

☆ FOR THE RECORD

MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

October 26, 1978

President W. D. Finney called to order the quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society at 1:30 p.m., October 26, 1978, in the Board Room of the Historical Building. Executive Director Jack Wettengel called the roll and those present were Mrs. George L. Bowman; Q. B. Boydston; O. B. Campbell; Jack T. Conn; Joe W. Curtis; Harry L. Deupree, M.D.; Mrs. Mark R. Everett; Dr. Odie B. Faulk; W. D. Finney; Dr. LeRoy H. Fischer; Senator Denzil D. Garrison; Dr. A. M. Gibson; C. Forest Himes; Mrs. L. E. Hodge, Jr.; Earl Boyd Pierce; Jordan B. Reaves; Genevieve Seger; Britton D. Tabor; and H. Merle Woods. Those who had asked to be excused were Bob Foresman, E. Moses Frye, Nolen J. Fuqua, John E. Kirkpatrick, and Mrs. Charles R. Nesbit. Dr. Gibson and Dr. Fischer moved that the absent members be excused; Mr. Bowman seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Also present was Robert L. Damm, director of Project AWARE.

Mr. Finney accepted a copy of a history of western Oklahoma, *Prairie Fire*, published by the Western Oklahoma Historical Society and sent to the Oklahoma Historical Society by O. Ronald Savage, Jr. Mrs. Hodge's book, *The Cheyenne-Arapaho Cattle Ranch*, was one of the sources used in the narrative of *Prairie Fire*.

A letter of thanks from Mrs. Lloyd Carlisle, Vice President, Laverne Community Museum, for the certificate presented to them by the Society was read to the Board by President Finney. Mr. Finney also announced that Dr. Gibson's latest book, *The Oklahoma Story*, is being published by the University of Oklahoma Press and that Dr. Faulk will soon have a new book published. The Historic Preservation Division's "Preservation and Maintenance of Brick Streets" has been mentioned in a recent issue of "Preservation News," the National Trust for Historic Preservation newsletter.

Mr. Wettengel reported that forty-four persons had applied for membership during the quarter and asked that they be approved for membership and that gifts received in the Library and Museum be accepted. Colonel Himes so moved, seconded by Dr. Fischer, and the motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Gibson moved that the directors approve the minutes of the July 27, 1978 meeting; Dr. Fischer seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Faulk moved that the minutes of the October 18, 1978 meeting of

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the Executive Committee be approved; Dr. Fischer seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bowman presented the quarterly report of the Cash Revolving Fund 200. Senator Garrison moved that the report be approved, Miss Seger and Dr. Fischer seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wettengel reported on an inquiry he had made to determine the possibility of hiring a Historical Society building maintenance crew, rather than using a crew supplied by the State Board of Public Affairs. Mr. Wettengel had been instructed at the July Board meeting to make the inquiry. Mr. Robert Lester, Chairman of the State Board of Public Affairs, pointed out that his agency is designated by Oklahoma statutes to supervise all Capitol Complex building maintenance. Mr. Lester said a change of the statute would be required to provide separate custodial service for the Oklahoma Historical Society. An increase in the Society's appropriation and number of employees would also be required, as well as a corresponding decrease in the Board of Affairs appropriation and number of employees. Mr. Lester said he would be opposed to this because he believed it would be detrimental to the Capitol Complex custodial service. He offered to do all his budget and staff would allow to correct any deficiencies brought to his attention. Mr. Wettengel said efforts are being made to improve the building storage areas and that the Monday opening time in the Library has been changed from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., providing time for Library and custodial personnel to service the Library.

On a motion at the July 27 meeting of the Board, an election was to be held at the October 26 meeting to fill the position vacated by H. Milt Phillips, who retired and was elected Board Member Emeritus at the January 26, 1978 meeting. Nominees were Colonel Martin A. Hagerstrand, Tahlequah, and Dr. Donald E. Green, Edmond, both of whom had been nominated prior to the April 27, 1978 Board meeting.

Following is the record of the roll call vote: For Dr. Green, eleven votes (Bowman, Conn, Deupree, Everett, Faulk, Finney, Fischer, Gibson, Hodge, Reaves, and Seger); for Colonel Hagerstrand, eight votes (Boydston, Campbell, Curtis, Garrison, Himes, Pierce, Tabor, and Woods). Dr. Green having received eleven votes to eight for Colonel Hagerstrand, Dr. Green was declared the new Board member.

