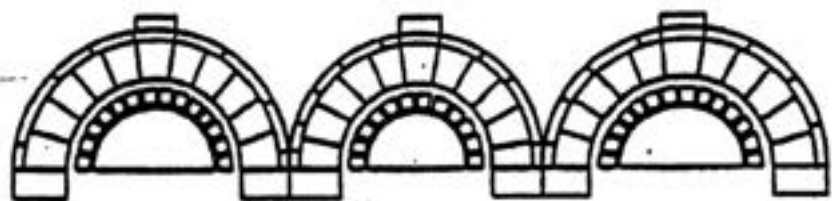


Payne County Historical Review



PAYNE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume XXV
No. 1

WINTER/SPRING 2002

Contents

Glenn Shirley, Historian of Law and Order in the Old West	3
<i>Carla Chlouber</i>	
Moving by Covered Wagon to Oklahoma in 1894	11
<i>Theodosia Zuck</i>	
Formation of the Payne County Historical Society	15
The Cimarron Valley Railroad Museum	21

The *Payne County Historical Review*, P.O. Box 2262, Stillwater, OK 74076, is published semiannually by the Payne County Historical Society. It is distributed without additional charge to the members of the Payne County Historical Society. Single issues, when available, may be purchased at \$3.50 each.

The *Payne County Historical Review* welcomes readers' comments, news, or requests for information. Family histories, photographs, or maps are also welcome. No payment is made for articles published in the *Review*. For more information about the Payne County Historical Society, visit the Society's Web site at:

www.cowboy.net/non-profit/pchs/

Glenn Shirley, Historian of Law and Order in the Old West

by

Carla Chlouber

Glenn Shirley was widely considered the foremost authority on frontier justice in America. He was a Payne County native whose interests and values grew out of his experiences in the rural Payne County area in where he was raised. His death on February 27, 2002, marked the end of an era in recording the history of the frontier.

During a writing career that spanned more than 60 years, with 28 books and more than 800 articles and short stories published, Shirley became the country's acknowledged expert on law enforcement in the Old West. His history of law enforcement in Indian Territory, *Law West of Fort Smith*, was first published in 1957 and is now in its eleventh printing.

Shirley's national reputation as a meticulous researcher resulted in calls from film-makers like Ken Burns, and he served as a consultant for several filmed series about the Old West, including the Arts & Entertainment Channel's series *The Real West*.

Shirley's roots were deep in the Western culture that provided the material for most of his books. His grandfather homesteaded in Lincoln County, Oklahoma, in 1891, and his father later homesteaded in New Mexico. In 1915 his parents, Ellis and Effie Knorr Shirley, returned to Oklahoma and moved to a farm northeast of Stillwater, where Glenn was born on December 9, 1916.

Shirley rode in a covered wagon to attend nearby Eureka School. His love for reading, especially about the West, sometimes led him to



Glenn Shirley

read a Zane Grey novel or a Western pulp magazine instead of his class assignments in study hall.

After graduating from high school in 1935, Shirley began working at his first job, at the Stillwater Public Library. One day the mayor called and asked the librarian if she had someone who could answer the telephone at the police station. Shirley offered to do it, and that is how he got his start in police work, a career that laid the groundwork for his writing.

As a police officer, he became an expert on fingerprints and other scientific evidence. During his 21-year career with the Stillwater Police Department, with time out for service in the Army in North Africa during World War II, Shirley became captain and then assistant chief of police.

Also during that time, he began writing. At first he wrote Western fiction stories, but his agent in New York found that "fact detective" stories sold better, with top rates were five cents a word, and Shirley was in an ideal job for getting the facts about sensational crimes in the region. So for several years he wrote for magazines like *True Detective* and *Official Detective Stories*.

During the 1940's, though, Shirley returned to his first love, the Old West, and the 20th century lawman began writing about law enforcement in an earlier time. Because of dime novels and cowboy movies, hundreds of myths had grown up about the events and characters of the Western frontier. The field was ripe for someone who knew how to do careful research and discern fact from fiction.

