
OWASSO HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Founded 1979

NEWSLETTER **APRIL 2006**

2005-2007 Officers

President

Julia M. Stokes

Vice President

Betty Morton

Secretary

Vacant

Treasurer

John Mowery

Membership

Kathryn Tumleson

Historian

Kaye Gibson

Directors

*Jerry Whited
Doyle Dobbins
Frances Barros
Juanita Barnes
Glenn Gibson
Marcia Boutwell*

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 – FROM MY MEMORIES---September, 1937.

We made it to the 3rd grade – 34 of us.

Our teacher was new to the school system this year. Lucille Paulk, at least she was new to me. She was young, pretty, with dark hair worn braided, wrapped around her head, or so it appears in the class picture.

The school year started like previous years. Glad to see “old” school friends from 2nd grade.

An incident stands out in my mind of how I tricked my teacher. It happened one day in reading class. Miss Paulk was letting the class read a portion from the book at intervals.

I’d raise my hand, but was never called upon to read. So---I thought I’d fix her. I pretended I was not paying attention, looking out the windows and the door, goofing off the best I could, but keeping my eyes on the book. Sure enough came the awaited words from the teacher----“Julia, would you read please.” – I started in the right place. After that I didn’t care if she called on me or not to read, but I knew what she thought. I did not need to read. I was already a good reader.

As I look at my 3rd grade school group picture of 1937, memories return of my old friends that I still communicate with from that school year. Three classmates come to mind, Glenn D. Jones, St. George, Utah; Phil D. Lester, Seabrook, Texas; Carl D. Thiessen, Claremore, Oklahoma.

School reunions are likely events old schoolmates might attend. Sadly I notice the classmates who are no longer with us.

BOARD MEETINGS – The Historical Society Board of Directors meets on the third Monday of each month, except May and December, at 4:00 p.m. at the museum. The meeting time has been changed from 7:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., following a discussion and vote at the November 2005 meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING – The Annual Membership Meeting was held on Saturday, March 25, 2006 at the museum, with approximately 30 persons in attendance. Following the business meeting, Jessica Hunt, city of Owasso employee and popular local vocalist, entertained the group with two selections. The program was presented by Cathy Rutledge, Counselor at Smith Elementary School. Cathy spoke to the group about how she teaches history to her students and what she does to try to make history come alive for them. The meeting concluded with refreshments, visiting, and touring the museum.



Cathy Rutledge

Ghosts of old timers walk the sidewalks and streets of Owasso. Luther (Pop) Barnes is one of them.

Pop Barnes was born October 10, 1877. He came to Indian Territory from Missouri in 1897 at age 20, with his father and mother, Joseph T. and Ella Barnes, settling on Elm Creek.



When the railroad came in the late 1890's and stopped about two miles northwest of the Elm Creek settlement, the few businesses and folks there decided to move and set up a new community near the railroad. Joseph Barnes operated a feed store, and Pop operated a livery stable. When oil was discovered on Bird Creek, Pop became a teamster.

Pop married Lila Walters, school teacher at a subscription school about four miles east of the Owasso site. They were the parents of nine children.

The years came and went, Pop enjoyed his life to the fullest – his daily walks from his home to downtown Owasso, visiting friends, remembering his past and the changes he had seen, glad he was blessed with his long life span. He received great enjoyment attending football games, and last but not least, he enjoyed his family.

In 1970, when Pop was 93, the Owasso Board of Education honored him by naming the oldest school in the Owasso area after him – BARNES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

Pop Barnes died on July 11, 1975 at age 97. He is buried in Fairview Cemetery

NEWSLETTER – The newsletter is being published quarterly. If there is something that you would like to see featured in the newsletter, please let us know. We welcome your suggestions. Also, let us know if your newsletter arrives in bad condition. We are still trying to refine our mailing system. Is your address correct on the mailing label? If it isn't, we need to know that so we can update our records.

WAL-MART DONATION – We have received a \$500 donation from the Owasso Wal-Mart. We are doing some work in the “schoolroom” and plans are to use the donation for something needed for that room.

SNAKEROOT – Snakeroot, once used by American Indians as a medicinal herb, is now used as a natural cold and flu remedy and as an immune system stimulator.

