



Street scene of once booming oil town Three Sands Oil dated in 1915. Photo courtesy of the museums digital collections.

## HISTORICAL TRUTHS AND TALES

As we enter the final quarter of the year, we are excited to reflect on the many initiatives we've undertaken and look forward to finishing the year strong. One of our key projects is the restoration of half of the implement farm equipment building, which will soon be transformed back into exhibit space. We've also had the privilege of collaborating with Oklahoma State University Library, working alongside students and faculty to print a large homestead map. This map will be proudly displayed in our Land Run Exhibit.

The next few months promise to be eventful, with a lineup of new activities

including music, schoolhouse plays, carriage rides, blacksmith demonstrations, and more. We hope to see you here to celebrate with us, filled with holiday cheer!

This quarter, our featured stories are shaped by a sense of mystery, which feels especially fitting as we step into October. When we look back on history, we rely on documentation, records, certificates, and eyewitness accounts to determine the truth. But some stories come with little documentation, few witnesses, and many generations of oral storytelling. In these cases, history may leave room for speculation, tales to spin, or rumors to

persist. Thanks to the collective efforts of historians and researchers, many of these stories are preserved and pieced together. As Oklahomans, we have a unique opportunity to do the same. Our history is still fresh—within reach. A museum visitor from England once remarked, "Our history is so old, we can no longer dissect it, but yours is right here, ready for examination." May we all seize the chance to discover something new in our shared past.

We look forward to welcoming you this season and sharing the rich stories of our heritage!

Madison Flores, Director

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# GHOST TOWNS OF NOBLE COUNTY

## THREE SANDS, OK

"On June 30, 1921 a struggling farmer ever-so tiredly dug for a well. While digging a blast of black erupted from the ground. Within days the section 16 North of Perry became booming, with oil, money, commotion, and work. With many oil companies coming in building their own housing, leasing to employees. At Three Sands peak in history, this area between Perry and Tonkawa had a population of 7,500. By the year of 1957 the oil began to dry and would soon be added to the list of ghost towns of Noble County.

## WHARTON, OK

Wharton was located a mile south of the present-day Perry and had been called Mendota. The railroad built a coal chute and water station at this location because of the springs of water found on Cow Creek which was used to supply water for the steam engines of the trains.

## TOPEKA, OK

Topeka was located six miles east of Billings, and a post office was established there from March, 30, 1894 and August 23, 1896. The town was named after Topeka, Kansas.

## WOULDBE, OK

Wouldbe was an oil boom town located south of Billings. However the exact location is unknown. A post office was established on March, 12, 1920. And later discontinued on October 15 1921.



*Wharton Train Station photo courtesy of the museum's digital collections.*

## PAST TOWNS

Antrim 1898-1904,  
Arnold 1893-1915,  
Arnetteville  
Autry 1893-1894,  
Drace  
Black Bear 1894,  
Bliss 1898-1922,  
Bowdenton 1894-1897,  
Bressie 1904-1915,  
Burton 1894-1900,  
Chiquita 1895-1898,  
Compton 1894-1903,  
Day 1899-1905,  
Harperville 1894-1900,  
Lela 1895-1954,  
Liberty  
Mckinney 1893-1897,  
Magnolia 1890-1892,  
Mateer 1899-1903,  
Pedee 1894-1904,  
Polo 1894-1904,  
Redrock-1881-1892,  
Richburg 1893-1957,  
Three Sands 1923-1957,  
Topeka 1894-1895,  
Wouldbe 1920-1921,

*For more information about ghost towns in Noble County please visit our website [cherokee-strip-museum.org](http://cherokee-strip-museum.org)*

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## FEATURED ARTIFACT



*46 star United States Flag owned by The Cherokee Strip Historical Society.*

The flag was purchased by Vashti Speer at the state capital in Guthrie shortly after Oklahoma became a state in 1907. Generously donated by Clyde Speer of Auburn township, Noble County. This flag can be found in the museum entry area.

