

THE DOCENT NEWS



For Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Docents

April 2003

Tracks in the Tallgrass

- Jerry Wagener

New docent training April 5th, 6th, and 12th went well, resulting in 35 new docents. David Turner did a masterful job of putting together an enjoyable and informative classroom schedule on April 5th and 6th, ably assisted by Dick Baker, Pat Jaynes, John Fisher, Jenk Jones, and Harvey Payne. (Though on Sunday afternoon David presented Jenk's paper on Osage County History because that morning lightning demolished Jenk's house.)

On April 12th we had a bustling day of on-site training at the visitors center. David divided the new docents into groups which cycled through four stages: (1) gift-shop and emergency procedures with Ann Whitehorn and John Fisher, (2) preserve tour with Harvey Payne, (3) nature room with Doris Mayfield and porch protocol with David, and (4) trail tour with Betty Turner and Van Vives. Sort of a logistical nightmare, but somehow it went off without a hitch (and to say nothing about the *perfect* weather that day).

The nice weather brought out the crowds. We had 90 visitors, counting the 25-person school group that showed up but not counting the new and not-new docents. At times the place seemed like a madhouse, with training sessions in one corner and us on-duty docents talking with visitors in another.

As usual the visitors were an interesting lot, but the group that particularly caught my fancy included three mid-40s siblings and their parents. There were visiting the prairie in celebration of the parents' 50th wedding anniversary!

Welcome to the docent ranks:

Susan Albert
Wally Hammer
Dianne Aultmann
Suzy Harris
David Bailey
Jan Henkle
Nancy Bailey
Penny Jones
Bridget Barry
Harold Matthews
Deana Brewster
Jo Matthews
Dennis Brewster
Scott Morgan
Tony Brown
George Pierson
Leslie Brucks
Duane Price

(Continued on Page 2)

Program Coordinator

Jerry Wagener
(918) 742-2566 - home
(918) 636.6361 - cell
Jerry@Wagener.com

Tour Coordinator

Dick Baker
(918) 747-2495
Dbakertul@aol.com

Docent Scheduler

Kara Morgan
(918) 272-9433
morgan1477@aol.com

Newsletter Coordinator

Kim Hagan
(918) 494-8892
kimhagan@sbcglobal.net

New Docent Recruitment

June Endres
(405) 356-9645
Ridgetree@worldnet.att.net

New Docent Training

David Turner
(918) 333-7864 - home
(918) 661-4287 - work
drenrut@aol.com

Reorientation and Kickoff

Don Bruner
(580) 237-4199 - home
(580) 213-9217 - work
dbruner@groendyke.com

Docent Awards

Monica Murray
(918) 587-3701 - home
(918) 556-5327 - work
monica.murray@oden-ins.com

Nature Room

Doris Mayfield
(918) 743-6922 - home
dbmayfield@mindspring.com

Workday Coordinator

Dennis Bires
(918) 341-3908 - home
dennisbires@lycos.com

(Continued from Page 1)

Rosalind Burris
Maureen Forsythe
Rose Whitekiller
Steve Forsythe
Glen Witteman
Darlene Fowler
Sue Witteman
Neil Garrison
Frances Quillin
Rebecca Bush
Jan Reynolds
Judy Buys
Jennifer Rice
Jeremy Combs
Adora Smithen
Joy Elledge
Jane Thomas

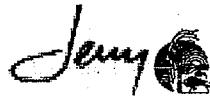
Most have scheduled their intern shift with an experienced docent. If you are an experienced docent scheduled with any of the new docents, make sure they do all the work under your watchful eye, a real baptism by fire.

We docents are the main interface between The Nature Conservancy and the visiting public. We are, in a sense, the public representatives of the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve and TNC. Arguably the most useful role-model for this responsibility is a retail employee working effectively with the public.

Occasionally someone asks if there is a docent dress code. I just learned that long ago there was such a dress code, khaki pants and white shirt. (I had never heard that before; maybe I should consider trading in my blue jeans for khakis; then again, maybe not.) Interesting how times change; no dress code for docents, just clean and neat attire.

My thanks to David Turner, and his team, for designing and conducting such an effective training program for the new docents. Also, thanks to June Endres and her team for the recruiting efforts that assembled this excellent group of volunteers to train as docents.

And thanks to the new docents. Welcome aboard.



