

“Where the Past
Meets the Present”

Cherokee Rose Gazette

2024
Summer/Fall
5¢

SPECIAL EDITION • CHEROKEE STRIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY • SPECIAL EDITION



“Oklahoma Land Run” by Xiang Zhang Fine Art. Limited Edition giclée prints are available at XiangZhangArt.com.

ECHOES OF THE LAND RUN

As we roll into the third quarter of the year, my thoughts are drawn to the historical milestones that define this time. In July, we celebrate the Declaration of Independence, the birth of our nation. In September, we commemorate another pivotal moment: the Land Run of 1893. While history books lay out the facts and highlight key figures, it can be challenging to truly place ourselves on the starting line that day—to feel the nerves, hopes, and challenges that marked the event. I’ve always yearned to experience the build-up of this remarkable day, from the anticipation

and struggles, to the diverse backgrounds that led to those first stakes hitting the Oklahoma soil.

Recently, I’ve immersed myself in “letters to home” from Land Run participants. Their stories, akin to characters in a novel, left me in awe. In this edition, we have compiled pieces of these individuals’ stories in timeline order. Many participants faced similar living conditions; most battled hunger and failing crops once established, while others reveled in their bountiful “Turnip Year.”

As I explored these letters, I felt their

triumphs and despairs echo through time. As I share some of their words with you, I hope you will settle into your seat, and picture yourself on the starting line that day, September 16, 1893.

Thank you for your continued support and for joining us in remembering and honoring these remarkable pioneers.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Madison Flores
Executive Director

TALES FROM THE LAND RUN

A GALLANT STEED

"My horse had been carefully trained and though he was not of a racehorse breed, he was a fine horse. He was a Siphon trotter from Missouri. We trained our horse in a number of ways. One way was to run them to a certain point and then turn them loose, and naturally they run home. The man who trained my horse cared for race horses; and so he rubbed the horse down and used other practices known to race horsemen. We were racing for something valuable and meant business, so we were doing all we could that would be to our advantage. My horse ran 37 miles in 2 hours and 37 minutes near Billings."

A.J. Jedlicka

RACING TO RED ROCK

"I was riding an exceptionally fast horse, I paid 100 dollars for him especially for the run. It was no wonder I took the lead that day. So fast, I saw no one until I got to Red Rock with the exception of one man. I stopped to stake my claim, I jerked off my saddle, put my stake in the ground and looked up in surprise to see another man nearby. "So how fast did you walk to beat my pony here?" He saw my point immediately and left. The wind was blowing so fiercely that day the air was filled with dust, and every mans face was unrecognizable."

Matt Hays

SOONER TRICKS & PRAIRIE HAZARDS

"When Lou Gray fired the gun in our vicinity it was almost noon. Never was there a calvary charge like this. About a hundred yards in front of the line was a four or five foot ditch and when the line hit this, you could

see loose and horseless riders in all directions. Four miles farther on was the worst prairie dog town you could imagine. Fine Kentucky horses, the colors of their stables flying. When they hit the holes they turned clear over. It was horrible to see horses go down. The sooners set fires to grass just ahead of us to slow horse and riders down, as I had no notion of where I was going to settle I just rode on and on. When I got to a creek bottom, it was full of sooners so I just rode on.

Sooners were people who slipped in the night before the opening. They used soap and water on their horses. This made a lather and looked like they had run a long time. We saw them coming out of creeks, canyons, and thickets and those horses weren't panting at all. They didn't fool Uncle Joe and me at all."

William Ricker

A STARRY NIGHT

"As night settled there were camp fires in many places, here and there a lantern, and a few tents up but the great majority were men. Maybe 18,000 or 20,000 of women. (for women this was an appreciable number) Scattered over the townsite, slept that night under the star studded heavens, and no covering save the dusty disheveled clothes in which they had made the run, with a pair of boots, a hand bag, and a tightly rolled coat for a pillow."

Fred Winner.

THE "TURNIP YEAR"

"The next two years after I staked my claim 9 miles east of Enid, were bad. One year all we could manage was Kaffir corn to grow. One year we grew kaffir and turnips. The turnips were plentiful for everyone and we ate boiled turnips,

turnip kraut and turnip stew. We called this one "Turnip Year." This was from 1894-1895." William Rucker

LETTER TO MA

"I have a well on my lot, all it lacks is throwing the dirt out. My house is not yet done, you would be surprised to see the houses going up. The town is already organizing and everything is lively as you please. We have newspapers, lawyers, saloons, and real estate. From where I am sitting now I see vacant lots \$5.00 a lot. You would not want to live there but it would make a fine place for a duck yard. There is good running water on them I believe I can get pa to hold them for you. Now please write soon this time, please no short letters to me again, for a feel sure that I will have to send this one by freight. O, say if I have forgotten anything let me know ma. Lovingly, J."

