
OWASSO HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Founded 1979

NEWSLETTER JULY 2010

2009-2011 Officers

President

Ralph Cunningham

Vice President

Betty Morton

Secretary

Kaye Gibson

Treasurer

John Mowery

Membership

Kathryn Tumleson

Historian

Kaye Gibson

Directors

Marcia Boutwell

Shirlene Kerr

Ken McSlarrow

Julia M. Stokes

Jerry Whited

Vacancy - 1

Museum Hours

Tuesday – Friday
Noon – 4:00 pm

Saturday

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Other times by
Appointment

918-272-4966

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO BY-LAWS

Two amendments to the by-laws have been proposed. The first relates to payment of annual dues, & it will affect only new members and those who have joined recently. In the current By Laws, it is stated that all annual dues come due on March 23rd of each year. Because people join the Historical Society throughout the year, the proposed amendment will provide for annual dues to be paid each year in the month in which membership begins.

The second proposed amendment officially changes the board meeting time from 7:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The board has been meeting at 4:00 p.m. for some time, but the by-laws have not been officially amended.

Article II, Section 2. The period for such membership fees shall commence each year on the 1st day of the month in which the member joined the society, and shall run for one year. (This change will affect only new members and those who have joined recently.)

Article V, Section 3. Regular meetings of the board of directors shall be held in the principal office on the 3rd Monday of each month (except May & December) at 4:00 p.m., or at such other time or place as may be designated by the president.

These amendments will be voted on at the regular board meeting on Monday, August 16, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. at the Owasso Historical Museum. All members of the society are invited to this meeting.

If you cannot attend the meeting on August 16th and have concerns about these two amendments, please let us know so that your concerns can be considered.

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.

MEMORIAL WREATH PROJECT

– Once again, the Society's major fundraising project was a big success. How far we have come since 1992 – the year we started this fundraiser. That first year we grossed \$750.00; this year our gross was \$6409.00. After expenses of \$336.65 for wire, ribbon, glue sticks, and some greenery, we realized a profit of \$6072.35.

Funds raised are used for the scholarships we award each year to Owasso graduating Seniors, and for special items for the museum. In addition to being a great fundraiser, we recycle flowers that would otherwise be burned, and we provide low-cost arrangements. Now we have regular customers who return year after year to purchase our flowers.

Thanks to all the members and friends who assisted with this project.

RESEARCH

– We are assisting the Owasso Police Department in researching their history. Do you have any information about the early days of the P.D. – when it actually became a department, how many officers there were originally, etc. We have been told that there was once a police auxiliary. If you know of someone who might have been a member of the auxiliary or anyone who can help us out with this information, please let us know. We have the ability to scan items into the computer, so that you can keep your original copies.

VISITORS, TOURS & PRESENTATIONS –

During April, May & June, visitors to the museum have come from the states of Connecticut, Michigan, Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas & Virginia; and Bartlesville, Claremore, Collinsville, Glenpool, Moore, Owasso, Sand Springs, Skiatook, Stillwater, Strang, Tulsa, Vera & Wagoner in Oklahoma.

Guided tours were provided for the special education class from the Owasso Seventh Grade Center and several Scout troops. Staff & volunteers are available for guided tours and to make presentations. Just call the museum to set up a time.

APPRECIATION LUNCH



Historical Society members and friends who worked on the Memorial Day flower project were treated to lunch at The Pecan Porch near Catoosa on Friday, July 9th. Enjoying the time together were Ralph Cunningham, Marcia Boutwell, Lois Adams, Joan Stuckey, Nita Shields, Kaye Gibson, Evelyn Lockhart, Betty Morton, Ann Miller, John Mowery, Shirlene & Don Kerr, Orval Trapp, & Ken McSlarrow.

**Visit Your
Owasso Historical Museum**

ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED – This is the sixth 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. For the last two years students graduating from any accredited high school within the city limits of Owasso were eligible to apply. 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 2010-2011 school year are Christopher Havercamp and Kody Kemp.

Christopher graduated from Owasso High School, where he participated in Botany Club, Chess Club, Career Technical Student Organization, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and volunteered for other school services. He volunteered at Owasso Baptist Children’s Home, Owasso Community Resources, Freedom Church Youth Group, First Christian Church, John 3:16 Mission, and Neighborhood Cleanup Days. Christopher will attend Oklahoma State University, where his professional goal is to become a certified architect.

The scholarship presentation was made by Ralph Cunningham, Historical Society President, at the Senior Awards Assembly on May 14th.