Nichols Preserve Update

Tim Grogan
Executive Director

Dear Nature Conservancy Volunteer,

First of all, let me *thank you for your involvement with and support of the Nature Conservancy*. With the support of volunteers like you, we truly are *Saving the Last Great Places* in Oklahoma, and across the planet. Soon after the close of our fiscal year in June, we will be sending you a report on the tremendous progress and successes your Conservancy has achieved this year.

In the meantime, I wanted to update all of you, and especially those of you who, like me, had been trail guides at Nickel, on the status of activities at our Nickel Preserve.

The spectacular new visitor center at Nickel is nearly

complete. And I do mean spectacular. It's a 2,400 square foot all-log building with a green metal roof and wrap-around porches set at the entrance to Sawmill Hollow amid towering pine and oak forests. And thanks to the generosity of the John Nickel family, its interior furnishings are designed by professionals and nothing but first class. John has also generously donated the exterior landscaping consisting of rock paths, raised beds, parking barriers, and a pole fence. We will soon have labeled native plants throughout the beds, as well as a bridge across a spring-fed pond. This is arguably the premier preserve visitor center in the entire Conservancy!

We are currently planning construction of a kiosk display, similar to the one at the Tallgrass Prairie trailhead, outside the Nickel visitor center. This kiosk would discuss the Conservancy's work, overview the flora and fauna of the region, and contain brochures for the two self-guided trails. Each trail will have multiple markers corresponding to the brochures.

Chris Wilson, Preserve Director, will office in the new center and is available for any questions during normal Monday through Friday business hours. However, because of the self-guiding brochures, visitors can hike the trails at any time without prearranging a guide.

(Continued on Page 3)

(Continued from Page 2)

In addition, groups such as schools or naturalist clubs, will be able to reserve tours ahead of time by calling Chris.

While we will not be using trail guides at Nickel, we will have periodic workdays to do tasks like collecting seeds or removing fencing, as well as occasional outings such as bird watching led by experts.

We will keep you active in our volunteer database and notify you of these opportunities by e-mail.

Please also remember that the docent program at our Tallgrass Preserve remains very active with many opportunities for involvement. See our website at nature.org/oklahoma, or simply type "oklahoma nature conservancy" into Google, for more information.

Thank you again for your interest in and support of our work at the Nature Conservancy. I've pulled fence posts and collected seeds with many of you in the past, and hope to see you out there again!

Best regards, Tim



A Job Well Done

- Dennis Bires

Our sincere thanks go out to all who participated in the first two workdays this year: Prairie Road Crew on February 22nd, and Prairie Trail Maintenance on March 8th. The hard-working volunteers, who each receive a shift credit for each work day, are as follows, listed alphabetically:

Prairie Road Crew, February 22nd:

Dick Baker, Dennis Bires, Marian Bires, John Boxall, Art Browning, Dave Dolcater, John Fisher, Nancy Irby, Iris McPherson, David Turner, Van Vives, Jean Wagener, Jerry Wagener.

This crew filled more than 30 large garbage bags with roadside trash.

Prairie Trail Maintenance, March 8th:

Dennis Bires, Marian Bires, Joe Dennis, Dave Dolcater, John Fisher, Nancy Irby, Laura Frossard, Jean Wagener, and Jerry Wagener.

This bunch hoisted fallen branches, trimmed trailside trees, and filled muddy spots with gravel on the two trails.

Nice work!



What's in Bloom

- Van Vives

The prairie is starting to wake up from its winter nap. There are several wildflowers in bloom on the trail.

Prairie Verbena: Some plants are in full bloom and others are still in bud.

Spring Beauties: There are still many of these tiny beauties in bloom.

Bluets: Though very tiny, the rich blue of its four-petal flowers make it showy.

Puccoon: These yellow, curly flowers are seen in many places on the trail.

White Windflower: This is also known as Carolina Anemone. It is a plant about 5 inches tall and consists of a stem with a white, daisy-like flower about 1.5 inches wide. Small leaves are mostly basal or low on the stem. Several were blooming on the trail or slightly to the side.

Wild Strawberry: These are in bloom and soon will produce fruit, to the delight of the birds.



Gift Shop Sales Summary

\$4,845.78	March 2002
<u>\$3,123.58</u>	March 2003
<1,722.20>	Decrease in Sales



Butterfly Count

- Bob Hamilton
Assistant Director and
Director of Science &
Stewardship

Insect Lovers,
I just got off the phone with
Walter Gerard. We set the
annual Butterfly Count at
the Tallgrass for 9:30am at
HQ on Saturday, June 21st.
For more information,
contact Walter at
(918)747-4771.



