



"The Chosen 7", the gentlemen chosen for Roosevelt's Rough Riders. Representing Perry, Orlando and Guthrie, Indian Territory.

LEST WE FORGET

As the Fourth of July approaches, I can't help but feel that familiar wave of excitement and patriotism start to creep in. This year in particular, my thoughts keep circling back to my favorite president—Teddy Roosevelt. Roosevelt's presidency (1901–1909) was a remarkable time for the newly formed state of Oklahoma. Out of the dust sprang boomtowns and eager, ambitious folks chasing the American Dream. Roosevelt brought with him a sense of camaraderie and fearless energy that resonated across the country—and especially with the kind of people who were building a life here on the plains.

Before his time in the White House, Roosevelt served as Assistant Secretary of the Navy under President McKinley. He spoke boldly, acted boldly, and, truth be told, didn't impress many of the more cautious politicians in Washington. Hoping to sideline his influence, they moved him into what was considered a nearly powerless role: the vice presidency. But we all know how that story ended. When he wasn't recruiting a volunteer army or charging up a hill, he was leading the nation with grit, heart, and a deep belief in American possibility. (And yes—he may have ridden a moose or two along the way.)

So, this newsletter's theme—perhaps even its main character—is the beloved president and his lasting influence on the people and spirit of this region. I hope you enjoy it, and I encourage you to stop by the museum this summer. Take a walk through our exhibits and see for yourself how Roosevelt's bold vision may have shaped the lives and stories we preserve. Wishing you a safe and joyful Independence Day—and a wonderful summer to follow!

Madison Flores
Executive Director



Photo courtesy of the museum archives from The Carol Steichen Collection.

PERRY'S FIRST INDEPENDENCE DAY

Happy 4th of July to all! Does it seem possible that in one year we will be celebrating the 250th anniversary of the founding of this great country of ours? A photo of the "FIRST 4TH OF JULY IN PERRY O.T./BASE BALL" is in the museum archives. It shows a game being played on what is now the downtown square. My first impression of this photo is the lack of trees.

It would be several years before the elms would be planted by Will T. Little in the square. The camera faces east and shows the trees growing along Cow Creek. Looking in the foreground of the photo, a woman wears a long white dress and close by is a privy. I admire her courage to attend a game on a day when the temperature must have been 100 degrees, knowing that the facilities

were not up to our modern standards. It speaks to the longing for entertainment and respite from the daily grind of starting a new life in a new land. Summer will soon turn on the heat and I will enjoy our modern A/C, but will try to remember the pioneers who enjoyed a day in 1894 to celebrate the 4th of July! See you in cool September,

Carol Steichen,
CSHS President

The mission of The Cherokee Strip Museum is to collect, preserve and interpret this history of the Cherokee Outlet.

A MAN OF VALOR: CELEBRATING PERRY'S OWN ROUGH RIDER

In 1898, the Spanish-American War broke out as Cuba fought for independence from Spanish rule. At the time, Theodore Roosevelt was serving as Assistant Secretary of the Navy. Eager to bring better success to the war, Roosevelt resigned his position to help form the First U.S. Volunteer Cavalry—better known as the Rough Riders. What followed was the assembling of one of the most wildly rugged and unlikely military units in American history. Over 23,000 men applied to join—from cowboys and Ivy League athletes to Native Americans, hunters, lawmen, and adventurers of all kinds. Only 1,250 were chosen. Among them: 19-year-old Dick Shanafelt of Perry, Oklahoma Territory. According to family lore, Shanafelt became “fighting mad over the mistreatment of Cubans” after reading about the war in the newspaper. His brother took it upon himself to write directly to Roosevelt, passionately describing Dick’s strength and spirit. Roosevelt responded—he wanted him. By July, Shanafelt was training in San Antonio, Texas. The *New York Times* later described his first encounter with Roosevelt: “Shanafelt’s blue eyes sparkled with humor behind his round, gold-rimmed spectacles. Roosevelt looked me up and down, questioning me at length—I guess to find out what kind of animal he was going to have to look after.” On July 1, 1898, the Rough Riders charged up San Juan Hill in one of the most iconic battles of the war. By August 13, America claimed victory, and the war officially ended with the signing of the 1898 Treaty of Paris. Years later, in 1958, Dick Shanafelt was honored by the Cuban government for his service, one of only 45 American veterans awarded



July 3, 1900- Teddy Roosevelt during his visit to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Territory. The photo is courtesy of The Oklahoma Historical Society Gateway and The Virginia Sutton Collection.

a Cuban Medal of Honor for his role in their fight for freedom.

Enduring Words

During remembrance holidays, the phrase “Lest we forget” is often heard—a reminder that it should not be forgotten. This phrase originates from the 1897 poem “Recessional” by Rudyard Kipling, written for Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee. Kipling drew inspiration from Deuteronomy 6 in the Holy Bible, which speaks to the importance of remembering one’s faith and history.