Glenn Shirley was well prepared to take on the task of telling the history of the West's outlaws and lawmen with accuracy. He was an experienced detective, and during his early years with the police force, he had studied law and earned an LLB degree from the Chicago School of Law.

He said of his legal studies, "That's the best general education you could get. Studying law taught me mainly where and how to find the law, how to do research and find the facts."

Searching through old court records and government documents, as well as old newspapers, frequently yielded the true story of an event that had become distorted by moviemakers or fiction writers with vivid

imaginations and little respect for facts.

What Shirley found, he said, is that truth is more interesting than fiction. His account of the gunfight in *Gunfight at Ingalls, Death of an Outlaw Town* provides an example. Legends had grown up around the 1893 gun battle between the Doolin-Dalton gang and U.S. Marshals, but the true story of the gunfight, Shirley believed, is far more gripping than the romanticized version.

The writer remembered that early in his career he relied on the accounts of one old-timer, a self-styled gunfighter who had outlived all the others. The old-timer's stories turned out to be inaccurate, and Shirley said, "I really took it on the chin." He learned, he said, that writing about the Old West required detective work. As a writer, he was constantly forced to evaluate the credibility of his sources.

Of Shirley's insistence on accuracy and good story-telling, John Joerschke, at one time editor of *Western Publications*, said, "Glenn Shirley was among the first historians to demonstrate that Western history could be the subject of serious research and first-rate writing."

Shirley's first book, *Toughest of Them All*, was published by the University of New Mexico Press in 1953. It was followed by *Six-Gun and Silver Star* in 1955, also published by the University of New Mexico Press.

Then in 1957 the book that established Glenn Shirley as one of the premier historians of the Old West was published by Henry Holt & Company of New York. That book, *Law West of Fort Smith: A History of Frontier Justice in the Indian Territory 1834-1896*, is now in its ninth printing as a Bison Book from the University of Nebraska Press. It was also reprinted in 1961 as part of the American History Series by Collier Books, for a total of eleven printings.

As a result of his research for *Law West of Fort Smith*, Shirley became involved with the efforts to preserve the Fort Smith historic site, which is now part of the National Park Service. The city of Fort Smith honored Shirley for his role in preserving the site of Judge Parker's court by making him an honorary citizen of Fort Smith.

Shirley also played a key role in preserving another historic site, one much closer to home. The Pawnee Bill Ranch, now a state park that attracts more than 150,000 visitors a year, would probably have

been sold to a private individual and all of the furnishings and other memorabilia dispersed if not for Shirley's book on Pawnee Bill and his interest in saving the ranch for the public.

Shirley said that one afternoon he drove by the ranch shortly after his book on Pawnee Bill came out in 1958. He saw furniture sitting in the front yard of the ranch house and stopped to find out what was going on. The owner, Pawnee Bill's nephew, was getting ready to have the furniture auctioned off, and he planned to sell the ranch. Shirley asked him to delay the sale for just a while.

After a hasty conference with Stillwater's state representative, Jim Arrington, Shirley managed to get the head of the state tourism department interested in the ranch, and with support from Pawnee citizens, the group persuaded the Senate appropriations committee to purchase the Pawnee Bill Ranch and all of its contents for the state of Oklahoma.

Shirley remembered going to Pawnee Bill's Old Town with his dad and watching rodeos and baseball games between Osage and Pawnee Indians. He said his dad and Pawnee Bill liked to "talk Republican politics." One day Pawnee Bill patted the young Glenn on his head and said, "You've got a fine boy, Mr. Shirley."

Shirley's original 1958 *Pawnee Bill*, praised by the *New York Times* as "a first-class biography," went through five printings. The revised edition issued in 1994 by Western Publications included new historical photographs and a complete dime novel biography.

After leaving the Stillwater police department in 1957, Shirley worked for the Payne County sheriff's office for two years. He then became assistant chief of security at Oklahoma State University, a post he held for ten years, followed by another ten years as publications specialist with the Oklahoma State University Press. In 1980, he retired to write full time.