Road Crew Cleanup, Cookout, and Waterfall Hike - Dennis Bires

The Docent cookout and
Waterfall Hike is on
Saturday, May 3rd. If you
missed the reservation
deadline, call anyway, as we
may have enough extra
capacity to add you in.

Here's the May 3rd agenda:

10:00 to noon: Prairie Road
Crew cleanup.

12:00 noon: Cookout at the
Stucco House. All food will
be provided.

1:30 p.m.: Hike to *Mary's
Waterfall* led by Harvey
Payne.

Please call or email Dennis
Bires by April 25, at (918)
341-3908 (home),
(918) 631-2443 (ofc.), or
dennisbires@lycos.com.



Construction Site Update

Harvey Payne
Director

Construction of the TU/TNC
Research Station and
renovation of the Foreman's
House has begun. Naturally,
there is a lot of curiosity
about the project. Primarily
for safety reasons, the
construction site must be off
limits for everyone except
TNC staff and authorized
University of Tulsa
representatives.

During the construction and
renovation process, no
housing will be provided at
the Foreman's House. Any
visiting researchers or other
interested persons should be
informed that the Foreman's
House is simply off limits for
now.

Thank you.



Oil Field Cleanup Work Day - Dennis Bires

On Saturday, May 31st, the
Saturday after Memorial Day
weekend, from
10:00 to 3:00, we'll have our
first oil field cleanup work
day at the Preserve. This has
nothing to do with
petroleum spills, but rather
with the bottles, cans, and
food wrappers that have
accumulated around the
numerous pumping jacks on
the prairie, presumably left
behind by oil production
company workers.

The job will require off-road
hiking to the oil wells,
offering participants views
of the Preserve many of us
have never seen before.

We'll endeavor to
concentrate on recently
burned areas, in order to
minimize walking through
thick growth. So get out
your walking shoes,
bring a lunch, and meet at
the headquarters at 10:00 on
May 31st for an enjoyable
working excursion.



Mark Your Calendar with These Important Dates!

Prairie Road Crew
May 3rd, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., TGP

**Cook-out and Waterfall
Hike**
May 3rd 12 p.m.

Oil Field Cleanup Work Day
May 31st 10a.m. - 3 p.m.
Preserve Headquarters

Annual Butterfly Count
June 21st, 9:30 a.m.
Preserve Headquarters

For more information visit the
on-line calendar of events @
[www.oklahomanature.org/OK/
tallgrass_volunteers.html](http://www.oklahomanature.org/OK/tallgrass_volunteers.html)

Book Nook Update - Jerry Wagener

One of the topics at the January 18th coordination meeting was how to handle docent recommendations for books to carry at the visitor center. It was decided that all such recommendations would be sent to me, I'd keep a list and send the recommendations to Harvey. Harvey has agreed to let us know the decisions on all such recommendations.

So far there have been two book recommendations, both of which have been forwarded to Harvey, and both, I'm happy to report, have been approved. So soon you will be seeing the following two books on the library shelves at the visitors center: The American Bison: A Natural History by Dale F. Lott, and The Extermination of the American Bison by William Temple Hornaday. The first was recommended (independently) by Iris McPherson and John Fisher (and strongly endorsed by Jim Shaw) and the second, which I understand is a newly-back-in-print classic, was recommended by new docent Duane Price.

Thanks to the recommenders. If you have a recommendation please send it to me, along with your rationale as to why it should be in our collection, and I will add it to the list and pass it along for consideration.



Pennsylvania Visitors

- Van Vives

Yes, it's a small world! There was a retired couple from Mt. Hope, Pennsylvania, visiting the prairie. This is in the Amish area of the state. In about one hour another retired couple came into the gift shop and they also were from the Amish area of Pennsylvania. I asked them if they knew the couple that had been there earlier. They wanted to know where they were from and I told them. They said that was just 8 miles from where they lived, but they knew the name but did not know them personally.

I might add that this couple said that they had wanted to come to the Tallgrass Prairie for some time and finally made it, although they had car trouble along the way and were delayed for two days. They had read about the TGP and felt that this was a place they just had to visit. I told them that I was familiar with the Amish country in Pennsylvania and I thought it to be very pretty. They said, "Oh, this is so much more beautiful. We will be back."

