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# OWASSO HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Founded 1979

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## NEWSLETTER JULY 2009

### 2007-2009 Officers

#### President

*Ralph Cunningham*

#### Vice President

*Betty Morton*

#### Secretary

*Vacancy*

#### Treasurer

*John Mowery*

#### Membership

*Kathryn Tumleson*

#### Historian

*Kaye Gibson*

#### Directors

*Marcia Boutwell*

*Shirlene Kerr*

*Julia M. Stokes*

*Jerry Whited*

*VACANCY (2)*

#### Museum Hours

Tuesday – Friday  
Noon – 4:00 pm

Saturday

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Other times by  
Appointment

918-272-4966

**FROM THE PRESIDENT** – Will Rogers once said, “Even if you’re on the right track, you’ll get run over if you just sit there.” I think that quote is an apt description of the Owasso Historical Society. The Owasso Historical Society has done an incredible job for many years sharing the rich history of Owasso with its many visitors. However, to keep from getting “run over,” the Board of Directors recently voted to approve several key expenditures to keep the museum up-to-date and inviting for our visitors.

We recently purchased a new computer and printer that will allow the historical society to maintain accurate membership and financial records. This information was previously maintained off site and subject to the availability of a shared computer. The new computer and printer should satisfy the needs of our museum for many years.

In addition, in order to help beautify the exterior of the museum, the board of directors voted to approve monies to purchase new exterior awnings for the museum building. The new awnings will make the building more attractive and inviting for our guests. We hope to have the awning selected and installed within the next 60 days. Given the recent street beautification projects on Main Street, the new awnings will contribute to the charm of our city.

The board of directors also voted and approved the expenditure for new display cases within the museum. In recent years the museum has received several gifts that can not be properly displayed because the existing display cases within the museum are either unavailable or inadequate.

It is the intent of the board of directors of the Owasso Historical Society to always keep the museum fresh and inviting for our guests. I believe these recent changes will help us, as Will Rogers once said, from getting “run over”. As President of the Owasso Historical Society, I encourage you to share your ideas with our board. If you see an area within the museum that can be improved upon or needs to be corrected, please let us know. Together, let’s make the museum all that it can be for our city.

**BOARD MEETINGS** – The Historical Society Board of Directors meets at the museum on the third Monday of each month at 4:00 p.m., except May and December.

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### THANK YOU, JUDY

Members of the Historical Society Board of Directors would like to take this means to thank Julia “Judy” McCarty Stokes for all that she has done to contribute to the success of the Historical Society and the Owasso Historical Museum.



Judy joined the Historical Society in 1979 at the time it was organized. Following in the footsteps of her mother, Ruth Fain McCarty, who served as Historical Society President from 1982 – 1987, Judy became President in March 2004, and served in that capacity through March 2009. She continues to serve on the Board of Directors.

During her tenure as President, Judy contributed many articles to the newsletter. In the articles she related many of her experiences growing up in early Owasso. She has been a dedicated volunteer at the museum, and was the force behind the Cherokee Language Classes that were offered at the museum. She also enjoyed making Memorial Day Wreaths, the Historical Society fundraiser. So, thanks again, Judy. We love you.

**ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED** – This is the fifth year that the Owasso Historical Society has awarded scholarships to Owasso High School graduating Seniors. For the first two years, one scholarship was awarded; in year three the Board voted to award two \$1000 scholarships. This year students graduating from any accredited high school within the city limits of Owasso were eligible to apply. The recipients must enroll as an undergraduate student at an Oklahoma (or adjoining state) college or university. The \$1000 scholarship is paid directly to the university - \$500 per semester. Recipients of the scholarships for the 2009-2010 school year are Brook McConnell and Trevor Conner.

Trevor graduated from Rejoice Christian High School, where he participated in football and National Honor Society, and was a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He was also active in his church youth group & participated in mission trips with the group. Trevor will attend Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, MO. He plans to become a doctor, but hasn't yet decided on a specialty. The scholarship presentation was made by Ralph Cunningham, Historical Society President, at the Senior Awards Assembly on May 18<sup>th</sup>.



**Trevor Conner & Ralph Cunningham**

Brooke McConnell will be featured in the October newsletter.

**JUANITA BARNES (1912-2009)** – Juanita became a member of the Owasso Historical Society on March 5, 1990, and was elected to the Board of Directors in November 1996. She passed away on July 14, 2009 at the age of 96 years and 11 months.

Juanita Crumpton came from Texas to this area with her family when she was six years old. The family settled in Tulsa, and moved to Owasso in 1924. Her father, Jim Crumpton, owned one of the many dairy farms in the area. Many residents in that day were either farmers, ranchers or dairymen.

