of the society and will elect directors for the coming year.

Come to the library of the Heritage Center at the northwest corner of NW 14 and Robinson for refreshments, fellowship, fun, and a little bit of education. The wine and cheese party is an annual event, and the one occasion all members will wish to attend. We will be looking for YOU.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Heart of the Promised Land: An Illustrated History of Oklahoma County will be published this summer. It will be the most colorful and elegant book ever published on our area. The retail price of this exciting publication will be \$24.95. However, we have made special arrangements with the publisher, Windsor Publications, to extend substantial discounts to our members in advance of publication.

As a special feature, you or your firm will have the opportunity to be included in the pages of the book in a special way, as a patron of the book, with a minimum purchase of ten books at the discount price. The special offer is for a limited time only. Letters have been mailed to all society members. We hope you will be a part of it. Our own society benefits in two ways. In the first place, we are bringing the much needed story of Oklahoma County to the people. Secondly, we benefit financially from all publication sales, and the money earned will be plowed into our museum effort.

---- Pendleton Woods, President

WELGE, MILES NAMED TO BOARD

Two new board members have been appointed by the president to fill unexpired terms. They are Bill Welge and Jim Miles. Bill is an archives staff member at the Oklahoma Historical Society and has been an active leader in our society's collection efforts. Jim is a staff member of the state Department of Economic and Community Affairs and is a former director of the Museum of the Great Plains in Lawton. Both men bring important experience to the board.

COLLECTIONS DRIVE PAYING OFF

The donations to the OCHS for the past few months have been tremendous. Through the efforts of many, we now have close to 300 artifacts in our collection plus news items concerning the county for the past 40 years. We still need other period artifacts to fill in the gaps. Historical books, documents, newspapers, artifacts, and other materials that pertain to Oklahoma County will be greatly appreciated.

If anyone would like to volunteer their time to help catalogue the items donated thus far, please contact me at 681-4545 evenings.

----- Bill Welge
Collections Chairman

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

We have received material from the following since November 1, 1981.

Mr. and Mrs. Guilford Hagmann	Joan Keys
Dr. and Mrs. E. Gordon Ferguson	Carol Welsh
Scot Sidwell	Lucyl Shirk
Mrs. Cad Jones	Mrs. Jack McCaw
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Melton	Mr. and Mrs. Brawley
Pendleton Woods	Mrs. F. Redding Hood
Olivette Burt	
South Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce	
Bob Atkins	
Rodney Janeway	
Mrs. Paul K. Frost	
George Gardiner	
Dr. Harry L. Deupree	
Myron Buttram	
Colonel and Mrs. C. Forest Himes	

Why not add your name to the list? We all have something we can share with others.

MUSEUM NOTES

Our museum collection is gradually developing on the second floor of the Melton Building downtown. We continue to get new donated items and are seeking any items you may have which reflect the history of this area. Many have been involved in helping with the museum, but special thanks are due to Bill Welge, Howard Melton, and Mike and Diane Everman. As we develop our indoor museum, we are continuing to put together artifacts from the exteriors of destroyed downtown buildings, which will go into the Clarence Ford Park adjacent to the Chamber of Commerce downtown. Most recent item to go into place was a former masonry spire from the Baum Building. This spire has been kept by Dr. Harry Deupree, and recently was moved to the park for installation through the efforts of OCHS members Walter Nashert and Bill Peavler. Other outdoor items are on our museum floor to be pieced together before being installed in the park. One piece, which shattered into small pieces when George Shirk had it removed before demolition of a building, is in the home of Mike and Diane Everman, where Diane is piecing it together.

Our president, Pen Woods, has made two trips to Muskogee dealing with the possibility of obtaining display cases for our museum. The cases come from the now-defunct World Museum of Tulsa. They now belong to James Leake of Muskogee, who has used some in his antique vehicle museum and has the remainder stored at Hatbox field in Muskogee. Our chances of getting some of these cases, as well as original cases from the 45th Infantry Museum when it remodels, are good. The World Museum cases include some three-sided with mirrored back to go against walls, and some four-sided for display in the middle of a room. The 45th Infantry cases are hardwood frame with glass fronts. Judge Fred Daugherty, a charter life member of the OCHS, is board chairman of the 45th Division museum.

PLANS FOR CENTENNIAL UNDERWAY

Three life member of the Oklahoma County Historical Society are serving in the key positions on the historical committee for Oklahoma City's Centennial celebration in 1989. Chairman of the history and heritage committee is William Bleakley, while Roy P. Stewart and Pendleton Woods are the vice-chairmen.

MY, HOW TIMES FLIES

Yes, it has been a whole year since we mentioned payment of annual dues. It is that time again. The society appreciates your support in the past and needs it in the future. Please make it a point to return the enclosed form with your annual dues if you have not paid them already. We are trying to keep current members on our mailing list and will need your renewal to identify our members and supporters for the next year. The society has ambitious plans for the next year and will need your help.

Be sure to come to the meeting on April 20. Find out about Oklahoma City and about how you can take part in the activities of the Oklahoma County Historical Society.

NOTE: Donations of material to OCHS shall be unrestricted gifts, and all legal title, copyright, and legal property rights to the material shall be transferred to the Society. A record of each transfer of material will be provided by a Certificate of Gift signed by the donor and by representatives of the Collections Committee. Donors must agree that retention, disposition, or any other use of the material shall be left to the discretion of the OCHS, and any material deemed inappropriate to the purposes of the Society shall be disposed of in a manner determined by the Collections Committee.