By that time he had published fifteen books, including the highly regarded biography of U.S. marshal Heck Thomas and the story of *Henry Starr, Last of the Real Badmen*, as well as *West of Hell's Fringe*, an account of law enforcement in Oklahoma Territory published by the University of Oklahoma Press. Along with the books, he had written hundreds of articles and short stories.

When asked how he found time to do all the research and writing while working full time, Shirley answered, "You spend your time on what you want to spend it on."

For example, he said, he would work a twelve-hour shift on the police force and then write another four or five hours. When he had a split shift, he could take his son to the ball games, but he always made regular time for his writing.

Another reason for his impressive output was undoubtedly his disciplined and systematic approach to organizing his research and writing. Everything was filed in the proper place, and he kept incredibly detailed records. In Glenn Shirley's office there were no piles of paper waiting to be filed later.

Instead, his office was filled with cabinet after cabinet of research, all of it labeled and filed carefully so that he knew exactly where the information was. In addition, he developed a world-class library of Western history. In later years, he rarely needed to do research in other libraries because he had the original documents or books in his own.

Shirley was a founding member of the Stillwater Writers Group and a co-founder and past president of the Oklahoma Writers Federation. He was also a member of Western Writers of America; the National Association for Outlaw and Lawman History; the Western Outlaw-Lawman History Association; the Institute of the Great Plains; the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum; Associates of Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma; the Oklahoma Historical Society; and other state and regional historical societies. He was also a member of the American Legion.

In 1981 he was inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame. The U.S. Marshals Service gave him the American Star Award in 1989, and the University of Oklahoma presented him with the Professional Writing Award in 1990. In 1992 Shirley was inducted into the Oklahoma Professional Writers Hall of Fame, and in 2000 he was named to the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame by the Oklahoma Historical Society. In recognition of his many accomplishments, Stillwater declared July 29, 1995, as Glenn Shirley Day.

Shirley preferred talking about history and writing, but when questioned, he referred to his family with quiet pride. His son, Kenneth,

was a colonel in the air force who is now retired and lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico. His daughter, Glenda, lives in Tulsa. Both are graduates of Oklahoma State University. His wife, Carrie, worked for many years in the Payne County court house, first with the Cooperative Extension Service and then in the court clerk's office. The Shirleys have four grandchildren.

Just weeks before his death, Glenn Shirley's 28th book, *The Mosser Massacre: The Southwest's Greatest Manhunt*, was published by Eakin Press. In spite of the many books he had written, he was not even thinking of retirement. He once said, "I have more ideas for books than I can ever write."

Did he have a favorite book? The answer was always, "The one I'm writing now, when it's finished."

John Joerschke, one of Shirley's editors, summed up his view of the writer's work by saying, "Anyone who reads or writes about any aspect of the Old West as it really was owes Glenn Shirley a tremendous debt."

Books by Glenn Shirley

Toughest of Them All. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1953.

Six-Gun and Silver Star. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1955.

Law West of Fort Smith: A History of Frontier Justice in the Indian Territory, 1834-1896. New York: Henry Holt & Company, 1957; currently in its 11th printing by the University of Nebraska Press.

Pawnee Bill: A Biography of Gordon W. Lillie. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1958; currently in a new edition with new historical photographs, published by Western Publications, Inc., 1994.

Buckskin and Spurs: A Gallery of Frontier Rogues and Heroes. New York: Hastings House, 1958.

Outlaw Queen: The Fantastic True Story of Belle Starr, The Most Notorious Gun-Girl in the West. Derby, Connecticut: Monarch Books, Inc., 1960.

Heck Thomas, Frontier Marshal: The Story of a Real Gunfighter. Philadelphia: The Chilton Company, 1962; new edition published by the University of Oklahoma Press, 1981.

Born to Kill. Derby, Connecticut: Monarch Books, 1963.