Juanita graduated from Owasso High School in 1930, as did her future husband, Paul Barnes. There were 13 students in her graduating class.

After their marriage, Juanita and Paul found employment in Texas, Wyoming and New Mexico. They became the parents of three children. The family returned to make their home in Owasso in 1950. Juanita was an active member of the Historical Society Board as long as her health permitted, and could always remember and tell interesting stories about Owasso's history.

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 ★**ALL STAR VOLUNTEERS**★ – Thanks to our wonderful, dedicated volunteers who play such a big part in keeping the museum open – greeting visitors, sharing stories and information about the Owasso area, assisting with special projects, and even occasionally vacuuming and dusting. We welcome two new volunteers – Shirlene Kerr and Joan Stuckey – and we welcome back Carrol Melone.

Volunteers & their regular days are:

Kathryn Tumleson – Tuesday

Kaye Gibson & Joan Stuckey – Wednesday

Carrol Melone – Thursday

Shirlene Kerr (Betty Morton, sub) – Friday

Lois Adams & Orval Trapp – Saturday

Volunteers are always welcome. We would like to have at least two volunteers on each day – to either work together the entire time or to split the shift. The museum is open noon to 4:00 p.m. Tuesday thru Friday, and 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday. If this is something you might like to do, call 272-4966 or drop by the museum and talk to Marcia.

## NEWSPAPER ARTICLES FROM THE PAST

“Notwithstanding the howls and croakings of local pessimists and the old foggy methods of some self constituted leaders among us, Owasso continues to live and have her identity. She has just erected a schoolhouse 24 x 40 feet. It is nicely seated and ready for occupancy. The structure is worth about \$300.”

Tulsa Daily Democrat, Dec. 14, 1900

“Henry McCray, of the Government Townsite Surveyors, was here Saturday running the boundaries of Owasso. The plat now includes 90 acres. A cemetery was also surveyed.”

The Democrat, Jan. 16, 1903

(NOTE: The plat of the Town of Owasso, Cherokee Nation, I.T. was approved March 26, 1904.)

“The poor quality of most of the Owasso water is not so great a disadvantage to the town after all. It means cisterns at every house sooner or later: and cistern water, properly filtered, is more healthful than the best living water of most of the ‘well watered towns’.”

The Owasso Ledger, Aug. 7, 1903

“School Desks Bought – The Owasso School Board placed an order for 150 school desks and 4 recitation seats. The desks are the very latest. The goods cost \$500 laid down at Owasso. \$100 cash and balance in one or two years as the board chooses. It’s the same desk sold to Bartlesville and Muskogee at the same price. The desks will be here early in January. This action of the board cannot but be commended. And the ladies – God bless them – must have the credit for inciting so splendid a move for Owasso.”

The Owasso Ledger, Dec. 14, 1904

## Coming Events

July 20 @4:00 p.m. – Board Meeting

August 17 @4:00 p.m. – Board Meeting

September 21 @4:00 p.m. – Board Meeting

October – Newsletter

## Genealogy Seekers

This group meets at the Community Center, 301 S Cedar, each Friday from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Arrive with your research, a pen and pencil, two 3-ring binders, and your curiosity. Call Sharlee Kuhns at 918-274-7469 with any questions. You are invited to take a covered dish and join the seniors for lunch at 11:15 a.m. if you wish.

### Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup>

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Owasso Community Center

301 S Cedar

Spaghetti, Salad, Garlic Bread

Cake, Drinks

Adults – \$5.00

Children 3-11 – \$3.00

Children under 3 – Free

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Entertainment throughout the evening will be provided by Conner Kylmanen, aka “The Amazing Conner”. This young magician is the son of the Community Center van driver, and is well known at the center.

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7:00 p.m. – Bingo

\$5.00 for 3 cards

Proceeds from the dinner will benefit the programs of the Owasso Golden Agers

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP  
Owasso Historical Society

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Business/Organization (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP FEES

- |                                |      |                             |       |
|--------------------------------|------|-----------------------------|-------|
| • Individual Annual Membership | \$5  | • Student Annual Membership | \$1   |
| • Family Annual Membership     | \$10 | • Life Membership           | \$100 |
| • Business Annual Membership   | \$25 | • Business Life Membership  | \$250 |

Make checks payable to Owasso Historical Society

Please complete the above form and mail with your membership fee to:  
Owasso Historical Society, PO Box 1481, Owasso, OK 74055

Owasso Historical Society  
PO Box 1481  
Owasso, OK 74055