



# The Stakeholder

A quarterly publication of the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center

Fall 2010

Vol. III Issue III

## From the Board Chairman...

For over five years our community has believed in, given to, and waited patiently for a long-awaited dream to become a reality. Thank you for standing by us on this journey to build and endow a first-class facility that honors our northwest Oklahoma heritage ... and our future. Now it is time to celebrate the opening of the state's first regional heritage center. I hope you will plan to join us on November 5 for the dedication and public opening of the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center. We think you will be pleased with what you find.

*Lew Ward*

*Grand Opening*

November 5



Photography by Mike Klemme

## *From the President...*

The Heritage Center may be all about history, but there certainly are lots of new things to talk about! If you haven't checked out our new website yet, please give it a view at [www.csrhc.org](http://www.csrhc.org). The website is a great place to stay current on all the happenings at the Heritage Center. There is also plenty to do on the website ... book an event, become a volunteer, follow our blog, purchase a gift, become a fan, or make a donation to name a few. Check it out and let us know what you think.

We are kicking off the grand opening celebration in style with a fabulous gala on September 16. Also on that date we will begin a new membership program full of fun ways to experience the Heritage Center. More information will be coming your way soon.

The Heritage Center's new gift shop is jam-packed with souvenirs, books, historical toys and games, jewelry, unique Oklahoma gifts and beautiful art from some of our region's most well-loved artists. Come get a sneak peek and stock up on gifts for the holidays during preview weekend, September 17-19.

Just a reminder, before the year slips away, that the Ward's \$100,000 challenge grant to benefit the Heritage Center's endowment ends on December 31. Donations to the endowment can be made in the form of cash, planned giving or by pledge. Receipt or notification of the donation will trigger the release of the matching funds into the Heritage Center's endowment fund. If the full challenge is met by the end of the year an additional \$200,000 will have been added to the fund. Thank you Lew and Myra.

*Audi Holland*

## *Board and Staff*

### *2010 Board of Directors*

#### **Board of Directors**

Lew Ward-*Chairman*  
Dr. Jerry Blankenship-*Vice Chairman*  
Gary Brown-*Secretary*  
Dr. David Russell-*Treasurer*  
April Danahy  
Kathy Dickson  
Dr. Cheryl Evans  
Dr. Deena Fisher  
Melanie Groendyke  
Molly Helm  
John Martin  
Suzy Meibergen  
Dick McKnight  
Rev. John McLemore  
Curt Roggow  
Daron Rudy  
Richard Taylor  
David Trojan

#### **Regional Advisory Board**

Dr. Cheryl Evans-*Chair*  
Kaye Bond  
Dr. Deena Fisher  
Sandie Olsen  
David Trojan

#### **Staff**

Andrea Holland-*President/ Editor*  
David Kennedy-*Curator of Collections*  
Aaron Preston-*Education Director*  
Mike Caffey-*Maintenance Director*  
Yami Marvicsin-*Office Manager*  
Dorothy Bourgo-*Collections Assistant*  
Pamela Leavengood-*Archival Assistant*  
Jeanette Brainard-*Turkey Creek School Teacher*  
Myrna Jo Johnson-*Turkey Creek School Teacher*

**Don't forget to check our new website for updates and information on future events and programs.**

**[www.csrhc.org](http://www.csrhc.org)**

# Fulfilling the Dream

The opening of the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center marks a significant turning point in the history of Oklahoma's museum community.

There may be few comparisons in terms of size and quality, such as the Oklahoma History Center, the Cowboy Museum, and the Gilcrease, but none of those institutions share the grassroots support that made the Enid museum possible. How did this remarkable new museum come to life?

First is the remarkable sense of community in Enid, Garfield County, and the entire Cherokee Outlet. No other regional group of people in Oklahoma treasures their local history as dearly as do the descendants of those pioneers who made the land run of 1893 or claimed land as the dust settled over the next decade. Not only have I observed that reality as a professional historian for the past thirty years, but I also have inherited that pride by marrying into one of those families.

Next is the ability to dream big dreams. The genesis of the Enid museum began when a group of community leaders gathered to discuss a modest expansion of the old building. As they considered the many options, the conversation gained energy with each new idea, each new realization that they could do something that no one expected. Seemingly overnight, the suggestion of a new wing gave way to a \$9 million dream of a comprehensive reinvention of the institution from the ground up.

Then comes the truly remarkable part of the story—the partnerships that turned the pride and dreams into reality.

Representing the larger community and its stake in a nationally significant museum are the federal, state, and city governments. Without the resources of the people's representatives, the hope of achieving and sustaining world class status would have been impossible. The Oklahoma Historical Society, with dedicated professionals such as Kathy Dickson, has been and will be a partner because the people of the state support our mission to collect, preserve, and share Oklahoma history.