Henry Starr, Last of the Real Badmen. New York: David McKay Company, 1965; reprinted by the University of Nebraska Press, 1976.

Buckskin Joe: The Unique and Vivid Memoirs of Edward Jonathan Hoyt, Hunter-Trapper, Scout, Soldier, Showman, Frontiersman and Friend of the Indians 1840-1918. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1966; reprinted 1988.

True Tales of Oklahoma. Oklahoma City: The Economy Company, 1967.

Shotgun for Hire: The Story of "Deacon" Jim Miller, Killer of Pat Garrett. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1970; reprinted in paperback 1980.

The Life of Texas Jack: Eight Years a Criminal—41 Years Trusting in God. Quanah, Texas: Nortex Press, Inc., 1973.

Red Yesterdays, Quanah, Texas: Nortex Press, Inc., 1977.

West of Hell's Fringe: Crime, Criminals and the Federal Peace Officer in Oklahoma Territory 1889-1907. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1978; reprinted in paperback 1990.

Temple Houston, Lawyer with a Gun. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1980; second printing 1981.

Belle Starr and Her Times: The Literature, the Facts, and the Legends. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1982; reprinted in paperback 1990.

Guardian of the Law: The Life and Times of William Matthew Tilghman 1854-1924. Austin, Texas: Eakin Press, 1988.

Purple Sage: The Exploits, Adventures, and Writings of Patrick Sylvester McGeeney. Stillwater, Oklahoma: Barbed Wire Press, 1989.

Hello, Sucker! The Story of Texas Guinan. Austin, Texas: Eakin Press, 1989.

Gunfight at Ingalls, Death of an Outlaw Town. Stillwater, Oklahoma: Barbed Wire Press, 1990.

They Outrobbed Them All: The Rise and Fall of the Vicious Martins. Stillwater, Oklahoma: Barbed Wire Press, 1992.

The Fighting Marlowes, Men Who Wouldn't Be Lynched. Fort Worth: Texas Christian University Press, 1994.

Mauraders of the Indian Nations: The Bill Cook Gang and Cherokee Bill. Stillwater, Oklahoma: Barbed Wire Press, 1994.

Thirteen Days of Terror: The Rufus Buck Gang in Indian Territory. Stillwater, Oklahoma: Barbed Wire Press, 1996.

The Fourth Guardsman: James Franklin "Bud" Ledbetter, 1852-1937. Austin, Texas: Eakin Press, 1997.

Desperado from Cowboy Flat: The Saga of Zip Wyatt. Stillwater, Oklahoma: Barbed Wire Press, 1998.

The Mossar Massacre: The Southwest's Greatest Manhunt. Austin, Texas: Eakin Press, 2001.

The She-Devil of LaPorte and Other Stories Seldom Remembered — or Forgotten. Austin, Texas: Eakin Press, 2002.

Moving by Covered Wagon to Oklahoma in 1894

by

Theodosia B. Zuck

We traded a 40 acre improved farm located in Chautauqua County, Kansas, for a 160 acre quarter section three miles southwest of Stillwater, which was then only a new country, more than 50 years ago. I shall try and write a part of my experience in making this midwinter move to Oklahoma.

The Henry Coyles and us had arranged to make this exchange at the same time, meeting in Newkirk for the legal transfers. Pulling up stakes was not easy with so many home connections in Kansas. But it seems only a short time as I think back when we were young and strong.

My husband, Jonathan Zuck, prepared the old wagon in regular emigrant style, drawn by three horses. We had a flock of chickens and three pigs and feed, with provisions for sleeping in the upper part. My driving horse, Nellie, kind and gentle when hitched to the old top buggy, was really trusty. I loaded it up with canned fruits, articles of clothing, pictures and things I felt would be needed in my new home.

It was on a sunny afternoon on a Saturday in mid-December when we started that day of days I shall never forget. We made the first ten miles to Mr. Zuck's sister's home, where we spent the first night. I shall never forget that early start, the next morning, and how Mother Zuck prayed God's blessing for victory and success on the way. We spent the second night with friends in Arkansas City. We had a good rest and I almost was sure everything would be right to the end.