Two days later there was a couple from Mt. Joy, Pennsylvania. This also is Amish country, and not far from where the other two couples came from.

I think it is amazing that six people from the same part of a distant state were prompted

at almost the same time to visit the TGP.



Visitation Notes

- George Myers

527 visitors found their way to the Prairie in March. This is down 31% from last year, and down 41% for the year to date. There were eight visitors from three other countries. Six from Germany and one each from Canada and Switzerland. 175 came from 23 other states, with Kansas (37), Texas (35), California (17) Illinois (12) and Ohio (8) leading the list. 344 Oklahomans visited.

The weekends and Wednesday were the days with the most visitors. Saturday accounted for 22.5%, Wednesday 21.5%, and Friday and Sunday tied with 17.5%. As usual, midday was the most popular time to visit, accounting for 76% of the month's visitors. 50% of the Oklahomans were first time visitors, along with 66% of other state visitors and 25% of foreign visitors.

Comments were wide ranging. The OSU Termite Lab found termites. The road conditions drew attention. "The roads could be improved. Magnificent prairie.", "Great ruts", "Big ruts!!!" (from a couple of New Yorkers). "Great docents", "Wonderful", "Fantastic", "Majestic. Awesome", "God is so creative", "Wonderful, buffalo everywhere".



Preserve Update - Bob Hamilton

- ⇒ First bison calf this spring was seen on March 24th. They are coming quick now; expecting about 500.
- ⇒ Adult bulls are already starting to shed their winter coats. The bulls came through the winter in good body condition since they are not developing or nursing a calf like the adult cows, so they are the first to generate the energy needed to replace their coats.
- ⇒ A total of 23 spring burns were conducted from March 13th through April 11th, totaling about 15,000 acres on the preserve and assisting neighbors in burning about the same acreage on adjacent ranches. Two wildfires were suppressed during the same period: an arson set fire on TGP and an escaped neighbor burn.
- ⇒ As of mid April, about three miles of new bison perimeter fence has been constructed on the preserve east side. Only seven more miles to go before this fall's roundup deadline!
- ⇒ Cattle pastures are now fully stocked for the summer: 5910 yearling steers on 17,400 acres.



The Docent News On-Line

- Kim Hagan

Someone wisely suggested that we conserve resources, both monetary and natural, and offer an electronic version of the newsletter. This was such a sound suggestion that we will start offering this option beginning next month. Docents will have the choice to receive their issue of *The Docent News* via e-mail or US mail. In addition, each issue will be posted at the TGP volunteer website for on-line viewing, thanks to Jerry Wagener.

If you decide to receive your copy via e-mail, each month you will receive an e-mail with an Adobe file attachment, which will have your complete issue, in full color! Instructions on how to download the free Adobe Acrobat software required to open the newsletter will be sent in the accompanying e-mail.

If you wish to become an on-line subscriber, please e-mail kimhagan@sbcglobal.net by May 21st. If you prefer a mailed copy, we will be glad to continue sending your copy to you. There is no need to reply if you want to keep receiving a mailed copy.



Osage, Children of the Middle Waters

Part III of a III Part Series
- Nicholas Del Grosso

What thoughts went through the minds of the leaders and the people of the Osage Nation, as they prepared to leave their Kansas lands, is difficult to fathom. The Osage were forced by circumstance to relent to pressure from the Federal and Kansas Governments to relinquish their Kansas lands. With a portion of the \$8,000,000 they received from this sale they purchased 1.5 million acres from the Cherokee in Indian Territory. Over the past two hundred years, the Osage had seen their influence and lands severely reduced. Legend had it that the new Osage lands in Indian Territory were chosen because a lance could not be stuck into the ground by a young warrior. Because of this, it was said, "that this land could not be farmed and it would be of little use to white settlers." In retrospect, I think the tribal leaders were more astute than this. This land had been part of their traditional hunting lands and the Osages were familiar with its resources. Chief among these resources were the rich bluestem grasslands.

Things were changing in the west in the early 1870's. Vast herds of Texas cattle were being driven north to railheads in Kansas. From 1870 through 1879 the

(Continued on Page 7)

(Continued from Page 6)

Shawnee Trail was used to deliver Texas cattle to Coffeyville and Baxter Spring, Kansas. As the great herds crossed the new Osage lands in Indian Territory, the Osage tribe extracted grazing fees from the cattle drovers. This actually became a source of income for the tribe. Annually the Osage Council leased thousands of acres of this rich pastureland, the proceeds were divided on a per capita basis among tribal members.

