



April 1, 2006

Perry is the place to be on Saturday, April 29. That's the word from our own Cherokee Strip Museum site attendant, Kaye Bond. Her message, and other valuable information, is contained in a news release in the current issue of Mistletoe Leaves, the always-interesting summary of major events pertaining to the historic interest in this unique little corner of the universe.

The Cherokee Strip Museum's annual Rural Heritage Festival will take place on that amazing day from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the museum grounds on the west side of Perry. It is fast becoming almost a signature mark to identify Perry's birth at the opening of the so-called Cherokee Strip on September 16, 1893. No other town, except Perry, can boast of celebrating that event without interruption since that Saturday years ago. Far as I know, there are no true pioneers of the run still living, but we can continue to remember their heroism by celebrating the opening of the Strip that day, which predates the official date of Perry's statehood by quite a bit. Statehood, by the way, did not occur in Oklahoma until 1907. We will be hearing much more about that event shortly. Check Mistletoe Leaves for more about the celebration next September. That is one event that Perry has not forgotten.

You will be seeing and hearing more about this as time goes by. Please stay tuned.



April 5, 2006

Herewith, a few thoughts as we take a rest from the ordinary cares of the day. Hope you enjoy them.

Edmund Burke (1729-1797) Speech on Conciliation with America 3-22-1775: Freedom and not servitude is the cure for anarchy; as religion, and not atheism, is the true remedy for superstition.

Adlai Stevenson - My definition of a free society is a society where it is safe to be unpopular.

John F. Kennedy (1917-1963) Remarks at the 90th anniversary of Vanderbilt U. 3-18-63: Liberty without learning is always in peril and learning without liberty is always vain.

Communish - Socialism with a gun to make you take it.

Lord's Action comment on the French Revolution - The finest opportunity ever given to the world was thrown away because the passion for equality made vain the hope for freedom.

Douglas Wilder, Va. Gov. - Freedom is nowhere to be found when the people are overtaxed and overregulated.

William Pitt (1759-1806) Necessity is the plea of ever infringement of human freedom. It is the argument of tyrants; it is the creed of slaves.

Edmund Burke (1729–1797) Thoughts on the Cause of the Present Discontents – When bad men combine, the good must associate; else they will fall, one by one, an unpitied sacrifice in a contemptible struggle.

Sen. Richard Lugar (E-Ind.) America's is a national fabric strong enough to make the abstract ideal of freedom work in a world in which liberty is still the exception in practice. This fabric has depended upon the sacrifice of many brave patriots. But we will understand the death of patriots only if we know and revere patriotism.

Rep. Fisher Ames (1795) A monarchy is a merchantman which sails well, but will sometime strike a rock, and go to the bottom; a republic is a raft which will never sink, but then your feet are always in the water.

Daniel Webster – The contest of the ages had been to rescue liberty from the grasp of execution power.

Abraham Lincoln (1809–1865) Ltr. to H.L. Pierce et al 4–6–1859 – This is a world of compensation; And he who would be no slave must have no slave. Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves, and, under a just God, cannot long retain it.

George Washington (Valley Forge 9–1780) – Even if the rest of the world continues to ignore our cause, we will fight on, for we are fighters not only for ourselves, but also for all mankind. We are fighting for freedom and human dignity and the right to worship the God of our choice. Our forefathers insured our freedom but left it to us to keep up the policy.

Jeane M, Kirkpatrick, US Amb to UN – To be strong is a prerequisite to being free.

Edward Gibbon (1737–1794) Autobiography, p. 176 – The first of earthly blessings, independence.

Rudyard Kipling (1865–1936) And that is called paying the Dane-geld: But we've proved it again and again, that if once you have paid the Dane-geld you never get rid of the Dane.



April 8, 2006

So now we come to this, again provided by a mutual friend now living outside the state, but meant to be helpful just the same. Hope you enjoy the borrowed material that follows.

Truman – And what is the government for – to serve the people and not to control them.

Will Rogers – America is the only consecutively losing big business in the world that keeps on losing, and still keeps going.

Will Rogers – Communism is like Prohibition; it's a good idea, but it won't work.

Will Rogers – What they need in their government is more of a sense of humor, and less a sense of revenge.

Will Rogers – If Socialists worked as much as they talked, they would have the most prosperous style of government in the world.

A taxpayer is someone who does not have to pass a civil service test to work for the government.

Will Rogers – There is no trick to being a humorist when you have the whole government working for you.

Will Rogers – The Russians figure out everything in the communistic system, except how to get enough to eat.

Abraham Lincoln (1809–1865) – The ballot is stronger than the bullet.

Harry S. Truman – Whenever you have an efficient government, you have a dictatorship.

U.S. Sen. Alan K. Simpson – The first duty of a sovereign nation is to control its borders, and we don't.

Page Smith, *John Adams v. 1* (Garden City NY, Doubleday & Co., 1962), p. 441. The opening clause of the constitution declares firmly "In the government of the commonwealth of Massachusetts the legislative, executive and judicial powers shall be placed in separate departments, to the end that it might be a government of laws, and not of men." p. 442. To ensure the independence of the governor, Adams gave him an absolute veto over the acts of the legislature . . . Without this weapon of defense he will be run down like a hare before the hounds.

George Keyworth (Pres's Science Adviser) The simple fact is that the private sector is not going to support basic research. Something on the order of 95 percent of all basic research conducted in America today is funded by the government.

Lyndon B. Johnson – We preach the virtues of democracy abroad. We must practice its duties here at home. Voting is the first duty of a democracy.



April 12, 2006

Probably by now you have had a chance to consider the meaning and ramifications of Katie Couric's jump from the NBC daily AM powerhouse, "Today," to the CBS bottom dweller, "The Evening News," on weekday evenings. Here's my view: It's all about money, or more of it. Katie will be knocking down \$15 million per year for her services as the pivot person in her new career. Is she worth it? Time will tell. It did not hurt Barbara Walters, and some of the others. Good luck to all of them, including Katie.

The recent series of columns about businesses that used to be located around the Perry square were memorable, to me at least. Also, it unearthed some memories warehoused by several people for different reasons. Betty Andrews remembers the old Diamond Ice Plant, where the NAPA store now stands, and I want to share her thoughts with you. I'm winding up this column, temporarily at least, for physical reasons, but I want all of you to know how much pleasure it has given me. Thanks for listening and reading. Here is what Betty had to say.

"When Fred Beers mentioned in his article March 22 about the Perry ice plants it brought back a lot of good memories. There were two: The Perry Ice Company and the Diamond Ice Company. A man named Mr. Potts owned the Perry Ice Company and a Mr. Clarence Page from Purcell owned the Diamond Ice Company. My dad was hired as the first and only manager of the Diamond Ice Company. He also kept all the books.

"The back of the ice plant was used to rent out storage to people who brought in frozen meat to cure, and rent the locker rooms. The ice was made right there in the building. There were large square metal cages under the floor that were filled with water and then frozen into ice, pulled out and cut into blocks. Cases of soda pop were put on the ice dock, ready to

sell to customers. Dad always gave me my choice. Dad always looked business-like in his dark gray Diamond Ice uniform. Such good memories.

Thanks to Betty, and to all of you, including my understanding sweetheart/wife, Laura. Goodbye for now.