This article was written by Theodosia Zuck less than a year before her death in 1947. Her son William sent the manuscript to Dr. B. B. Chapman, of the Oklahoma A&M History Department. Dr. Chapman was president of the Payne County Historical Society at the time.

On reaching Newkirk the evening of the third day, the Henry Coyles were there by arrangement for closing the legal papers of the farms. The morning of the fourth day had a new meaning for now we were moving to a new home, all ours with no debts and no obligations. The children were getting tired and fretful and the trails were none too good in this Indian reservation. Very few people were residents there.

Towards the late afternoon, my husband told me to follow close behind the big wagon, as it was getting late and darkness was coming on and soon we would arrive at a good spring of water.

All of a sudden, the big wagon rolled up on a high ridge in the road, and over went the load onto its side, in a moment of time. The crash and excitement scared Nellie, but before I leaped out of the buggy—I placed Johnny in the buggy's bed—I got to my horse's head at the right moment and grabbed her bridle and said, "Whoa, Nellie." She seemed to understand as I talked to her, but she would have turned back and upset the buggy had I not held her as I did.

I recall screaming for help, fearing that Papa was killed and was under the crash, but he soon called back, "I am all right!"

In a short time two men came horseback to our rescue. They had heard my calls in the cold, frosty evening hours and feared murder. They were real folks in time of need and lost no time in getting the wagon righted back on its wheels. Everything seemed to be getting restored except for the spring of water. Oh, I shall never forget that cold frosty night and how Willie's earache worried me. I tried to keep his ear warmed; it was not so easy to do something with nothing.

Those two men who came on hearing my screams when the wagon turned over left without accepting one cent of pay. Wolves in close range put up an awful wail and our dog, Shep, did his full duty as guard all through those dark hours. Old Logan, one of the horses, was so restless, jerking on his halter against the wagon so much. I couldn't sleep.

Next morning, the sun was good to see. I got breakfast over an outside wood fire and we were wondering how we would get our chickens back into the pen when all of a sudden, a man and his horse came dashing along, then turned back and spoke of his desire to help us, as he noticed the chickens running about.

This man stayed with us until everything was back in its place and we were ready to go on our way. He said he was riding to Arkansas City but he always had time to help anyone in need and that without pay. Without further comment, he mounted his horse and rode away.

My husband and I always felt that the Lord had directed these men to our "upset" where few folks lived for many miles and how thankful we were that nothing was seriously wrong, except for water, and that was soon found after starting anew that morning.

There were few bridges anywhere in Oklahoma, so all streams and rivers were forded. Papa didn't tell me about the quicksand in the old Salt Fork stream, so I just didn't know. He continued on his way as usual, with no idea of the trouble I was getting into, when we drove into that salty stream of water. Old Nellie stopped to drink her fill when I noticed the water rising and water coming into the buggy bed. I knew something was wrong and that unless we got moving we would all drown. I had a good buggy whip and before that horse would start moving I had to give her three hard lashes. Then she gave a hard lunge to pull us up on good sand. I was so scared it made me nearly sick. I told Papa afterwards that he came very near to not having a wife and boys. In reply, he said he never thought to tell me about the quicksand danger, and when we failed to come up the grade, he wondered about us.

The heavy loaded wagon wheels had cut deep ruts into the old Salt Fork bed and in this rut we were following. No wonder our lives were hanging by a narrow margin, so I give the good Lord the praise for saving our lives. I often have thought of that narrow escape from a death by drowning, me and my babies.

We continued our covered wagon journey without further mishap. At Black Bear we bought a lunch and some hay and corn for our horses, chickens, and pigs.

It was a real thrill to reach Stillwater and my new home. There was one large building that stood alone. Jonathan told me that they had started a college and that this building was called Central.

When we finally got out to the place and saw all those hollows and steep draws, I didn't think that looked so good. Well, later I changed my mind, as there was storm protection and good hay and pasture for

the stock.