Mrs. Everett presented the report of the Library Committee. She referred briefly to the motion passed at the July 27 Board meeting to hire Library personnel on a temporary basis only until a review of personnel requirements and job descriptions is completed. Mrs. Everett said the State Merit Board had been tremendously helpful in providing information about librarian positions within the State Merit System.

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On the recommendation of the Library Committee, Dr. Gibson moved that the request from the Phoenix Art Museum for a six months loan of the H. B. Molhausen sketch, *Opuntia Divisii/Lu Cum Cusi Nits*, be honored and that it be noted in the exhibit that the sketch is the property of the Oklahoma Historical Society. Dr. Fischer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mrs. Everett then gave the Black Heritage Committee report. At the October 24 meeting of the executive committee of this committee, it was agreed to request the Board of Directors to approve the expenditure of \$200 to bring an exhibit from the Smithsonian Institute for display during Black Heritage Week in February. Mrs. Bowman moved that the request be approved; Miss Seger seconded and the motion carried unanimously. It was noted that Mrs. Zella J. Patterson of the Black Heritage Committee would publish a book in the spring of 1979 entitled, *The History of Langston University*.

Senator Garrison reported that the Indian Archives Division was visited by Kent Carter of the Federal Records Center, Fort Worth, Texas. This was the annual inspection to verify that the archival material is being cared for in accordance with guidelines agreed upon in 1977. A rating will be forthcoming. Senator Garrison said that an additional microfilm reader is needed for Archives patrons.

Dr. Deupree advised that a combined meeting was held with the Historic Sites and Museum committees, as some of the directors are members of both committees. He told the Board that since the resignation of Museum Director R. W. Jones, C. E. Metcalf has assumed the responsibility of directing both divisions until a successor is chosen. Dr. Deupree said that the Historic Sites Division is understaffed with only Mr. Metcalf and Ms. Patricia Lester handling the direction and continuous supervision of nineteen Society owned sites around the state.

Mr. Boydston reported that a subcommittee, chaired by Dr. Fischer, of the Honey Springs Commission has been researching various sites of historic interest within the battlefield boundaries; that condemnation suits have not yet been filed on certain sites within the battlefield area; that settlement is nearing on a site condemned previously; that work has been completed on an access road into the park; and that blacktopping has been promised from the county commissioners of McIntosh and Muskogee counties and the State Highway Department.

Mr. Woods said that the Newspaper/Microfilm Division continues to be short staffed, thus delaying the microfilming of some forty years' collection of state newspapers, some of which are gradually deteriorating. He said that four microfilm readers are available to patrons in the division but

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the number of genealogists using the facilities is increasing. He also called attention to complaints of lack of heat in the basement microfilm section of the division.

Dr. Fischer reported that two staff members left the Museum Division during the quarter: Mr. Jones resigned and Roy Pope, Exhibits Technician, retired. Mr. Jones is presently director of the Forty-fifth Infantry Division Museum. Donald Reeves and Mrs. Ann Covalt have been assisting Mr. Metcalf with Museum Division operations. Revision of the organization of the Museum and Historic Sites divisions will be studied after the receipt of the Project AWARE report.

Dr. Fischer presented the recommendation of the Museum Committee that a contract for \$6,000 be let immediately for the restoration of the 7' x 10' painting, "Cavalcade." A restoration expert from Fort Worth has examined the painting and has advised that the painting should be sent to Fort Worth for restoration. The money requested will include the restoration as well as insurance and shipping charge. Dr. Gibson placed the recommendation in the form of a motion; seconded by Mr. Reaves and passed unanimously.

Dr. Fischer announced that the Burkhart Estate case had been settled and that the case would probably be finalized in two or three months. The Museum Committee will determine at their next meeting the plan they will follow in working with the collections which are to become the property of the Oklahoma Historical Society as provided by the will of Lillie M. Burkhart.

The Publications Committee report was given by Dr. Faulk who said that the Publications Division was also short staffed since the resignation of Dr. Kenny Franks during the quarter. He said that Associate Editor Martha L. Mobley will work with Dr. Fischer and Dr. Gibson in the editing of the Fall, 1979 issue of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, which will be dedicated to Will Rogers on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of his birth. Dr. Deupree recommended that one of the articles should be a biography of Will Rogers and that an overprint of 500 copies should be made of the issue. He anticipated that the issue would become a collector's item.

Dr. Faulk reported that the Publications Committee had recommended that Mr. Wettengel negotiate with the University of Oklahoma Press for the reprinting of The Oklahoma Series on a royalty sharing basis.

