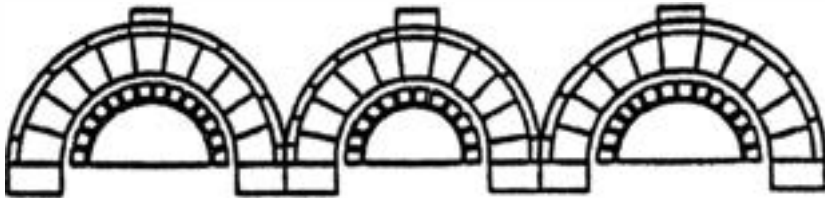


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Payne County Historical Review



PAYNE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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



Evan Tonsing with tapes of Pawnee music and language.

Professor Helps Tribe Hear Its Own Voice

Carolyn Gonzales

Voices from the past emanate from a tiny house in the small town of Pawnee, Oklahoma, as a group of dedicated individuals race against the clock to save a unique language and culture.

The group's attention centers on 91-year-old Maude Chisholm, one of three remaining Pawnee Indian elders who speak the tribe's ancient language fluently and are helping others learn their people's native tongue.

Tall, white-haired Evan Tonsing, a semi-retired Oklahoma State University music professor, is the only non-Pawnee present. Although he might seem out of place, Tonsing is an active and welcome class member. In fact, he's the one who convinced Chisholm to work with the class.

"I didn't realize it was so late," Chisholm says. "I didn't know there were so few speakers left. But Evan pointed that out and convinced me I needed to help."

Tonsing has been collecting and studying music from non-European cultures since 1957. Through the years, he used his collection in his classes. "Almost all of the 300 pieces I shared were from cultures that Americans and Europeans had erased because they had no respect for the beliefs of the peoples they encountered," Tonsing says. "I always wanted to do something to help make up for that loss."

Tonsing's association with the Pawnees began in 1997 when he attended their homecoming celebration. While there, he learned that the Pawnees didn't think some of their early singers had ever been recorded.

He was shocked because he had collected recordings of several of their singers. He immediately offered to make copies, at his own expense, for anyone who wanted them.

"I knew then that I was being presented with an opportunity to help save a culture right here at home," he said.

He struck upon a unique idea. With many American Indian tribes petitioning museums for repatriation of artifacts and human remains, Tonsing decided to repatriate the thing he knows best—music. He would find and bring back Pawnee music to its rightful owners.

Ultimately, his search led to the Indiana University Archive of Traditional Music (IUATM), where he found a large collection of Pawnee music recorded from 1898 through 1930.

"I don't know of anyone else who is doing or has ever done repatriation to the extent that Evan Tonsing has. It's a remarkable effort," says Marilyn Graf, IUATM archivist.

When he first began his repatriation efforts, Tonsing became acquainted with Rebecca Eppler, Chisholm's niece and treasurer of the

Pawnee Business Council, the ruling body of the Pawnee Nation. Eppler is very interested in history. Working under her supervision, Tonsing began the repatriation project, all at his own expense.

In addition to the music he found in archives, some tribal members have allowed him to copy private recordings. Tonsing has a great deal of recording equipment, and he says he can help restore the original sound on tapes that are barely audible.

Commentary and translations by Pawnee elders also are included on the tapes to help younger generations understand their traditional music. Tonsing and the Pawnees believe that the music is the property of the Pawnee people, so no one receives a copied tape without the permission of the tribe or the family that owns the tape.

He says the Pawnee people are very sensitive about who has access to their music, possibly because in the past, other tribes have taken some of their sacred music and turned it into social music. He also says Pawnee music is very complex and exhibits remarkable music talent.

To date, Tonsing has made hundreds of tapes and given them free of charge to tribal members.

The more he's come to know the Pawnee way of life, the more Tonsing believes their culture has much to teach modern American society and should be preserved.

"The Pawnees put a great deal of emphasis on family, especially extended family involvement in child-rearing," he said. "And they're very non-materialistic."

Experts say a large part of preserving a culture is dependent upon saving its language. The Pawnees are well aware of this fact and are desperately trying to keep their language alive.

"Within a generation, many of the languages spoken by small numbers of tribal speakers will be extinct," says Dr. Raymond DeMallie, director of the IU American Indian Studies Research Institute. "When this happens, we lose an entire way of seeing the world and a diversity

of vision and wisdom accumulated over centuries.”

Tonsing has dedicated himself to helping the Pawnees preserve their culture in any way he can. He’s gone from repatriating old music to recording today’s tribal singers and helping with language classes. He records the classes and provides free tapes to anyone who wants them in addition to taking notes and making free hand-out materials for class members. He’s even learning the language himself.