When we drove up into the yard in front of the little claim shack, 16' by 24' with a small lean-to kitchen, Jonathan turned to me with a serious smile and said, "Dosia, this is our new home." There were no locks, so we went in to see great cracks in the sides and there was no ceiling covering, just the bare roof.

I confessed in tears that it was a sad prospect of a home. "How long will this be necessary before we can start improvements?" I asked.

"Oh, Dosia, it may take ten years before we can do much." And he was right, ten years.

So I made up my mind right then to do my best and call this our home. Sod was hauled in to bank up the east and north sides. Water was hauled by sled and barrel from a well near a creek on Jim Hays' place for years, and wood was hauled at a distance, from Willow Spring district and here and there.

Our cash amount on arrival, \$18.00, wasn't a lot, but the Lord was with us. We traded Old Nellie, my driver horse, for a cow. My hen house was a dugout on the hillside, so we got along fine.

Yes, somehow, we made our living; our family increased; by death, we lost none. Our neighbors were friendly in times of need, and I shall never forget the Sunday school at old Pleasant Valley school house and the great interest taken.

So as the years rolled by we raised lots of stock. Our principal crops were cotton and kaffir corn. It's all in a lifetime, how soon we pass on to our reward. You are hardly settled before you are getting old.

We can look ahead with hope that this world is not our abiding place but that we are seeking a city whose builder and maker is God.

Formation of the Payne County Historical Society

Editor's note: The following account is from the archives of the Payne County Historical Society.

Letters were sent out to all the members of the Oklahoma Historical Society living in Payne County. This list included:

Hon. James E. Berry, Stillwater
Rev. A. S. Hock, Stillwater
Mrs. F. B. Hancock, Yale
Mrs. G. K. Laughlin, Cushing
Judge Freeman E. Miller, Stillwater
Prof. Ben C. Dyess, Stillwater
Mr. O. H. Lachenmeyer, *Cushing Citizen*, Cushing
Mr. W. F. Allen, *Stillwater News*, Stillwater
Mr. Ora B. Minnick, *Yale Record*, Yale
Icelle Wright, Librarian, Okla. A. and M. College
Mr. Norman C. Bridewell, *Glencoe Mirror*, Glencoe
Mr. Otis Wile, *Stillwater Daily Press*, Stillwater

These letters were signed by an unofficial committee composed of Mrs. C. L. Kezer, Mr. John Hinkel (member) and Mabel D. Holt (member).

Letters were also sent by this unofficial committee to the following non-members:

Mrs. Vida Newcomer, County Superintendent, Payne Co.
The Librarian, Stillwater Public Library
The Librarian, Yale Public Library
Mr. Glenn Eyler, *Perkins Journal*, Perkins
Mr. E. F. Atkinson, *Ripley Review*, Ripley
Dr. H. G. Bennett, President, Okla. A. and M. College

Return messages of encouragement were received from Mr. Berry and Mr. Lachenmeyer. And one announcing that Mrs. Laughlin had passed away in March, 1939. One letter was even received from far

away Portland, Oregon, Mrs. Blanche E. Little hoped that the activities she cannot undertake will be taken up by her son, A. W. Little of Cushing.

The committee selected Sunday, April 21, 1940, as an appropriate day for the beginning of such an enterprise, owing to the associations so near to this date, the first "opening" on April 22nd. A letter was also addressed to Mr. James W. Moffitt, Secretary of the Oklahoma Historical Society, asking him for his cooperation and help and he graciously agreed to make some introductory remarks on the need for such an organization as a county group in Payne County, and to preside during the actual process of organizing.

And so the ground work was done.

Sunday, April 21, 1940

Twenty-six interested Payne County people gathered at 3:00 p.m. and earlier in the East auditorium of the Stillwater Public Library, where they were greeted by members of the unofficial committee. Mr. and Mrs. James W. Moffett, Oklahoma City, also attended the meeting.