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# NANNITA DAISY AND THE MYSTERY OF BETHSHEBA

Nestled between Perry and Enid lies a ghost town known as Bethsheba, rarely mentioned but steeped in intrigue. Its exact location remains unknown, much like the town itself, which emerged like most boom towns after the Land Run of 1893. A unique community of 33 women flourished there, as noted in the pages of *Ghost Towns of Oklahoma*: "No males of any species." Only chickens, cows and female pigs could be found. As tales of this remarkable sisterhood spread, a curious reporter from Kansas stumbled upon them, only to return a week later to find the town mysteriously deserted. According to a nearby resident, one fateful night, they all vanished without a trace. With few witnesses to recount the tale—men especially unwelcome—one male journalist faced a near-fatal encounter, the bullet narrowly missing its mark. Since 1893, the Noble County mystery has captivated countless newspapers, drawing the attention of journalists for over a century. Reporters continue to weave their narratives around the story—one so intriguing that even *The New York Times* once asked, "Is Nannita Daisy responsible for this?"

Known by many names, including Kentucky Daisy, Nannita Daisy



*Statue of Nannita Daisy that depicts her jumping off of a moving train, photo courtesy of Edmond Historical Society*

was a force to be reckoned with. She participated in four land runs, the last being the fateful one in 1893. From daring train jumps to contesting numerous claims, she relentlessly pursued her homesteading dreams. Those dreams took flight on April 18, 1892, when *The New York Times* featured her in a cover story, highlighting her vision of establishing a women's colony. Daisy successfully claimed land

and rallied her fellow settlers, and for a brief month, her town thrived. However, as her homesteading aspirations faded she eventually married a soldier from Captain Arthur MacArthur's command, leaving behind a legacy forever intertwined with the mysteries of Noble County.

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# *Calendar of Events*

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## ***PAST EVENTS***

### **September 7: Settlers Day**

We enjoyed a land run reenactment, cake walks, apple peeling, schoolhouse sessions, trick roping, rope making, sack racing and old fashioned cooking. Many participants dressed to the time period for this free family event!

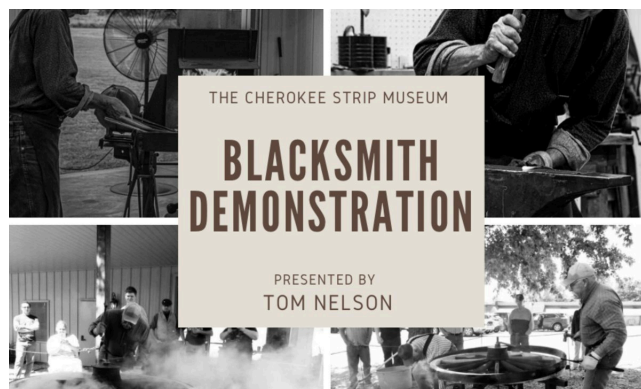


### **September 14: Tiny Tot Review**

Children 0-5 years of age were judged based on authenticity to the time period of the 1893 land run, stage presence and personality during the 16th celebration on the town square. We had 13 participants.

## ***UPCOMING EVENTS***

### **November 2: 10am-2pm Blacksmith Demonstrations**



### **December 9: 1pm-5pm Christmas Tea**

Join us in the tour of homes, with warm beverages and holiday festivities to follow.

### **December 20: 4:30-8:30pm Christmas On the Prairie**

Join us for a holiday celebration to enjoy live fiddle music by Kyle Nix, horse carriage rides, warm drinks, schoolhouse plays, food trucks, ornament crafts, twinkling lights tour and more.

### **Special Thanks**

We would like to thank our community sponsors for making these events possible.



*Follow us on Facebook for live updates*

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# *A special thank you to our valued members*

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## LIFETIME

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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 Trumbla, Sylvia Valuikas, Barbara VanCoeverying, 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, Ruben & Madison Flores, Pip & Claire Sarser, Barbara Seedorf, Debbie & Bruce Donahue, Sasha & Curt Leich

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## ANNUAL

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Sharon & Dean Courtright, Nancy & John Deken, Elfrieda Wagnor, Tory & Sam Bluntzer, Denise & Rick Lovely

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## NEW

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Michelle Vann, Betty Nelson Vann, Dallas Robbins, Shelbi Duke, Alice & Ron Dwyer

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Marilynn Voise

April Smith

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## STAFF

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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.*

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

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## *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

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\$10,000-\$19,000 - 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.



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## *cherokee-strip-museum.org*

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