In addition to being exposed to ranching, the Osage had experience with oil and its uses in the white world. After the Civil War, oil production had expanded to Fort Scott, Kansas. This had been the center of the Osage Kansas Reservation. This early exposure taught the Osage Council about the value of oil and the dangers it posed to tribal sovereignty and stability. I think the record is fairly clear. By the 1870's the Osage tribe had its feet in both worlds and was attempting to come to grips with the changing reality on the Prairie.

When the Osage relocated to these newly purchased lands, they began to address how the tribe would be governed. The nature of this debate was framed by divergent Congressional policies. Congress viewed all Indian tribes alternatively as either sovereign political entities or as anachronisms that should be extinguished. These views resulted in conflicting federal policies. One policy

was separation, placing tribes on reservations with a degree of self-government and institutions and the other policy of assimilation meant to bring the Indian into the mainstream of American Life. Assimilation also meant the termination of the special trust relationships, programs and services of the Federal Government.

As the Osage moved onto their new lands in Indian Territory the separationists in Congress held sway. By 1881, the Osage had adopted a Constitution modeled upon the Cherokee constitution that was loosely based upon the United States Constitution.

At this point in time it is generally accepted that the tribe numbered approximately 1800 souls. James Bigheart, a half Osage, served as the president of the constitutional convention and was later elected as principal chief. A better person could not have been chosen, an X Union officer, educated in a Catholic Indian school and familiar with white society, he became the driving force to lead the tribe into the future.

Even after the move the Osage faced hardships. They had to make many adjustments to their new condition. During the first several years in Indian Territory there was almost a 50% decline in the Osage population. This was the result of inadequate medical supplies and scarcity of food

and clothing. The Bison Culture on the plains was collapsing, and the Osage had to adjust by becoming small farmers and stock raisers.

During this same period oil development was occurring in Kansas, Missouri and Texas. By the 1890's major companies had built pipelines around the edges of Indian Territory that tied these areas into a national network. When the federal government allowed railroads to cross Indian Territory, it created a convenient vehicle to transport equipment and workers to potential oil fields. It also provided tankers to transport oil to a national market in commercial quantities. The Osage Tribal Council was concerned about these new developments.

As the Osage were attempting to manage change, being driven by outside economic developments, they also had to manage political change. The seed of this change was planted in 1887 with the passage of the Dawes Act. This act was a dramatic reversal of former Indian policy, and was the result of widespread humanitarian opposition to the extermination policy that had been conducted by the Army and the Interior Department. This would be a blueprint for the government's basic Indian policy until 1934. It's objective was to break up tribal autonomy even on the

(Continued on Page 8)

(Continued from Page 7)
reservations. It divided up reservation land and gave each family head 160 acres to cultivate. After a probation period of 25 years, they were granted full rights of ownership and full citizenship in the United States. The Dawes Act did the Indians little good. In dividing the land the poorest territory was usually given to Indians and the best was sold to white settlers. Even when the Indians gained good lands, inexperience with ownership and legal matters left the Indian vulnerable. Seeing this happen to other tribes in Indian Territory and across the country, the Osages resisted as long as they could. During the allotment negotiations in Washington, the Osages were aware of the potential that mineral rights could have. Their past exposure to oil in Missouri and Kansas underlined the value of retaining the mineral rights for the benefit of the tribe. It was Chief James Bigheart who protected the tribe's interest in this matter and demanded communal ownership of all mineral rights lying under the lands in Oklahoma belonging to the Osage.

With all the ownership pieces in place and oil development occurring all around Indian Territory the stage was set for the exploitation of oil on the Osage lands. History is rife with men who take advantage of changing circumstances and John Florer was such a man. He was a licensed Indian trader.

The Osage knew and trusted him. Florer understood that the Osage Council wanted to resist change. As oil production increased outside Indian Territory, Florer urged the Osage leaders to lease their lands for petroleum development. He argued that this would minimize the number of intruder whites by leasing the whole to a single company that could be more easily controlled and policed by the tribe.