The botanical name for the plant is *echinacea angustifolia*, but for those folks who dig the plant for financial gain it is called Kansas snakeroot or purplish coneflower. It is a prairie plant resembling a daisy, purplish color, growing wild throughout the plains and the South. It favors hilly terrain where underlying limestone is peaking through.

So as not to damage a meadow, a special tool should be used – a pick rather than a shovel. The ground should be left undisturbed. Interested diggers should always obtain permission from landowners.

If you wish to know more, ask a rancher, farmer, or dairyman who relies upon his meadow to feed his livestock.

MEMORIAL FLOWERS – If you have ever had a burning desire to create a beautiful spray of flowers, now is your chance. Creating wreaths and sprays for Memorial Day is our big fundraising project. Come on by the museum and give us a hand. The project begins April 17th, with the first few days bringing in the flowers from storage and getting set up to begin the project, and will continue through Memorial Day. Even though you think you don't have any talent for this type of project, you just might be surprised at what you can do. Funds raised through the project support the annual scholarship, as well as the purchase of items for the museum and incidental society expenses.

ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED – The annual scholarship awarded by the Historical Society will be presented to Owasso High School Senior Andrew Hill at the high school awards assembly. Andrew graduates in May and plans to attend the University of Central Oklahoma, majoring in Marketing. The \$1000 scholarship is paid directly to the university - \$500 per semester. This is the second year that a scholarship has been presented to an Owasso High school graduating senior. Ten applications were received and judged by a committee of Historical Society members.

Look for Why the Train Stopped Here in the next issue of this newsletter.

SPEAK GENTLY

Speak gently; it is better far
To rule by love than fear;
Speak gently; let no harsh words mar
The good we might do here.

Speak gently to the little child;
Its love be sure to gain;
Teach it in accents soft and mild;
It may not long remain.

Speak gently to the aged one;
Grieve not the care-worn heart;
The sands of life are nearly run;
Let such in peace depart.

Speak gently, kindly, to the poor;
Let no harsh tone be heard;
They have enough they must endure,
Without an unkind word.

Speak gently; 'Tis a little thing
Dropped in the heart's deep well;
The good, the joy, which it may bring,
Eternity shall tell.

--From McGuffey's Reader

VISITORS – From January 1 through March 31, visitors to the museum have come from Owasso, Skiatook, Tulsa, Sulphur, Broken Arrow, Tahlequah, and Collinsville in Oklahoma, and from Idaho, Virginia, North Carolina, and Nebraska. Groups touring have included Owasso Boy Scout Troop #2002, and Bear Cub Scout Troop #857. The guest book as been signed by 120 people during the three-month period.

Coming Events

April 17th @4:00 p.m. – Board Meeting

June 19th @4:00 p.m. – Board Meeting

April 17 – May 29
Memorial Flower Project

July - Newsletter



END OF THE TRAIL – Jack Willeford brought in this photograph taken of his parents, Asa and Callie Willeford, in 1939 in Mooney Park, CA. The statue is the original 18' plaster sculpture created by James Earle Fraser for San Francisco's 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition. Following the exposition the statue was discarded. In 1920, the city of Visalia, CA obtained the statue and placed it in Mooney Park. It remained there until 1968 when the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum acquired it. They restored the piece, which had deteriorated over the years, and made it a focal point of the museum.

NECOMA – Members of the Owasso Historical Society traveled to Skiatook on April 3, 2006 to attend the Northeast Central Oklahoma Museums Association spring meeting. Those attending from Owasso were Marcia Boutwell, Julia Stokes and Betty Morton. Skiatook Historical Society hosted the meeting at the Skiatook Museum. Representatives from Historical Societies and Museums attended from Bristow, Bixby, Keystone Crossroads (Mannford), Owasso, Sapulpa, Sand Springs, and Skiatook.

The group toured the well-displayed Skiatook Museum and viewed a video of Skiatook history and stories of the past about those folks making the history possible. A delicious lunch was served at the Presbyterian Church nearby. A meeting followed lunch, with each Historical Society and Museum reporting on their projects or happenings since the fall 2005 meeting. Great interest was shown in the success of Owasso's Memorial Wreath project, with questions being asked about the project and what has been achieved with the funds earned. Door prizes were given by the Skiatook Historical Society.

The Owasso Historical Society and Museum will host the fall 2006 meeting of the association some time in October.

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 | \$1.00 |
| • 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