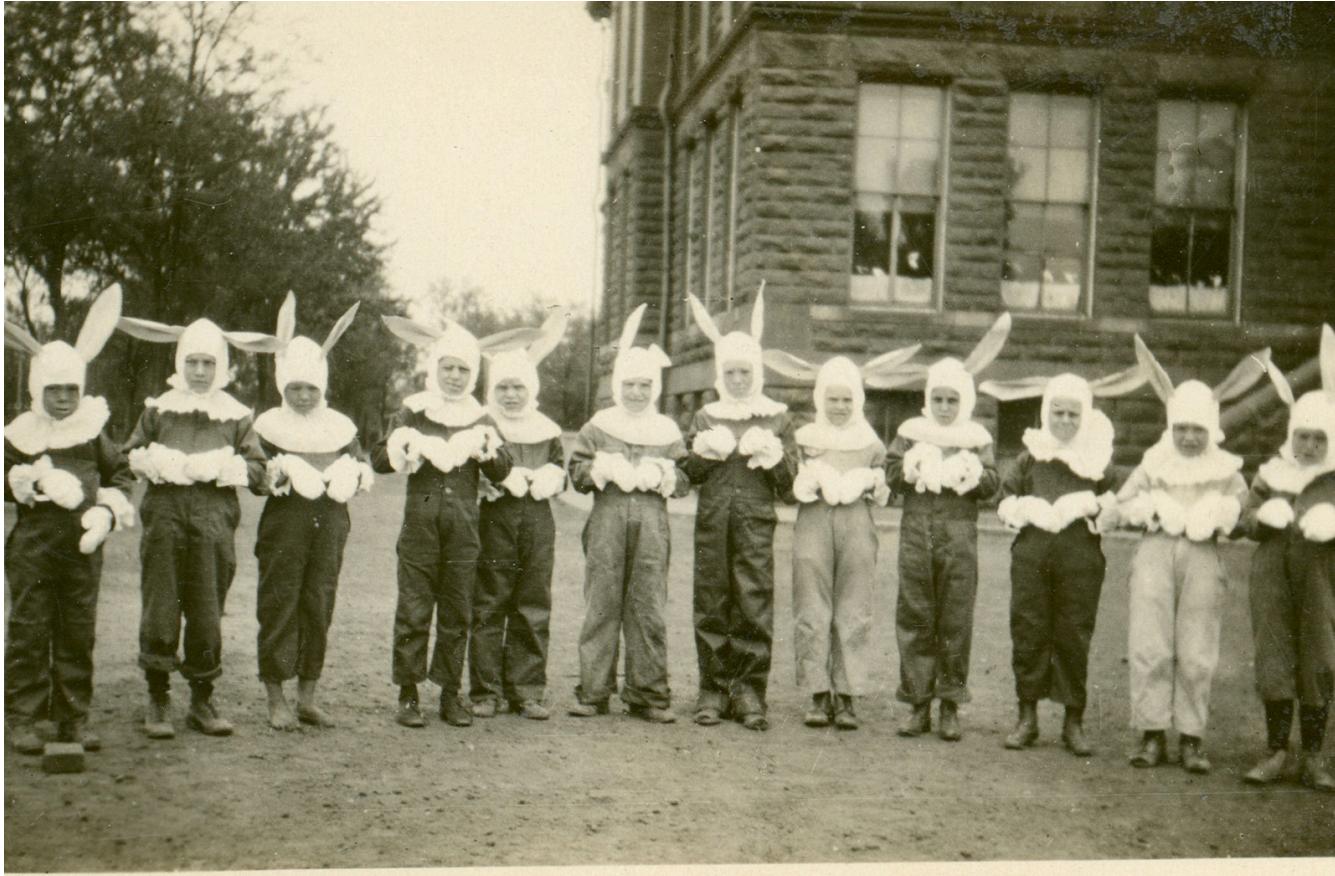


SPECIAL EDITION • CHEROKEE STRIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY • SPECIAL EDITION



*This delightful snapshot from 1920 features a group of children in front of Old Central High in Perry, dressed as bunnies for the May Festivities.*

## A HOP BACK IN TIME

Spring has swept in with its promise of renewal, and I'm delighted to share that our museum is blooming with excitement! This season feels like a fresh chapter, and as I walk the grounds—past the newly roofed farm implement building and our revitalized entrance adorned with vibrant landscaping—I'm reminded of how much we've accomplished together. As updates continue to transform our space, it's not just the physical changes that have me beaming—it's the people who bring this place to life.