In addition, he’s purchased items for the tribe, such as large historical pictures to decorate the walls of one of the tribal buildings. He also is helping Chisholm write a book about her life experiences. She will receive all profit the book may earn after its publication.

Chisholm says Tonsing’s generosity, boundless energy and enthusiasm have won him many Pawnee friends. “He’s taken up the Indian way faster than any white man I’ve ever seen, and he’s been a tremendous help to our people,” she says. “Evan has found his religion.”

Where There Is Will, There Is a Way

Effie Mae Cox Griesel*

I don't expect this book to sell a million copies. But my grandchildren have asked me so many questions about "the run" and "back in the olden days," that I am writing this for them.

It doesn't take much to make one happy. I have had a very happy life. Will, my husband, has said many times, "We've never set the world afire, Eff, but we have raised six good kids." This is my happiness. This is my life from the beginning of it, October 7th, 1880 in Missouri to now in Oklahoma, the new country.

While in Missouri, we lived on rented places, but all in the one school district, Blue Mound. We lived the last five years in Missouri on what was known as The Old Cressip Ranch, comprised some 14,000 acres. The ranch house where the foreman lived was quite large. But the tenant farmers lived in smaller houses scattered along the higher ground as most all the pasture and some of the farm land overflowed from the Momiton River most every spring. As we had no holdings there, we wanted to try for something better.

My father farmed while living on the ranch, helping with cattle, making posts, repairing fence, etc. He made posts for one cent apiece or 100 for a dollar from timber on the ranch. Oak posts were all we ever had then. He also had a little blacksmith shop where he shod horses, sharpened neighbor's plow shears, etc.

My father was born April 17, 1858. My mother Missouri Jane

*This is an excerpt from a story written by Effie Mae Cox Griesel, the grandmother of Marjorie Buchanan, who lives in Pawnee County. Mrs. Buchanan says of the story, "Any illegible writing is reproduced as best as I can. I left Grandma Griesel's spelling as she wrote it. Any additions of mine are in parentheses."

Cox was born March 20, 1852 (b. Highland Cemetery, Pawnee). My brother, Edd, was two years my senior. My brother, Fred, was two years younger than I was. Two sisters died in infancy. Then Grace was one year old on the road to Oklahoma. Maud was born in Oklahoma December 13th, 1893. Gladys was born in Oklahoma April 20, 1900.

As time wore on, there was more and more talk and preparations made (for the trip to Oklahoma). Wagon covers were bought for two wagons. Bows and two teams rigged up, one team of mules, one horse team and he traded two calves for an old mare, Nellie, gray around the eyes, she was so old. Mother drove the horses, my father the mules and two of we kids rode in the buggy. It held the provisions, tin cups, water jug, and dutch oven, etc. Also a coop with one dozen hens underneath the box.

Another neighbor (Waldrip), his wife and daughter joined us as they were headed for Oklahoma, too. They had the wagons loaded as we did with stoves, table, beds, and all necessary equipment. They also had two ponies to a hack. Thus the wagon train started to Oklahoma.

The weather in Missouri was getting cold or had begun so. We drove slow. When we came to a good place with water for the stock, we would put up camp. We were two weeks on the road.

A snow storm came while we were in Kansas. We lay over for several days. While there, the neighbor suggested to turn out the chickens as they would return to the coop to roost. Well, they all did, but one old hen. She flew up in a tree and would not do as we wanted her to. We ran her across the creek for some time finely she was caught. But believe you me they don't always come back to roost. After the chickens were finely put in the coop all safe and sound, we had a good night's sleep. We journeyed on our way to Oklahoma.

As we were coming thru the Pawnee Country, we camped on the old Rocky ford northwest of the Agency, now north of Pawnee. The

Indians were all camped around the agency, allotting for tribal lands. We kids were busy playing on the big rocks. When all at once, there was Indians everywhere.

My little sister Grace, one year old, was separated from us by the Indians. We could tell they were doing something and laughing. They would pull her long white curls down and watch them spring back to place. I guess they'd never seen curly hair. I never expected to have a scalp very long after I came among the Indians so of course I thought now is it. But they went on their way. We were soon moved up to camp enough play for one day.

It was raining when we reached Stillwater. We camped Southeast of the town on Stillwater Crick. Kept raining for a few days more. The women had a hard time trying to cook in the rain. They had to bake bread in the dutch oven. It is a round iron skillet on legs so (it) set in coals, lid with an outside rim to hold coals, too. No handle, but bakes good biscuits. We kids enjoyed the biscuits very much.