Florer needed financial backing to make his plan come to fruition. Henry Foster provided the necessary finances. It was Henry Foster's connection with the Independence Cattle Company that created a second vital Osage connection. His cattle company already fattened thousands of Foster cattle on the lush Osage Bluestem on the way to Chicago Stockyards from Texas. It was this connection and Florer's intervention that swayed the Osage Council to vote 7-6 to approve the original oil lease. This lease was the beginning of a new chapter in Osage history. The first Osage royalty from oil was to be 1/10th of all crude petroleum delivered and \$50 per year for each gas well discovered and used. The lease was signed on March 16, 1896. The Phoenix Oil Company was formed and in 1897 hit oil on Butler's Creek in October. This well produced 10 barrels a day. To preserve his lease, Foster sent the Osages their first royalty check for fifteen dollars. This secured the

Foster's *blanket lease* for ten years, which gave him exclusive rights on all 2,286 miles of the Osage Reservation. The first well was Wilkey No. 1, which was abandoned when attempts to shoot it with nitroglycerin produced salt water instead of oil. Wilkey No 2 produced 20 barrels a day, but Foster had not built adequate storage tanks, so most of the oil ran on the ground. These early days saw little regard for the environment and as the oil was produced changes occurred on the landscape that impacted the areas flora and fauna. The biggest impact was on the Osage people as they became separated from the land and more dependant on money to buy the goods they became accustomed to.

Even after the discovery of oil on Osage lands the federal government continued to meddle in Osage affairs. In 1900 the Bureau of Indian Affairs had trouble with members of the Osage Tribal Council, which had been elected under the 1881 Constitution. BIA stepped in and suspended the Constitution, firing all the elected councilmen and hand picking a new council. In 1906, Congress seemingly endorsed the BIA action by enacting the Osage Allotment Act. This law required the principal chief to prepare an accurate roll of all tribal members. The final roll totaled 2,229 Osage people: 926 full bloods and 1303 mixed bloods. In addition to individual allotments of tribal lands,

(Continued on Page 9)

(Continued from Page 8)

the enrolled members would receive a *headright*. This made them and their heirs equal shareholders in royalties derived from tribally held mineral rights. Children born after the tribal roll was closed in 1907 were members of the tribe, but they could not own a share of tribal headright income unless they inherited it from a relative. Under the 1906 Act, no individual Osage allottee could sell his or her headright without approval of the U.S. Secretary of the Interior. All minerals and mineral rights were reserved to the tribe for 25 years. Proceeds of these mineral rights would be distributed among headright holders. The headright system continues to this day.

With the headright system in place and oil being found on Osage leases the stage was set to make the Osage Tribe one of the richest in the country. The new century brought political and economic change to the Osage tribe.

The first Osage Oil Boom created oil kings and provided a living for many ordinary people. The boom created wealth for Frank Phillips and Phillips Petroleum, E.W. Marland and Continental Oil (Conoco), William Skelly and Skelly Oil and J.Paul Getty of Getty Oil, these men parleyed small stakes into huge fortunes. They vied for oil leases at auctions held outdoors under a tree at the Osage Council House in Pawhuska. The tree was

called the \$1,000,000 elm because as much as \$18 million dollars would change hands under its limbs in a single days bidding. On occasion you were likely to see the oil kings physically fighting as they bid for the right to drill for black gold. The decision to retain tribal control over mineral rights brought more than \$300,000,000 in royalties to the tribe and its headright owners.

There was so much money in Pawhuska that it had the only Rolls Royce dealership west of the Mississippi. Conspicuous consumption was the rule among headright owners. People who had been wards of the government now had more money than they knew what to do with. Predators arrived to take advantage of the situation and what was established to protect the Osage from unscrupulous whites created a vehicle to funnel wealth into the bank accounts of a few dangerous men. In the 1920's the Osage oil money became a target and brought on the *Osage Reign of Terror*. At least 22 innocent men, women and children were killed. The motive for these murders was to get hold of Indian headrights. The conspiracy involved white men marrying into headright families, and then hiring thugs to murder every other eligible heir so that they could inherit the royalties.

William Hale, a cattleman, businessman and banker was one person implicated in this scheme. The FBI entered the

case and in a federal trial in 1929 convicted Hale, and associates John Ramsey and Ernest Burkhart of murder.

There were three basic oil booms that impacted the Osage tribe. The first was from 1906 through 1928. The second boom occurred in the fifties and the final boom occurred in the late 70's and 80's. Annual individual head rights fluctuated over time:

1940 a headright was worth \$945.