Allow me to introduce two wonderful additions to our team: Janel Vaughan,

our new schoolmarm and site aide, whose passion for history and education is already sparking joy in the schoolhouse, and Steve Wheatley, our groundskeeper, whose skilled hands ensure our museum shines inside and out.

And oh, what moments we have in store! This newsletter is brimming with glimpses of what's to come. Turn the page to discover our history of May Fest—a tradition we're proud to spotlight as our featured story. You'll also find updates on new exhibits, like the breathtaking 1893 Allotment Map and our plans to bring it alive with interactive

technology, letting you trace family names across Noble County's past. We announce fresh displays and much anticipated renovations. As always, you're the heart of this journey. Whether you stop by to explore, lend a hand, or simply cheer us on, your presence keeps our story alive. Here's to a season of growth, discovery, and a little springtime joy—thank you for being part of it all!

With heartfelt appreciation,  
Madison Flores  
Executive Director



*Pictured above: group of schoolboys in matching outfits partaking in May pole activities during the year of 1915 outside a Noble County School. Pictured bottom left: Morrison Public School in 2006 participating in a May Pole dance during Rural Heritage Festival at Rose Hill Schoolhouse. Pictured bottom right: a close-up photo of the weaved ribbons on the May Pole. photo courtesy of the Oklahoma Publishing Company.*

# MAY FEST: A DANCE OF SPRING AND HERITAGE

For early settlers in rural Oklahoma, May heralded a season of joy, marking the shift from crisp cool days to the tender warmth of spring. This transition often found expression in May Day festivals, a tradition with deep roots. Originating in Germany on May 1st, May Day spread to Great Britain by the Middle Ages, where villages celebrated it as a vibrant prelude to the planting season that promised bountiful harvests. The Oklahoma land runs wove together a rich landscape of cultures—largely European—each bringing cherished customs to the frontier, including the lively May Fest.

These celebrations brimmed with activity: weaving May Baskets, sharing picnics, staging pageants, and dancing around the Maypole. Every community added its own flair to the festivities. In rural Oklahoma, a beloved ritual involved leaving surprise May Baskets—brimming with flowers or treats—on neighbors' doorsteps, spreading cheer like spring blossoms. At Rose Hill Schoolhouse, the Maypole dance stole the spotlight. Students gathered around a pole adorned with greenery, flowers, and cascading ribbons, moving in rhythmic harmony. Weaving in and out, their steps transformed the pole

into a beautiful tapestry of color and motion, a living emblem of community and renewal.

This May Fest tradition, carried across oceans and prairies, reminds us how our ancestors celebrated the land they worked—and the ties that bound them together. It's a legacy of resilience and revelry, still echoing through our history today.

# Historical Society Updates

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Spring has arrived early, it seems, to our lovely northern Oklahoma hills. My lilacs and daffodils are in full bloom. Here on Sunny Slope Farm, we are gearing up for the busy summer season. My husband's family has farmed here for over 115 years. My father-in-law spoke about helping his father plow the "Home Place" at 7 years of age. His dad would hook him up behind a mule pulling a one bottom plow and send him down the furrow, following behind with another plow. At the end of the field, John M. would turn the mule and plow around for John H. and back they would go. It would take them a month to finish a field that can now be worked in a day. There is an entire building full of antique farm equipment at the museum. We have big plans to clean, update and generally make the display in our Implement building more interesting and appealing. Maddie addresses these plans in this issue. Other big things are also on the horizon for the museum. So stay tuned for more! Wishing all of you a wonderful summer season with bountiful harvests of fun!