17 year old, J.S McKibben

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

We would like to remind all our members that our society's archive room is at your disposal. This invaluable resource houses an extensive collection of records, diaries, photographs, and more. Whether you're interested in tracing your family history, learning about the origins of our community, or simply diving deeper into the past, our archives provide a window into the rich history of our shared heritage.

REMEMBERING THE 16TH

THE FLOWER PARADE

Surprisingly, the first few years after the "run," there was very little acknowledgement of the anniversary of the historic day, September 16, 1893. It was not until 1903 that the first celebration that would pay homage to the settlers would take place. *The Perry Republican* newspaper announced the grand celebration to the public for the first time: "The most beautiful feature of our annual strip opening celebration is the flower parade, and it is with more than a little pleasure that we can announce the exhibit for this year will eclipse all former efforts. The Committee in charge of the event reports that the ladies are taking the matter up with unusual enthusiasm and that there will be more carriages and of undoubtedly more beautiful design than last year when the display was the cynosure of all eyes and a most agreeable surprise to our visitors. The ladies horseback display will be an added feature to the parade this fall which promises to add much to the occasion. Mesdames Nicholson and Benight are in charge of the display and would like to hear from every lady in the city as to taking part in the carriage, automobile or horseback decorations"

16TH CELEBRATION MEMORIES

"One year I remember standing in front of the Chamber of Commerce as snow started to fall like crazy, this was in the 70's. I can also remember that if the 16th Celebration fell on a week day, they would let us out of school to have the parade on that day, instead of having it on a Saturday."

-Paul Smith



Another early parade photo showing the busy street of the town square. Many people can be seen with hats and umbrellas. Flower Parade 1909. Photos courtesy of the museum's digital archives.



A building can be seen in the back, "The Indiana Barn, E.A. Hazlett Property. Women with umbrellas with carriage and horses decorated. Men can be seen in the background. Photo courtesy of the museum's digital archives

"All the groups and clubs in town used to have their own floats, there were just so many!"

-Donna Cross

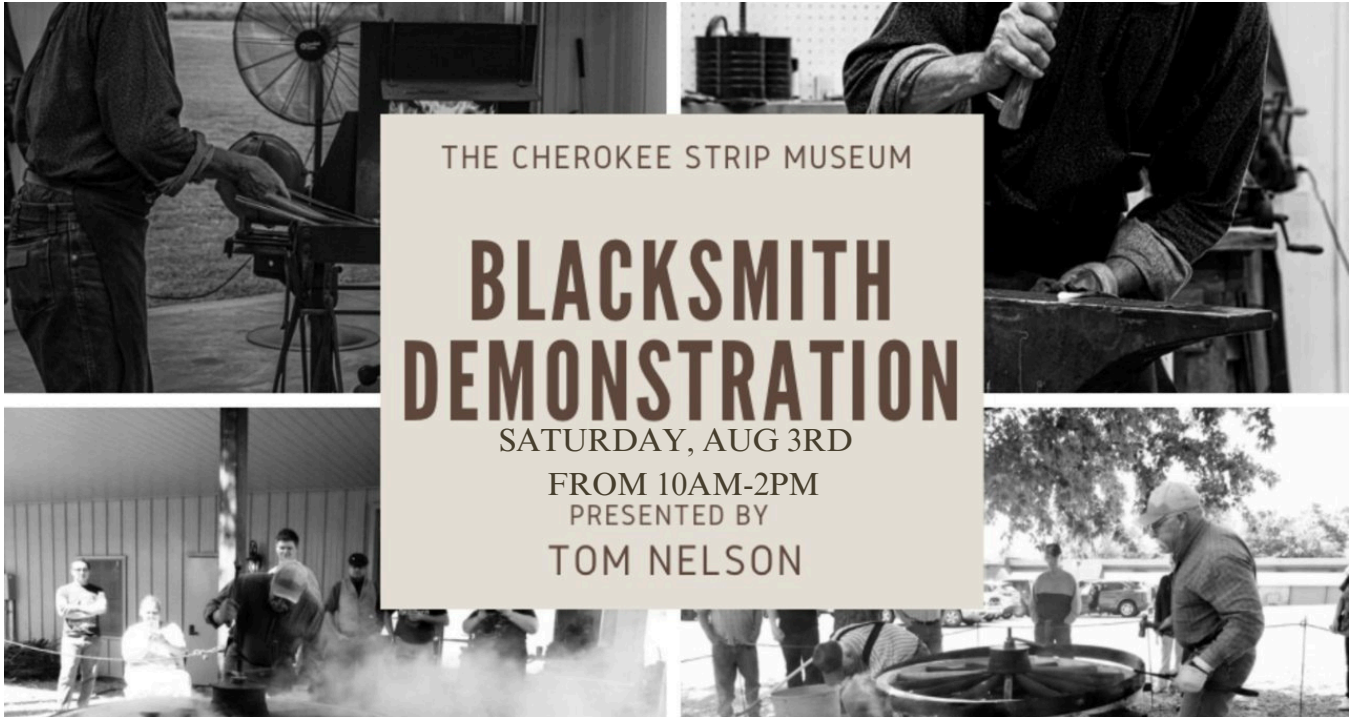
"There used to be Ferris wheel rides and all kinds of carnival things out in the courtyard during the celebration day."