Those present at the first meeting:

Arnold, Winnie
Barnes, John H.
Basil, M.E.
Bassler, C.S.
Cross, Hays
Duck, Ed. W.
Dyess, Ben C.
Elledge, L. E.
Fry, Charles W.
Hastings, James K.
Henkins, Miss Orva
Hinkel, John W.
Hock, Alvin Scolley
Hock, Mrs. A. S.

Holt, Mabel D.
Kenworthy, I. E.
Kezer, C. L.
Kezer, Mrs. C. L.
Markwell, Ethel
Miller, Freeman E.
Pound, Mrs. Alice
Walker, R. C.
Walker, Mrs. R. C.
Wallen, S. C.
Wedin, Mrs. Frances
Whittenberg, Geo.

Messages had also been received expressing interest in the plan from:

Caldwell, Mabel
Berry, James E.
Lachwenmeyer, Mr. and Mrs. O. H.
Wright, Icelle

After the filling in of cards was completed with names, addresses, and data of other sorts relevant to interest in things Oklahoman, Mr. Moffitt was introduced and asked to make a talk indicating somewhat the scope work in this county could take. This he did quite adequately with help from his interested audience.

When the organization part of the meeting came, Mr. Moffitt was nominated for temporary chairman. Seconded Freeman E. Miller put the vote. Carried. Mabel D. Holt was nominated for temporary secretary. Seconded and carried.

A motion was made that this group present organize and be known as the Payne County Historical Society. Seconded and carried.

Nominations were opened for permanent chairman. Before any nominations were made, a suggestion was made that we elect a Board of Directors, 2 of 1 year term, 2 of 2 year term, and 2 of 3 year term, who should select the officers for this year and set the work in motion. This was put in the form of a motion by John W. Hinkel. Mr. James K. Hastings seconded. Carried.

Nominations were opened for directors, who should draw for terms.

The following were nominated:

Mr. James K. Hastings
Judge Freeman E. Miller
Mrs. Mabel D. Holt
Mr. Clarence S. Bassler
Mrs. O. H. Lachenmeyer
Mrs. C. L. Kezer

Motion (by Dyess) was made that nominations be closed and these people be elected by acclamation. Seconded and carried.

Names of interested people who were unable to be present were given to the group. These included:

"Dad" and Mrs. Swope
Mrs. Edna Eaton Wilson
Mr. and Mrs. O. H. Lachenmeyer, Cushing
Warren Chantry, Perkins
Mrs. T. N. Berry
Mrs. Jenny Reed
Mr. J. P. Hoke
Miss Mabel Caldwell
Attorney A. W. Little, Cushing

Methods of building up membership were mentioned: members to recommend others, the secretary to write and notify them of nomination and invite them to membership, was one. Some form of blank on this similar to the one used by the state society was suggested. It was also suggested that some statement of the purpose of the organization might be run off to be sent to prospective members.

Mrs. Kezer asked for the suggested time of meeting and possible dues. This was left to the Board of Directors to work out. She also suggested the opportunities afforded by the Stillwater Public Library and the other city libraries as museum places. She indicated some exhibits the city library has already started.

Mr. Hastings suggested various activities for the group: the Irving route, Couch settlement, openings of the various areas, all early settlers, the history of the court district that once included the Osage reservation, the "turnip winter," college history, the Ingalls bandits, Payne

County's prohibition, oil, archeology. Some of this had been in Mr. Moffitt's suggestions. County history and history of the different towns, living and dead, were mentioned. Mr. Moffitt suggested the possibility of the use of W.P.A. workers for some of these projects, but no active interest in this was evinced.

Mrs. Alice Pound mentioned the Cushing Pioneer Society, of which she and Mrs. Wedin are members, as a possibility of cooperation with the Payne County Historical Society. The former already has made quite a collection of interesting materials.

Mrs. Holt called attention to the celebration in Guthrie and commented on the exhibits. She also brought a message from Phi Alpha Theta, national history honor society, extending their best wishes to the enterprise of the new society and promising their cooperation in any way desired.