Sincerely,  
Carol Steichen  
CSHS Board President

## NEW ROOFS ON THE HORIZON

We're thrilled to announce that new roofing projects across the museum grounds will resume on May 17th, following the end of schoolhouse sessions. The farm implement



Celebrating Perry's own Kemnitz Sinclair: Oklahoma longest operating filling station with owner, Craig Kemnitz, Cherokee Strip Museum director, Maddy Flores and Oklahoma Historical Society director, Trait Thompson.

building already boasts a completed roof! The Oklahoma Historical Society, in partnership with the Cherokee Strip Historical Society, is overseeing the effort, providing essential funding and expertise to ensure historically accurate upkeep. In the coming months, we'll plan further upgrades, including bridges, doors, parking lots, and more. A heartfelt thank you to our partners at the Oklahoma Historical Society for their support.

presence will be deeply missed.

In Memoriam Donation: Melanie Williams

## IN MEMORIAM: DEBBIE CROZIER

Debbie Crozier, a devoted curator at the Cherokee Strip Museum for 19 years, brought meticulous care and love to her work. For years, she captured Rose Hill School class photos—evolving from darkroom development to printing—and filmed countless classes for the program. A steadfast pillar of our organization, her absence leaves a void. Rest in peace, dear friend and curator.

In Memoriam Donation: Cindy Rupp & Melanie Williams

## IN MEMORIAM: LEONARD BRANEN

Leonard Branen, a dedicated board member of the Cherokee Strip Historical Society, poured his passion into preserving Perry's local history. He was a steadfast supporter, actively contributing to programs at the Cherokee Strip Museum and Rose Hill School. A cherished friend and colleague, his

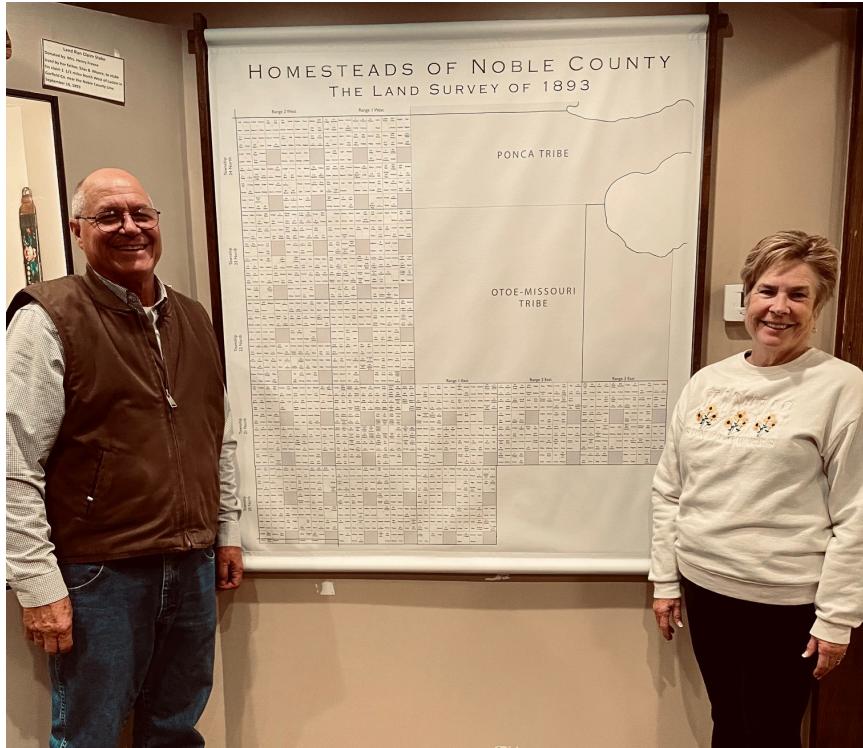
# FRESH EXHIBITS & FUTURE PLANS

## Allotment Map of 1893

We're delighted to unveil a stunning addition to our Land Run exhibit: a large-scale 1893 Noble County allotment map. This project, brought to fruition through the dedication of many, reflects a true labor of love. Inspired by Oklahoma State University's student library mapping, Cherokee Strip Historical Society President Carol Steichen spearheaded the effort. Collaborating with CSM staff, OSU students, and the Oklahoma Historical Society, the team produced a meticulously printed map. Volunteer Dennis Steichen crowned the endeavor with custom handmade framing and woodwork. This collective effort proves that many hands indeed keep history vibrant and thriving!