We need volunteers to help get things moving! Persons willing to donate historical material or to help with collections should contact Bill Welge, Chairman of the Collections Committee (1528 SW 79 Terrace, OKC 73159, phone 681-4545); Mike Everman, Historian (1112 NE 58th, OKC 73111, phone 478-3941); or any board member.

The Collections Committee will meet on the second Monday of every month at 6:30 P.M. in the Melton Building. Meeting dates are:

June 8	October 12
July 13	November 9
August 10	December 14
September 14	

HELP OUT WITH COMMITTEE WORK

We encourage all members to participate in the activities of the Society in whatever way they can. One of the best ways is to work with one of the standing committees. These are:

Membership and Finance	Collections
Historic Sites and Museums	Public Information
Programs and Special Events	

Please contact any member of the Board if you would be willing to lend expertise or spare time to one of these committees. We can assure you there is plenty of work to keep everyone blissfully (?) employed in helping the OCHS.

OCHS PUBLICATIONS

The Oklahoma County Historical Society has sponsored two publications: The Physical Legacy: Buildings of Oklahoma County, 1889 to 1931 (already available for \$7.95 plus \$.70 postage and handling) and Heart of the Promised Land: Illustrated History of Oklahoma County (soon to be released by Windsor Publications.) We hope to have these for sale at each of our meetings, and we urge all members to purchase one and to help publicize these historical works.

Bob Moffat of Windsor Publications is still in town working on the "Partners in Progress" section of Heart of the Promised Land, which will comprise histories of businesses. Anyone interested in participating in this section can contact Mr. Moffat at the Skirvin Hotel or call Dr. Bob Blackburn at 525-0656.

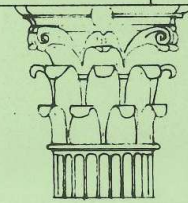
CONTRIBUTE MATERIAL FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER!

Any member with comments or news to be included in the newsletter please send it to Mike Everman at 1112 NE 58th, OKC 73111, or call 478-3941. We want this newsletter to reflect the activities and interests of our members, so let me know about it. This can include notice of events, new publications, historical projects, inquiries, or numerous other items you will want to share with us. We would especially like to hear from the parts of the county outside the metropolitan area. We want to establish a contact person in each section and community in the county, so keep the cards, letters, and phone calls coming.

HISTORICAL MINUTES

OKLAHOMA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume I, Number 2
May, 1981



QUARTERLY MEETING NOTICE: Nation's First Black Pilot To Cross North America Will Be May 26 Speaker

Thomas C. Allen, the nation's first Black pilot to cross the North American continent by air, will be the speaker at the summer meeting of the Oklahoma County Historical Society, to be held in our new home on the second floor of the Melton Building at 7:30 P.M. Tuesday, May 26, 1981.

His story is one of the almost-forgotten "firsts" in aviation which Oklahoma claims, because both of the pilots making the flight (Herman Banning of El Reno and Thomas Allen of Oklahoma City) were Oklahomans. The plane was a used single-engine craft purchased for \$400. Both pilots learned to fly "by the seat of the pants" because flying schools were not open to Blacks at that time.

Mr. Allen is now 74 years old and is still extremely active, serving as a curator at the Oklahoma Aeronautical and Space Museum. Both his knowledge and his sense of humor are fantastic, so come prepared to have a lot of good laughs as well as to learn about a facet in Oklahoma history about which you may never have known.

We'll have coffee, cookies, and fellowship following the meeting, and you will also have the chance to see the space which will soon become the Oklahoma County Historical Society Museum.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS FOR 1981 ARE:

Pendleton Woods (President)	William Silk, AIA
Michael K. Frew (Vice-President)	Joan Keys
Melvina Thurman (Secretary)	Jeanette Gilbert
Bill E. Peavler, AIA (Treasurer)	Ruth Kimmell
Michael Everman (Historian)	

The board of directors of the Oklahoma County Historical Society meets at 5:30 P.M. on the third Thursday of each month in our headquarters in the Melton Building. All members of the society are invited to attend, to propose ideas, and to participate in discussion, with exception of voting. In order to assure yourself that a meeting you wish to attend is being held on schedule, check with our corporate secretary, Melvena Thurman, 521-2491. Meeting dates are:

May 21	September 17
June 18	October 15
July 16	November 19
August 20	December 17

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Imagine coming home from the Easter Pageant in Lawton, having missed the Saturday board meeting, only to learn that you had been elected President of the Society! After the initial shock, I became very excited about it all, and the possibilities we have for the coming year, under the leadership of the capable and dedicated members of our board of directors.

For example, we have recently acquired the second floor of the Melton Building through the generosity of Mr. Howard Melton, and there's the possibility of our getting the third floor later if we want it. Mr. Melton is putting his outstanding art collection on the first floor, which means that this will be a cultural building in its entirety, located in the heart of downtown Oklahoma City. What more could you ask, either for the OCHS or for the business and civic community which is doing so much to revitalize downtown.

Secondly, a quarterly newsletter has been started under the capable leadership of Mike Everman and his fine wife, Diane. This much needed communication will tell you about the exciting things which are happening in Oklahoma County.