1949 a headright was worth \$1,560

1954 a headright was worth \$3355

1979 a headright was worth \$26,680

As you can see this has become a significant amount of additional income and gave individual headright owners a much higher standard of living than the average person. The number of headright owners is fixed at 2,229 Osages. The 1990 census fixed the Osage Nation at 10,430, less than 21% of the current tribe is entitled to headright income. The distribution of headright income is a far cry from the per capita distribution of early grazing fees to each tribal member. What was initially meant to preserve the mineral rights for the benefit of the tribe has evolved into the tribe's mineral rights benefiting only a few of the tribe, effectively disenfranchising 79% of the tribe. The

(Continued on Page 10)

(Continued from Page 9)
interaction of the Osage people and the federal government has influenced both the political and economic circumstances of the Osage people in the past as much as it still does today. The only difference is that the ranching and oil economies have replaced the fur trade as economic drivers in the Osage lands.



History of Osage County

Part II of a VI Part Series
- Jenk Jones

People in the Osage

Herbert Hoover – The future president, an orphan, spent summer months in Pawhuska after his uncle, Maj. Lahan J. Miles, was appointed agent to the Osages in 1878. Hoover said his experiences growing up with Indian children taught him a love of the outdoors that remained with him.

Charles Curtis - A member of the Kaw Tribe and a U.S. senator from Kansas who owned land in Oklahoma, would become Hoover's vice president.

James Bigheart – Greatest of a line of strong Osage chiefs, he spoke English, French, Osage, Cherokee, Ponca and Sioux and had a reading knowledge of Latin. A full blood, he favored the developmental policies more associated with mixed-bloods, believing his people would prosper through capitalism. He presided over the committee

that drew up the Osage constitution and was largely responsible for the idea that the tribe keep control over subsurface mineral rights so that all members who had headright shares would benefit from mineral riches (i.e. oil) no matter where found within the Osage Nation.

Ben Johnson Jr. (or Ben "Son" Johnson) – Spent much of his youth at the Chapman-Barnard Ranch, where his father was foreman. Son went west in the 1930s to break horses purchased in Osage County for the movies and to teach actors to ride Western style. He stayed to appear in some 300 films, including winning an Oscar for "The Last Picture Show." He was a close friend of John Wayne's and appeared in many films with him. "Son," like his father, was a world-roping champion. He often returned to Pawhuska and the Osage and sponsored local rodeo events.

Clark Gable – He worked as a roustabout in the Osage oilfields, especially around Barnsdall and Pershing, before heading to Hollywood. Was part of a singing group at Barnsdall. Gable retained a warm spot in his heart for his Osage days and people he knew there.

Tom Mix – The future silent film star was a town marshal in Dewey just east of the Osage County border. The Wild West show of the 101 Ranch in Kay County just west of the Osage gave him the boost that sent him to Hollywood. Mix knew the Osage country well.

Maria and Marjorie Tallchief – Osage sisters from Fairfax

were two of five famed Oklahoma Indian ballerinas who appeared with the world's top ballet companies.

Anita Bryant – Former Miss Oklahoma and well-known entertainer was born in Barnsdall.

Maj. Gen. Clarence Tinker – An air defense leader during World War II in the Pacific, he was killed while attacking Japanese ships near Wake Island in 1942. Tinker Air Force Base in Midwest City is named for him.

Frank Phillips – This former Creston, Iowa, barber married his town banker's daughter and went to work for her father. Hearing about exciting prospects in Bartlesville, I.T., Phillips checked them out, got into the oil business and banking and, along with his brother L.E., and eventually established Phillips 66. The brothers drilled three unsuccessful wells before hitting on their fourth with the last of their money. That triggered a string of 81 consecutive producers.

Waite Phillips – He learned the oil business while working under brothers Frank and L.E. in the Osage. Waite later went out on his own and developed fields in Okmulgee and Creek counties as well as the Osage and even beyond Oklahoma's borders. He was noted for his philanthropy. Philbrook Museum, his former Tulsa mansion, is one of the Southwest's great art museums, and Philmont, his massive New Mexico ranch, is now home to thousands of Scouts each year.

(Continued on Page 11)

(Continued from Page 10)

H.V. Foster – He may have been Oklahoma's most influential oilman. Holding the great Indian Territory Illuminating Oil Co. lease for the entire Osage, at the time the largest oil lease in the world, he subleased parts of it to trigger hugely increased exploration and production in the area. He later brought in the major Greater Seminole oilfield and the even larger Oklahoma City Field, at the time the second biggest in the nation. But his start came from the Osage.