## Exhibit Technology: A Digital Frontier

This map stands as a cornerstone of our museum, drawing visitors in with its historical richness. Its creation has sparked an exciting new initiative: integrating navigable technology. Soon, guests will explore the map virtually, zooming into townships and uncovering plot details—complete with family names. Though still in the planning phase with no set timeline, we're eager to share updates as this innovative project evolves, enhancing how we connect with our past.



*Need a caption here*

## Farm Implement Exhibit

The Farm Implement Building, once a blend of exhibit and storage space, has undergone a transformation. Last spring, with support from the Oklahoma Historical Society, we removed a dividing wall, converting the storage area into a fully restored exhibit. Moving forward, we'll add rope stanchions, craft engaging text panels to illuminate the machinery's stories, and create an immersive space. Visitors will step back into the late 1800s, experiencing the ingenuity of farm equipment and transportation that shaped our region.

## Jirous Exhibit Room

Since January 2024, the Jirous Exhibit Room has hosted Lethal to Ingest, a fascinating overview of territorial medicine. This exhibit will conclude in April 2025, making way for the Cultural Heritage Arts Exhibition on May 3rd. Noble County high school students will present artwork inspired by their family histories or cultural roots, judged by local artists with \$50 cash prizes for first through third place. Free to choose their artistic style, these young creators will honor their heritage in a display dedicated to the memory of Debbie Crozier, a cherished advocate for art in our exhibits.

# Calendar of Events

## PAST EVENTS

### 1st Quarter Community Outreach



#### March 4: Perry Chamber Banquet

Director, Maddy Flores was the keynote speaker, over the theme of "Hometown Heritage."

#### March 7: Xi Epsilon Rho Community Club.

Director, Maddy Flores and schoolmarm, Alice Dwyer spoke about the Rose Hill School program pictured with CSHS member, Marilee Macias club host.

**bluepeak**  
FIBER INTERNET

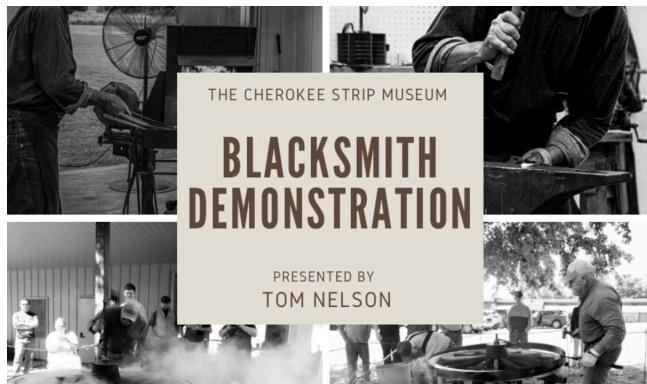


## UPCOMING EVENTS

### May 3: 10AM-4PM Cultural Heritage Art Exhibition

The Cherokee Strip Historical Society proudly presents the Cultural Heritage Art Project Exhibition, a judged art contest featuring Noble County high school students. Participants will showcase freestyle artwork inspired by their lineage or cultural history. Join us on Saturday, May 3rd, as the exhibition opens to the public all day, offering a vibrant celebration of creativity and heritage.

### May 17: 10am-2pm Blacksmith Demonstrations



### Special Thanks

We would like to thank our community sponsors for making these events possible. We are deeply grateful for their partnership in preserving and celebrating our shared history.