Kody is a graduate of Rejoice Christian High School, where he participated in football, basketball & track. His many school activities included drama, class officer, student council, student activity group leader for younger students, FCA, and Discovery Bible Fellowship. He has volunteered with Standing in the Gap, Toys for Tots, Spanish Pre-school, Scouts, football camp, cleaning the parking lot, mulching the playground, other help around the school, and assisted families with cleaning and repairs after the ice storm. Kody will attend Tulsa Community College for two years and then transfer to Oklahoma State University to pursue a career in engineering.

The scholarship presentation was made by Ralph Cunningham, Historical Society President, at the Senior Awards Assembly on May 18th.

EARLY OWASSO NEWSPAPERS

Four of the early Owasso newspapers were The Owasso Ledger (1903), The Valley Echo (1907), The Owasso Dispatch (1910), and The Owasso Weekly Herald (1913). It appears that none of these early newspapers lasted long.

The Owasso Ledger was first published on August 7, 1903 by U.P. Waldrip. The subscription price was \$1.00 per year, paid in advance. At that time Owasso was an unincorporated town in the Cooweescoowee District of the Cherokee Nation, Indian Territory.

Ads were placed in this newspaper by Owasso State Bank; J.B. Taylor, General Merchandise; S.E. Finch, Millinery and Dress-Making; W.O. Whitney Lumber and Grain Co; A.J. Foster, General Merchandise; Juby's, "for cold drinks and fruits"; Kinney's Grocery; B.M. Daniels Tonsorial; Cottage Hotel; Owasso Hotel; J.T. Barnes Hotel; Ballard and Overturf dry goods, groceries, notions; Palace Drug Store; E.B. Colburn, proprietor of the New Store; and Cooley Livery and Feed Stable.

That first edition of the *Ledger* refers to a boom in the Owasso area, and published a long list of buildings under construction or completed within the last 60 days. The town streets had not yet been named in 1903. There was a suggestion in the paper to have a public meeting to name the streets.

There were several columns of "locals and personals".

The Valley Echo was first published on November 21, 1907 by Ora Holderreed – five days after Oklahoma became a state. The front page of this issued discussed the new Oklahoma laws affecting livestock and game. It also announced that the government schools in Indian Territory would not be disturbed by the change from federal to state government.

Items of interest included the death of Robert Brown, a former United States marshal whose six daughters lived in Owasso.

Owasso town officers listed were A. Carlin, mayor; W.H. Whitlock, clerk; F. Brock, marshal; Nat Smith, treasurer; H.L. Doutt, Julius Macy, A.L. Haislip, H. Hayden, & D.D. Lovette, councilmen; and school board – A. Hagaman, president; Nat Smith, clerk; J.L. Hutcherson, Marvin Bewley, & John Ingram.

The *Echo* lists the Santa Fe Railway schedule – two northbound & two southbound trains per day left the Owasso Depot.

The Owasso Dispatch. Apparently only one issue of this newspaper survived – December 30, 1910. D.F. Shepherd was editor and publisher.

The Owasso Weekly Herald was a small tabloid. The July 4, 1913 issue is labeled Volume 2 Number 28, so the paper had apparently been in existence more than two years at that time. Harry C. Rutherford was the publisher.

Some of the merchants mentioned are The Dickinson Bros. Grain and Hay Co., The First National Bank, Ballard's Livery and Feed Barn, The Little Joe Restaurant managed by J.H. Barnes, W.E. Mendell Blacksmith, R.J. Kirksey Physician and Surgeon, A.R. Juby Druggist, The H.C. Miller Lumber Company, Kinney's Market, N.R. Mounger Hardware, H.L. Doutt Dry Goods and Groceries, E.R. Colburn Dry Goods and Groceries, and J.M. Smith Hardware and Farm Implements. In addition to the ads, the editor included short stories about the merchants.

Miss Maude Trower was general manager of the Owasso Telephone Exchange. The ad states "We reach the oil fields over our own lines."

These early newspapers contained lots of local news such as:

"The Owasso ball team will play the Catoosa team today, and here's hoping our boys win."

"H.L. Doutt and family are spending the day at the Dewey roundup."

"Mrs. Newt Jones and son went to Collinsville Tuesday."

"Drilling will soon commence on the N.R. Mounger land southwest of town. It is thought that the drilling on this land will result in a good flow of oil."

Coming Events

July 19 @4:00 p.m. – Board Meeting

August 16 @4:00 p.m. – Board Meeting

September 20 @4:00 p.m. – Board Meeting

October – Newsletter

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