The poem evokes a strong sense of patriotism and humility, not by glorifying war, but by urging reflection on the cost of freedom. Interestingly, from the archives of the Cherokee Strip Museum, we find a 1907 diary by Vashti Speers, a woman from Noble County. Though she never explicitly mentions Kipling’s poem, the title of her diary, “Lest We Forget,” suggests the phrase may have resonated with her.

In 1912, Theodore Roosevelt adopted “Lest We Forget” as a campaign slogan during his run for a third presidential term. By the end of World War I in 1918, the phrase had become widely used to express mourning, gratitude, and patriotism. In a time marked by immense national loss, the words served as a way for Americans to honor the sacrifices of the past while holding tightly to the values of courage and resilience.



Digital image of Vashti Speers original diary. From the collections of The Cherokee Strip Historical Society. Her journal entries are on the online museum at Cherokee-strip-museum.org

Upcoming Events

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.



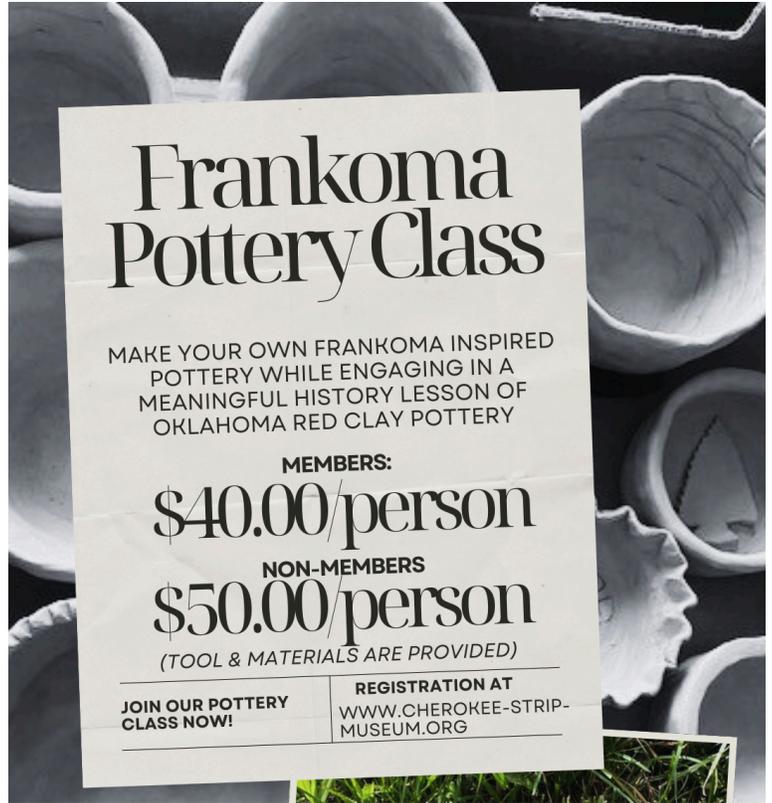
Malzahn Affiliated Funds of
Oklahoma City Foundation

Barbara & Marvin
Jiros Foundation



The Cherokee Strip Museum is located at 2617 W. Fir St. in Perry. For more information about activities and exhibits at the museum, please call 580-336-2405.

MAKE YOUR OWN POTTERY AT FRANKOMA POTTERY CLASS!

A sign for the Frankoma Pottery Class. The sign is white with black text and is placed in front of a background of various pottery items. The text on the sign reads: "Frankoma Pottery Class", "MAKE YOUR OWN FRANKOMA INSPIRED POTTERY WHILE ENGAGING IN A MEANINGFUL HISTORY LESSON OF OKLAHOMA RED CLAY POTTERY", "MEMBERS: \$40.00/person", "NON-MEMBERS \$50.00/person", "(TOOL & MATERIALS ARE PROVIDED)", "JOIN OUR POTTERY CLASS NOW!", and "REGISTRATION AT WWW.CHEROKEE-STRIP-MUSEUM.ORG".

Frankoma Pottery Class

MAKE YOUR OWN FRANKOMA INSPIRED POTTERY WHILE ENGAGING IN A MEANINGFUL HISTORY LESSON OF OKLAHOMA RED CLAY POTTERY

MEMBERS:
\$40.00/person

NON-MEMBERS
\$50.00/person

(TOOL & MATERIALS ARE PROVIDED)

JOIN OUR POTTERY CLASS NOW!

REGISTRATION AT
WWW.CHEROKEE-STRIP-MUSEUM.ORG

TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON: SOUNDS OF THE PRAIRIE



Follow us on Facebook for updates

A special thank you to our valued members

LIFETIME

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 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, 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, Lural 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, Kay McCarthy, Beverly Coldiron, Nancy & John Deken

ANNUAL

Sharon & Dean Courtright, Tory & Sam Bluntzer, Denise Lovely, Donna Kapka, Marilee Macias

NEW

April Smith, Alan Hall, Karen & John Severe, Kristen & Stephen Cummings

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
Dub Schieffer
April Smith

STAFF

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