This new museum, however, would never have been built if left to government alone. The Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center is here because of the partners who live in Enid, Garfield County, and Northwestern Oklahoma. From the first conversations, the Sons and Daughters of the Cherokee Strip, the graduates of Phillips University, and the community leaders of Enid stepped up and offered their help.

The many people who linked their arms for this project are far too numerous to name here, but I cannot end this overview without mentioning Lew and Myra Ward. They saw the possibilities. They nurtured the dream. They kept everyone moving in one direction. This museum, a remarkable and historic achievement, is testimony to their community pride, their ability to dream big dreams, and their commitment to an enduring partnership.

To them and all the people who worked on this project, I say thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Dr. Bob Blackburn  
Executive Director  
Oklahoma Historical Society



Please join us for an evening of dining, dancing and celebration

at the **Cherokee Strip Days Gala**

on the outdoor Plaza of the new  
Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center

**Thursday, September 16, 2010**

507 S. 4th Street, Enid, Oklahoma

**6 p.m. to 7 p.m.**

Exclusive viewing of David Fitzgerald's photographic exhibit,

**Cherokee Nation:  
Portrait of a People**

in the Temporary Exhibit Gallery

The celebration begins on the Plaza at **7 p.m.**

*Evening/ Cocktail Attire*

*\$100 per person or \$175 per couple*

*RSVP by September 7, 2010 to (580) 237-1907 x221*

**“Cherokee Nation: A Portrait of a People”**

*A Photographic Exhibit*

The Heritage Center proudly presents  
David Fitzgerald's work of 55  
portraits featuring Cherokee tribal  
leaders, couple, family and individuals  
with quotes from those pictured.

**Exhibit Dates:**  
**September 17, 18, and 19**  
**&**  
**November 5, 6 and 7**



**Gallery Talk with  
Artist, David Fitzgerald**  
Sunday, September 19  
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**Exhibit and the Gallery Talk will be located in the Temporary Exhibit Gallery**  
**For more information please call 237-1907 x226**

# CHEROKEE STRIP DAYS CELEBRATION

*Friday, September 17  
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.*

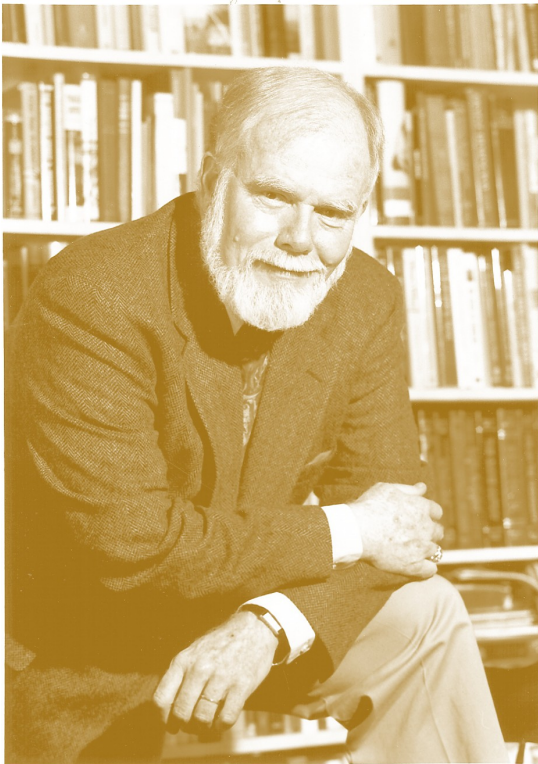
Activities, games and craft demonstrators will be stationed throughout Humphrey Heritage Village. Demonstrators include: a blacksmith; wheat weaver; traditional Cherokee basket maker; chuck wagon cook; whip demonstrator and more.

Celebrate the anniversary of the Land Run!  
Fun for the whole family!

Event is Free and Open to the Public  
Festival Foods Available for Purchase

## “Entrepreneurs of the Old West”

*A Lecture by David Dary*



**Thursday, November 18, 2010  
7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

*Temporary Exhibit Gallery  
Reception and Book Signing to Follow*

Dary will highlight aspects of his book, “Entrepreneurs of the Old West” and explore how businesses evolved in the early west.

Bring your copy of the book to the lecture and get it signed!

This Program is funded in part by a grant from the Oklahoma Humanities Council (OHC) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of OHC or NEH.



# A Historical Look at Our Rights and Freedoms

A Five-Week Lecture Series

Northern Oklahoma College  
Montgomery Hall,  
Gantz Center

Mondays at 7 p.m.  
October 11  
October 18  
October 25  
November 1  
November 8



Admission is free and open to  
the public.