The men went to town. Mr. Waldrip got a tent I guess about 10 X 12 but I thought it was the biggest one I ever saw as we had spent most of the time in the wagons out of the rain. Now the women and children all slept in the dry.

An old couple across the road from our camp had a big turnip patch. We helped pull them for a share. We had turnip soup, turnip greens, mashed turnips, stewed turnips, and ate them raw. Until this day I don't like turnips. (But at our family's Thanksgiving dinner every year, we serve turnips and every one eats some. Even those who don't like them eat a tiny serving to honor Grandma and the winter she lived on turnips. -mb) There was drought and was not very much raised that year but turnips. Referred to since as the turnip year.

The first winter we spent in a dugout "A cellar dug in a bank facing the south covered with the two wagon sheets." The next spring we moved into a house made of slabs. Stood on end, the cracks were filled

with mud or clay. The roof was made of clab boards, boards split with a broadax, leaked like a riddle but was pretty nice when it wasn't raining.

We lived one year three miles east of Stillwater while waiting for the strip to open. We visited Stillwater often for groceries, etc. Small town, building of wood. Many of them had limber taken from trees which had grown along streams. Side walks wood. Streets dusty, horses tied to hitch rack. Only a few buggies and spring wagons. Cemetery was then one mile east of town. No railroads. Goods for merchants had to be brought from Guthrie by freight wagons pulled by horses or mules. The products from the farm bought by the merchants were hauled away in the same manner.

We put in a kafir crop of a few acres three miles east of Stillwater. We found out kafir would pop like popcorn, not so large but eadible.

My brother and I had a watermelon stand by the road on September 1, 1893. There was quite a rush. We thought our business would be good but when we were not even noticed, we found the outlaws and marshalls were fighting at Ingalls. The outlaws were robbing a bank. Three US marshalls were killed and three citizens wounded. An outlaw called Bittercreek was wounded. Bittercreek conseiled himself near a spring. The outlaws fed him, carried all necessary to him. The excitement was great. We did not get many nickles as five cents apiece was the price for a watermelon.

The men made fishing trips out in the strip to be opened, learned to read the corner stones, marked by the government surveyors.

While living in Old Oklahoma that year while waiting for the strip to open, the men chopped wood and got a grub plow and plowed sun oak grub patches. Had four mules on a 24 inch plow. Just before the strip opened, the plow slipped and cut my father's foot across the top, quite badly so he had to make the race in the old one horse buggy. I think he got his foot cut in August.

The president had not signed the proclamation to open the country but the Indians had all been allotted and the cattlemen who had occupied the land had been removed. To be eligible to get a home in the country, you had to register. The one booth where they did this was on the strip line four and a half miles north of Stillwater. On Sunday afternoon, my father and friend Mr. Waldrip, the ones coming with us from Missouri, went to the booth to be ready for Monday September 9th.

The booth was a long tent with a door at each end and a barb wire fence stretched around. This caused some trouble. The entrance door was in the east. They all seemed to want to register at once, but a few soldiers suggested to line up. They all had to remain in line day and night. We took provision to my daddy as we lived not too far away, so he could remain in line. Some would leave for some reason or other, but others would hold their place.

When this was over, they were ready for the signal for the land run. One family of five were in an old hack camping outfit, bedding, etc. The husband was driving fast and hit the horses with a whip, ran over a rock and the fat lady fell out, but he stopped helped her up, they laughed and on they hurried, apparently no harm done.

Each man or all that could drove a stake with name, just plain board, some with names printed, that showed possession.

My father came to Pawnee the first night after the opening. Next morning he staked his claim three and a half miles northwest of Pawnee. We came on in the wagon a few days later, plowed a few furrows, started a well and a sod house, plowed sod, placed it like brick one above the other.

The first winter, my father and older brother freighted from Red Rock, two wagons and a trail wagon, which is one wagon behind another pulled with two teams and one driver. There was no railroads here so all groceries, lumber, hardware, shoes, and dry goods were

hailed in this manner. Quite a few men hauled freight. He also hauled to the railroad, all hides, hogs, and all the merchants had to send to the railroad station. They later hauled from Ark City to Santa Fe (New Mexico) using mostly oxen for that.

There was sometimes two or three wanted the same place. Some could be bought off if one had the price.

My husband's father, Daniel Griesel, had to trade his right for a team of horses as there was two stakes on the same place. The place was 2 miles south of Perry, Oklahoma.