J. Paul Getty – He entered the oil business almost by accident. His father, George, was passing through Bartlesville, became intrigued with the fledgling oil business and put down \$500 for an 1,100-acre lease. Forty-three wells were drilled on it; 42 of them came in as producers. J. Paul started as a roustabout at \$3 for a 12-hour day. A millionaire by his early 20s and listed as the world's richest man, he lived in Tulsa for many years.

E.W. Marland – Phenomenally successful as an oil wildcatter, his Bertha Hickman No. 1 was the discovery well for the Burbank Field. Coming to Oklahoma after making, then losing, a fortune in coal in the Appalachian area, he amassed another fortune in oil and was lavish in his many donations, including the Pioneer Woman statue competition. A Republican as a businessman, he became a New Deal Democrat after losing his second fortune – he blamed his misfortune on Wall Street – and was elected to Congress in 1932, governor in 1934. He and

his wife adopted his wife's niece; after his wife's death, Marland had the adoption annulled and married the niece, causing great controversy.

Colonel E.E. Walters – Auctioneer for the Osage oil lease sales, he worked for almost nothing (usually \$10 a day) and netted millions for the tribe. He knew the oilmen intimately and was an expert at getting them to raise bids. So subtle were their signals that L.E. Phillips reportedly *bid* \$100,000 for a lease by brushing a fly away from his nose.

Maybelle Kennedy – Assistant treasurer of the United States under President Truman.

John Joseph Mathews – Osage author of five books, a graduate of OU and Oxford.

Norman Schwarzkopf – The general of Gulf War fame was inducted into the Osage Tribe in October 1993, the day the bison were released into the Tallgrass, in a dignified ceremony next to the old Chapman-Barnard Ranch headquarters. It was a rare honor that the Osages accorded; and they gave Schwarzkopf a name that translates to Eagle Chief.

Boy Scouts of America – The first troop in America was established in Pawhuska in 1909 by the Rev. John Mitchell, just a decade after Baden-Powell founded the Scouting movement. To outfit those first Scouts, clothing was ordered from England. The result can be seen in a statue outside the Osage County Museum.



May 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Duane Price	2 Art Browning TG Doris Mayfield	3 Mary Cumming Carol Redford
4 Susan Albert Yuki Roberts	5 Loretta Vives Van Vives	6 Dick Baker Sally Baker	7 Darlene Fowler Kim Hagan	8 Betty Turner David Turner	9 Maureen Forsythe Steve Forsythe	10 Beverly Atteberry Don Bruner TG Phyllis Connally
11 John Boxall TG	12 Frank Lacey Rose Whitekiller	13 Suzy Harris Pat Jaynes	14 Dave Dolcater Jennifer Rice Dale Sevcik	15 Deana Brewster Dennis Brewster	16 Don Baird Larry Myers	17 Leslie Brucks John Fisher TG Penny Jones
18 Bridget Barry Barbara Bates Jan Henkle	19 John Boxall Bonita Warren	20 George Brenner Bonita Warren	21 Neil Garrison Marilyn Keefer Stuart Marshall	22 Neil Garrison Iris McPherson Bill Rinehart	23 Rosalind Burris Nancy Irby Adora Smithen	24 Jeremy Combs Van Vives TG
25 Nicholas Delgrosso Harold Matthews Jo Matthews	26 Frank Lacey Dale Sevcik	27 Rebecca Bush	28 Andrew Donovan-Shead	29 Mary Ann Davis Cela James	30 Jo Brooks June Endres	31

Jun 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Pat Jaynes	3	4 Darlene Fowler	5	6 Jean Wagener Jerry Wagener	7 Jean Wagener Jerry Wagener TG
8 Nicholas Delgrosso	9	10 Kim Hagan	11 Dave Dolcater	12 Mary Ann Davis Cela James	13 Jo Brooks	14 Beverly Atteberry Don Bruner TG
15 John Boxall TG	16 Loretta Vives Van Vives	17	18 Marilyn Keefer Iris McPherson	19	20 Maureen Forsythe Steve Forsythe	21 John Fisher TG
22 Van Vives TG	23 John Boxall	24	25	26 George Brenner	27 June Endres	28
29	30 Deana Brewster Dennis Brewster					