-Alice Kupp

"When I was young, I remember my mom making a float out of napkins and chicken wire. We made the float out in front of the Swartz Oil & Gas Company, that area is what is across from the YMCA now. This was in 1941 when my mom made that float."

-Laura Kemnitz

Upcoming Events



THE CHEROKEE STRIP MUSEUM

BLACKSMITH DEMONSTRATION

SATURDAY, AUG 3RD
FROM 10AM-2PM
PRESENTED BY
TOM NELSON



**SAT.
SEP
7**
9:30-2:00

CHEROKEE STRIP MUSEUM & ROSE HILL
SCHOOL PRESENTS

SETTLER'S DAY

- KIDS LAND RUN • ROPE MAKING
- HISTORICAL CHARACTERS
- FLINT KNAPPING • SCHOOL SESSIONS
- COWBOY COOKING & MORE!

Follow us on social media for live updates



In loving memory of Marvin "Bud," Jirous

IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Marvin "Bud" Jirous on April 21, 2024. Marvin was a cherished pioneer, benefactor, and friend of the museum. Having been a lifelong member of the Cherokee Strip Historical Society and deeply rooted in our community, he co-founded Sonic Enterprise and took pride in being a Perry Alumni. Together with his wife,

Barbara, they generously support the museum with projects, events and more. For two years, the public had the opportunity to explore an engaging Sonic exhibit that Marvin actively participated in by sharing his personal memorabilia. Although Marvin has left us, we will forever appreciate the legacy he has left within our museum and community.

"There is one other good cause they regularly support. It is the Cherokee Strip Museum in Perry, dedicated to collecting, preserving, and sharing the story where their story started. As with other Perry pioneers, their legacy is never far from home." Obituary segment from the Oklahoman

This "In Memoriam," tribute is from the Cherokee Strip Historical Society, sending our deepest condolences to the friends and family of Marvin "Bud" Jirous

****DIRECTOR'S NOTE****

For future newsletters, we will feature "In memoriam donations," in the memory of whomever you choose. Please email director@cherokee-strip-museum.org by September 15th to feature your tribute in our last quarter newsletter.

Preserving, collecting, and interpreting the history of the Cherokee Outlet

Sponsorships

Your support enables us to continue showcasing captivating exhibits, offering engaging educational programs, and fostering a deeper appreciation for our shared heritage. Together, let's ensure that future generations can explore and cherish the stories that define us. Become a sponsor today and make a lasting impact on our cultural legacy.

Levels of Giving

\$20 - Donor
\$20-99 - Supporter
\$100-\$499 - Range Rider
\$500-\$999 - Cowpoke
\$1,000-\$4,999 - Stake Claimer
\$5,000-\$9,999 - Covered Wagon
\$10,000-\$19,999 - Pioneer
\$20,000 & Over - Homesteader

The CSHS is a 501(c)(3) organization under the Internal Revenue Code. You will receive a letter confirming your tax deductible donation.



Become A Member

Want to join the Cherokee Strip Historical Society? Enjoy all the benefits of becoming a member today!