For more information about the  
lecture series please call  
580-237-1907 or visit our new  
website [www.csrhc.org](http://www.csrhc.org)

The Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center Welcomes Back  
Dr. J. Rufus Fears

## *Meet The Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center 's Newest Board Member*

Reverend John P. McLemore is Senior Minister at Central Christian Church in Enid, Oklahoma, a position he assumed on August 1, 2000. Prior to coming to Enid, he served as an Associate Regional Pastor for the Christian Church in Oklahoma. He was based in Tulsa.

Reverend McLemore attended Phillips University and completed a Bachelor of Science degree from Central State University. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from Phillips Theological Seminary (Magna Cum Laude) where he was honored as the Outstanding Disciples Graduate on the Enid campus.

Since coming to Enid, John has served as Moderator of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oklahoma, been President of the Phillips Theological Seminary Alumni Association and a board member for the 4R Kids Foundation. He currently serves on the following boards: Hospice Circle of Love (past-president), the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, the Phillips University Alumni and Friends Association, the Phillips University Legacy Foundation, the Disciples Retirement Community of Oklahoma (president), Denny Price YMCA, and the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center. Recently, Rev. McLemore was elected to serve on the board of the Rotary Club of Enid.

John and his wife Carolyn have been married 42 years. They have two children and two grandchildren.



Rev. John McLemore



# Plaza Pavers

*The Perfect Gift*

Honor your Loved Ones...  
Make your Mark on History...  
*(Makes a Great Christmas Gift!)*

Deadline: December 15, 2010

Large Paver: 8x8 \$500

Small Paver: 4x8 \$300



## Volunteer Today!

*Become a Part of the Heritage Center Team!*


### Volunteer Orientations

**September 23, 1-3 p.m.**

**October 21, 9-11 a.m.**

*Village Church*

#### Volunteer Opportunities



- Docent/Tour Guide
- Information Desk
- Gift Shop
- Research Center
- Office/Clerical
- Special Events
- Grounds/Landscape
- And many more...

For more information call  
580-237-1907 x223

#### Memorials

*Sara Parrish, Isaiah Stone, Larry McClure and Jim Hanna*  
by Lew and Myra Ward

*Larry McClure*  
by Lew and Suzy Meibergen

#### Honorariums

*Lew and Suzy Meibergen*  
by Drs. Ronald and Debra Estroff



CHEROKEE STRIP  
REGIONAL HERITAGE CENTER

[www.regionalheritagecenter.org](http://www.regionalheritagecenter.org)

507 S. 4th Street

Enid, OK 73701

Phone: (580) 237-1907

e-mail: [csrhcinfo@okhistory.org](mailto:csrhcinfo@okhistory.org)

website: [www.csrhc.org](http://www.csrhc.org)

**Return Service Requested**

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Enid, OK  
Permit No. 22

## CSRHC Schedule

### September 2010

**Wednesday, September 1 — Noon**

*Waverly Historic District*, Shirley Marquardt,  
Village Church

**Thursday, September 16 — 7:00 p.m.**

Cherokee Strip Days Gala

**Friday, September 17 — 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Cherokee Strip Days Celebration, Humphrey  
Heritage Village

**Fri-Sat, September 17 & 18 — 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

*Cherokee Nation: A Portrait of a People*,  
Exhibit in Temporary Exhibit Gallery

**Sunday, September 19 — 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

Gallery Talk with David Fitzgerald, *Cherokee Nation:  
A Portrait of a People*, Temporary Exhibit Gallery

**Friday, September 24 — Noon**

*Part I: Tips for Beginning Genealogists*, Jeanette  
Heitfield, Village Church

### October 2010

**Mondays, October 11, 18, 25 — 7 p.m.**

*A Historical Look at Our Rights and Freedoms*, Dr. J.  
Rufus Fears, NOC-Montgomery Hall, Parts I, II & III

**Friday, October 8 — Noon**

*Part II: House Histories*, Lynda Schwan,  
Village Church

**Friday, October 22 — Noon**

*Part III: Doing a Proper Oral History*, Roger Harris,  
Village Church

**Friday, October 29 — Noon**

*Part IV: The CSRHC as a Research Tool*,  
Village Church

### November 2010

**Friday, November 5 - GRAND OPENING!**

**Mondays, November 1 and 8 — 7 p.m.**

*A Historical Look at Our Rights and Freedoms*, Dr. J.  
Rufus Fears, NOC Montgomery Hall, Parts IV and V

**Wednesday, November 10 — Noon**

*The History of Vance AFB*, Heather Melsby, Vance  
AFB Wing Historian, Village Church

**Thursday, November 18 — 7:30 p.m.**

*Entrepreneurs of the Old West*, David Dary,  
Reception and Book Signing to Follow, Temporary  
Exhibit Gallery

**For more information on these and future programs  
please call 580.237.1907 x226**