A motion to adjourn. Seconded and carried closed the meeting.

Mabel D. Holt,
Acting Secretary

Board of Directors Meeting

April 21, 1940

The newly elected board of directors met immediately following the adjournment of the first meeting of the Payne County Historical Society. All were present except Mrs. O. H. Lachenmeyer.

Mr. Freeman E. Miller was nominated chairman of the board, approved by tacit agreement and Mrs. Holt was similarly selected as secretary.

Slips were prepared and terms were drawn, resulting:

Miller, 2 year term
Kezer, 3 year term
Bassler, 1 year term
Hastings, 3 year term
Holt, 1 year term
Lachenmeyer, 2 year term

Wednesday, May 1st, 3:00 o'clock, Stillwater Public Library, were selected as the next meeting time and place for the board since Mrs. Lachenmeyer had not been in attendance.

Finances were brought up and costs of mailing out notices were mentioned. Mrs. Holt had used her college mailing privilege for all the first letters, but no one thought it wise to continue such a practice. Mr. Hastings contributed a check for a dollar for the purpose of stamps.

Meeting adjourned.

Mabel D. Holt,
Secretary



The Cimarron Valley Railroad Museum

Members of the Payne County Historical Society visited the Cimarron Valley Railroad Museum on Sunday, May 5. The Cushing museum is located one and one-half miles south of Cushing on South Kings Highway.

The Cimarron Valley Railroad Museum was established by the Read family—Robert F. Read, his wife Mazie Cox Read, and their son, Bob Read, Jr.—in 1970. The Reads moved the Santa Fe depot from Yale to house their growing collection of railroad memorabilia.

The museum includes a large collection of kerosene burning lanterns, uniform items, timetables, witch keys, locks, signal equipment, dining car china, silver settings, Fred Harvey items, pictures, tapes, film, a very extensive railroad library, horns whistles, bells, station signs, models, coach items, pullman items, drinking glasses, badges, conductor caps from all major Oklahoma lines, Santa Fe dinner chimes, dining car chairs, linens, railroad advertising



PCHS member Jim Showalter, on the left, listens to Robert Read, of the Cimarron Valley Railroad Museum, talk about railroad history in Oklahoma.

items, fire extinguishers, tools, furniture, stoves, fire cart, official guides, and many miscellaneous items from the railroad era.

On the grounds outside the museum are an old caboose, an oil tank car, and a box car believed to be the oldest piece of rolling stock left in Oklahoma.

Robert Read's wife and son have passed away, and he maintains the museum with the help of Ken Alcorn, of Cushing. Admission is free, but donations are welcome. Appointments to see this fascinating museum may be made by calling 918-225-1657, 225-3936, or 225-7869.

Payne County Historical Society

The Payne County Historical Society is organized in order to bring together people interested in history, especially the history of Payne County, Oklahoma. The Society's major function is to discover and collect any materials that may help to establish or illustrate the history of the area.

Membership in the Payne County Historical Society is open to anyone interested in the collection and preservation of Payne County history. All members receive copies of the *Payne County Historical Review* free. In addition, the Society sponsors informative meetings and historical outings several times a year.

Yes, I want to be a member of the Payne County Historical Society. Enclosed is my check for:

- \$12.00 for Individual Membership
- \$17.00 for Family Membership
- \$20.00 for Institutional Membership
- \$100.00 for Life Membership

(Membership includes subscription to the *Payne County Historical Review*.)

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail to:

Payne County Historical Society
P.O. Box 2262
Stillwater, OK 74076

PAYNE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Officers and Board Members

Officers:

President: Elvis Howell
Vice President: Barbara Dunn
Secretary: Ann Fuhrman
Treasurer: Lawrence Erwin

Board of Directors:

Bill Bernhardt
Bill Bryans
Carla Chlouber
Adelia Hanson
Gene Hoyt
Jim Showalter

Payne County Historical Review

Editor: Carla Chlouber



BAYNE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 2262, Stillwater, OK 74076