Annual Membership- \$25.00

Benefits:

- Free admissions + two guests
- 10% off of at the museum gift shop
- Added to the mailing list for newsletters, organization updates, event flyers and more

Lifetime Membership- \$150.00

Benefits:

- Free admissions + two guests
- 10% off of at the museum gift shop
- Added to the mailing list for newsletters, organization updates, event flyers and more
- Customized name plate added to our lifetime membership wall

Checks can be made payable to Cherokee Strip Historical Society, or please call us at 580-336-2405 to make a card payment over the phone.

cherokee-strip-museum.org

A special thank you to our valued members

LIFETIME

Dan & Denise Allen, Laura Beers, Rose Mary Bezdicek, Karen Bigbee, Bob Bolay, Elise & Mason Bolay, Kay & Howard Bond, April & Kevin Bond, Cindy & John Boone, Marilyn & Leonard Branen, Bart Brorsen, Alanna Brown, Gloria Brown, Dolly & Lloyd Brown, Mickey Brown, Paula & Eldon Cinnamon, Earline Cockrum, Ethel & L.B. Coe, Jerry Cook, Kelly Cunningham & Pete Hudson, Melanie & Gerald Davidson, Cheryl & Bill DeJager, Karen & Gerald Demory, Marvin Dement, Ed Dolezal, Ann Dunagan, Rakhima & Dale Dunivan, Carol & Scott Dvorak, Gwen & Blaine Easter, Jeannie & Sam Ebersole, Jay Eby, Bettye Kay Evans, Mary Lou Foltz, Tom Frailey, Virginia Gengler, Susie & Eric Goldsberry, Lucille Graham, Amy and Charles Hall, Juana Hall, Carrie & Zack Hall, Mr. & Mrs. JBerry Harrison, Peggy Haxton, Sherrie Henry, Ann Hight, Dave Hoffman, Heather & Clint Hughes, Loyd Hughes, Mabel Hughes, Marilyn & Ernest Inselman, Norma & Lyle Jerome, Barbara & Marvin "Bud" Jirous, Gwen Johnson, Elizabeth Kastl, Ruby & Craig Kemnitz, Denise & Steve Kienholz, Mindy & Kelly Kiser, Janet Klingaman, Becky & Jim Knecht, Clarence Koch, Mary & JD Koch, Deloris Layne, Kathy & Roger Lewis, Patty & Dannie Luter, Linda Luthye & Jim Franklin, Lois & David Malget, John Malget, Sandra Malget, Ray Malget, Marjorie Martin, George McGuire, Janet & Robert Mildfelt, Glenda & Dennis Mittasch, Myra Moore, Claudia & Steven Mornhinweg, Nancy & Tom Nelson, Karen & John Niles, Reta & Ron Norton, Claudia & Larry Pannell, Rita & Robert Park, Melissa & Grady Parmley, Donna & Randy Parrish, Deloris & George

Patak, Betty Petermann, Charithah Pricer, Linda & Larry Raynes, Megan & Danny Ripley, Darlene Roads, Carla & Rusty Robbins, Cindy & Randy Rupp, Stephanie & Mark Rupp, Gloria & David Sarser, Sherri & Weldon Shieffer, Marilyn & George Seagraves, Janet & Mike Shannon, Kim & Willie Sheets, Diana & Bill Simon, Lorene & Chuck Smith, Sandy & James Soulek, Evelyn & Jimmie Spillman, A.F. Stehno, Carol & Dennis Steichen, Nancy & Rod Stirman, Marilyn & John Stroup, Janice Strub, Tanner Beverly, Shirley & Bill Tearney, Dee Ann & Mark Thomas, Carolyn & Dennis Thompson, Hulda & Thomas Trumbula, Sylvia Valuikas, Barbara VanCoevering, Michelle Vann, Marilyn Voise, Jeannie Wade, Myr-Lou Rollins, Marianne & Kirk Ward, Betty & Bill Warner, Rena & Scott Wheatley, Karen Wilcox, Melanie & Dennis Williams, Crystal & Marty Williams, Donna & Harvey Yost, Laural & Eugene Zavodny

ANNUAL

Sharon & Dean Courtright, Nancy & John Deken, Elfrieda Wagner, Tory & Sam Bluntzer

NEW

Ruben & Madison Flores, Pip & Claire Sarser, Barbara Seedorf, Debbie & Bruce Donahue, Sasha & Curt Leich, Denise Lovely

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President: Carol Steichen
Vice President: Ray Malget
Treasurer: Rena Wheatley
Recording Secretary: Glenda Mittasch

DIRECTORS

Karen Demory
Shelbi Duke
Kevin Bond
Marilynn Voise
April Smith

STAFF

Director: Madison Flores
Receptionist: Denise Lovely
Curator: Debbie Crozier

Historical Interpreters:

Alice Dwyer
Nancy Deken
Shelly Capehart

We would also like to extend our gratitude to our generous volunteers, including the Ditch Witch Maintenance crew, as well as Cheryl Dejager.