Malzahn Affiliated  
Funds of Oklahoma  
City Foundation

Barbara & Marvin  
Jirous Foundation

*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, Rose Mary Bezdicek, Karen Bigbee, Bob Bolay, Elise & Mason Bolay, Kay & Howard Bond, April & Kevin Bond, Cindy & John Boone, Marilyn Branen, Bart Brorsen, Alanna Brown, Gloria Brown, Dolly & Lloyd Brown, Paula & Eldon Cinnamon, Earline Cockrum, Ethel & 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, Peggy Haxton, Sherrie Henry, Ann Hight, Dave Hoffman, Heather & Clint Hughes, Loyd Hughes, Mabel Hughes, Marilyn & Ernest Inselman, Norma & Lyle Jerome, Barbara 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 Lewis, Patty & Dannie Luter, Linda Luthye & Jim Franklin, Rita Park, 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 Niles, Reta & Ron Norton, Larry Pannell, Robert Park, Melissa & Grady Parmley, Donna & Randy Parrish, Deloris & George

Patak, Charithah Pricer, Linda & Larry Raynes, Megan & Danny Ripley, Darlene Roads, Carla & Rusty Robbins, Cindy & Randy Rupp, Stephanie & Mark Rupp, Gloria & David Sarser, Sherry & Weldon Schieffer, 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, Tanner Beverly, Shirley & Bill Tearney, Dee Ann & Mark Thomas, Carolyn & Dennis Thompson, Hulda & Thomas Trumbla, 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 Zavodny, Madison & Ruben Flores, Pip & Claire Sarser, Barbara Seedorf, Debbie & Bruce Donahue, Sasha & Curt Leich, Alice & Ron Dwyer, Shelbi & Stephen Duke, Elfrieda Wagner, Dallas Robbins

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## ANNUAL

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Sharon & Dean Courtright, Nancy & John Deken, Tory & Sam Bluntzer, Denise Lovely, Donna Kapka

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## NEW

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Kay McCarthy, Beverly Coldiron, Marilee Macias

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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

### DIRECTORS

Karen Demory  
Shelbi Duke  
Kevin Bond  
Dub Schieffer  
April Smith

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## STAFF

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Director: Madison Flores  
Receptionist: Denise Lovely  
Site Aide/Schoolmarm: Janel Vaughan

### Historical Interpreters:

Alice Dwyer  
Nancy Deken  
Shelly Capehart

### Maintenance:

Steve Wheatley

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

# *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-\$19,000 - 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.



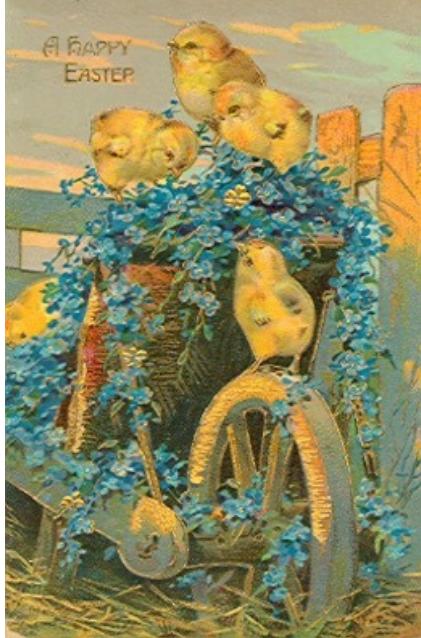
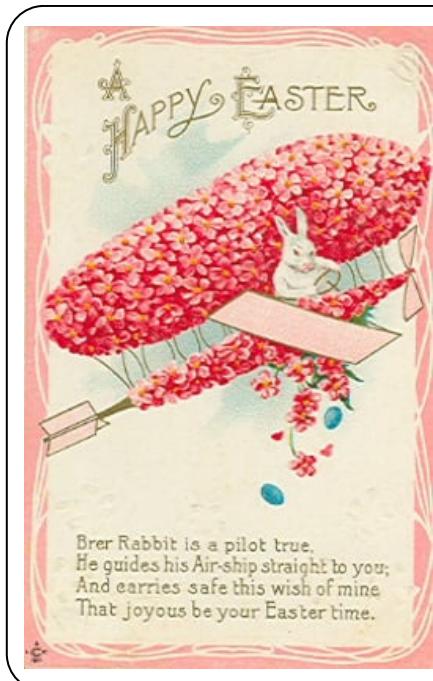
***cherokee-strip-museum.org***



2617 West Fir Street  
Perry, Ok 73077

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## *Vintage Easter Cards Circa 1910*



*An assortment of Easter postcards from The Edythe Knosp collection, of Perry, Oklahoma. Courtesy of the museum archives.*