The committee requested that Mr. Wettengel post and advertise the position of Director of Publications and that files of all applicants be passed on to the Publications Committee who will present their recommendations to the Executive Committee. They in turn will recommend a selection for

approval to the full Board as provided in Article VI, Section 4, of the constitution of the Oklahoma Historical Society.

Mr. Campbell gave the report of the Education Committee for Mr. Foresman, who had been seriously injured in an automobile accident. Mr. Campbell said that Mr. Foresman is improving. Copies of the Education Division's new publication, *The Oklahoma Reader*, for elementary school children were distributed.

President Finney referred to intensive research by Mr. Boydston of the Society's constitution and the Oklahoma statutes as they pertain to the Oklahoma Historical Society. He asked Mr. Boydston to present a resolution which he had drafted as the result of his research. Mr. Boydston said the resolution had been studied by the Executive Committee and that the Executive Committee had recommended that the resolution be presented to the Board. He said primarily the resolution asks the Governor and the Legislature to act into law three principal requests:

1. To authorize and provide for the Oklahoma Historical Society to build, operate and maintain a historical museum and appropriate \$100,000 for the planning and plans for such a building;

2. To authorize and empower the Society to invest any funds it may receive other than appropriations; and

3. To transfer the Fort Gibson Military Park from the Tourism and Recreation Department to the Oklahoma Historical Society.

Mr. Boydston moved that the resolution with the three petitions be adopted; Mrs. Bowman seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Dr. Gibson commended Mr. Boydston for his efforts and for his eloquence in presenting the resolution. Mr. Campbell also expressed his congratulations.

Mr. Boydston asked that it be further resolved that the Executive Director deliver copies of the resolution to the Governor and the Legislature.

Mr. Conn asked to be excused from the remainder of the meeting because of another appointment.

Dr. Fischer presented for the Board's consideration a request from the Fidelity Bank N.A. for the loan of one of the Baum Building cupolas. These were preserved at the time of the Baum Building demolition; one is standing on the front lawn of the Historical Building, another is mounted in the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce courtyard and a third is stored, disassembled, at the Will Rogers World Airport warehouse. It was noted that the Fidelity Bank had been located in the Baum Building from the 1920s until 1957 and the display of the cupola at the Fidelity Bank Plaza was considered to be very fitting. Dr. Fischer moved that the loan be allowed and that the cupola be transferred to the Fidelity Bank N.A.,

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with a clause in the loan agreement stating that all restoration costs would be borne by the bank and that the cupola would revert to the Oklahoma Historical Society if at any time it would not be properly displayed and used as a historical exhibit. Mrs. Everett seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Dr. Deupree noted that Mr. Shirk had gotten a group together to finance the removal of the cupolas from the Baum Building and that he had kept one on his property. Dr. Deupree said that it was now on his driveway. Mr. Reaves commented that Miss Lucyl Shirk had expressed a desire to present to the Historical Society a number of items of historical interest which Mr. Shirk had collected. Mr. Finney asked that any Board member who had suggestions for the distribution of the items should contact a member of the Executive Committee prior to the November 22 meeting of the committee.

Mr. Finney then presented Robert L. Damm, director of the self-study Project AWARE, who distributed a portion of the report to be published later in the year. He read some of his recommendations for the future development of the Oklahoma Historical Society.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:00 p.m.

W. D. Finney  
*President*

Jack Wettengel  
*Executive Director*

## GIFT LIST

The Oklahoma Historical Society wishes to acknowledge the following people who donated gifts during the third quarter of 1978:

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Apple, M. R.	Muskogee
Baird, Dr. W. David	Stillwater
Burke, Richard M., M.D.	Oklahoma City
Carver, DeAnn	Bokoshe
Chapman, Luella	Oakdale, California
Eggner, Lyman	Tulsa
Evans, Mrs. A. M.	Perry
Fischgrabe, Elizabeth	Lynwood, California
Garrison, Beverly	Tulsa
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Goza, Joe A.	Calera
Hansen, Mrs. Elizabeth Lee	Austin, Texas
Harrison, Norman	Cleveland, Ohio
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Hopkins, Alma	Guthrie
Jones, Casey C., Jr.	Oklahoma City
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King, Charles F.	Tahlequah
Leonard, Ella Mae	Rush Springs
Marcher, Melvin	Oklahoma City
Martin, Rosanna V.	Springfield, Oregon
McCalib, Clytie	Colbert
Megehee, Mark	Oklahoma City
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Owens, Virginia L.	Oklahoma City
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\* All members in Oklahoma unless otherwise designated