After they traded the place off, they moved on an Indian lease near Pawnee. This Indian farm joined the Cox farm on the east, a part of this place is covered by Pawnee Lake.

When the country was new, we lived mostly on wild meat. Game was numerous. Turkeys, quail, rabbit, squirrels, fish. There were some deer. I have seen as many as six in one herd.

We plowed sod, planted kafir corn with a sharp stick by punching it in the ground every step then stepping on each hill. We children planted several acres this way. We would plant one sod, miss two. This made the right distance apart for the rows. Two in a hill, sometimes in error put 10 or 12, too much. There were a few small Indian fields the men rented for wheat, but to get it cut and threshed was a chore. The agent at the Agency would let the thresher to them, a horse one or a thresher run by team instead of steam. After they got the wheat, they took it to Ingalls to trade for flour.

In those days, there were wagon yards where one could put the wagon nearly all had a feed box on the rear end. Tie the horses to the hind wheels and all were safe. Also the yards had sheds where one could leave them out of the weather. These wagon yards were nice in rainy weather. Families stayed there sometimes for several days while the men hunted for stray claims. Children (yelled) happily as all were

merry. It was lighted at night by a coal oil lantern.

The school was a problem. No teachers, no school house. When we were in Old Oklahoma, we went to a subscription school 3 months. Each child's parent paid the teacher \$1 per month for each child.

Qualified teachers were scarce the first year on the new farm. There was three month school taught in a farm house 1/2 miles south of Lone Jack (in Pawnee County). First Grade teacher Miss Ettie Ousley. She got \$25 per month. Then when Lone Jack school house was built, she taught there for several years. I finished my 8th grade under her teaching. Six months was all the school we had any year.

There was high school in Pawnee but very few go to attend high school.

In August before the Strip opened, a cyclone came thru where we took the claim, slew the timber right and left, but that timber was a great help. Fred, my brother, and I took a cross cut saw and would sell wood in Pawnee, stove wood length as everyone burned wood. We got \$1.00 a load or a 50# sack of flour, some sugar, coffee, salt, tobacco, etc. We got money very seldom. Then one of our team of ponies got down in the harness, tangled some way, and broke her leg so we were handicapped. So in these early days, one does have some bad luck. Papa traded a shot gun for an old mule and we were soon in the wood business again.

Neighbors in the new country were not close so there was no borrowing of salt, sugar, coffee, flour, etc. You bought it or did without.

I remember we had a nice garden the second year. An old Indian Black Eagle came by and said, "I got peaches. You come. Bring pumpkins. Me give peaches." So we were very happy as there was no fruit in the cellar. The peaches were seedlings and real tasty. They dried the pumpkin, cut it in rings and hung it on long sticks. I had never seen any done that way.

They also dried lots of corn.

Three years after the country opened, many left because there was a drought and they got discouraged. Those that stuck it out, won out.

Payne County Markers

Sam Laffoon

Editor's Note: For the past two years, Sam Laffoon, of Oklahoma City, has been attempting to locate and identify historical markers in Oklahoma. He writes that he has personally visited approximately 325 sites that were already identified, recorded 150 more, and located close to 75 additional markers. He is still looking for markers that have not been recorded. Following is the list of markers that he has identified in Payne County.

1. Metal highway marker located in Stillwater on the SE corner of the intersection of Ranch St and Washington Ave

BOUNDARY LINE

1889 and 1893

On April 22, 1889, the Run for land south in Old Oklahoma began on this line, by proclamation of Pres. Benj. Harrison. Also, on Sept 16, 1893, the run for land north in the Cherokee Outlet began on this line, by proclamation of Pres. Cleveland at Booth No 1, site 3/4 mi east, thousands registered for the run in 1893.

Oklahoma Historical Society and State Highway Commission 1960

2. Just west of North Perkins Road

BOOTH NO 1

On South line of Cherokee Outlet
thousands registered at the booth
on this site, established by pro-
clamation of Pres. Cleveland, for
homesteads in the Cherokee outlet, Sept. 16, 1893.
Oklahoma Historical Society, 1960

3. Granite monument located at the NW corner of 6th Ave and Perkins Rd

STILLWATER

Where Oklahoma began
In December 1884, 200 boomers
Led by William C. Couch settled
Near this site on Stillwater Creek.
When ordered to leave, they defied
The U.S. Calvary. Lt Mathias W. Day
Wired for reinforcements and
Added "they call this place, the
town of Stillwater". This was the
first recorded reference to a
town in the Oklahoma Territory.
The boomers departed in 1885
But at noon on April 22, 1889
Thousands made the Oklahoma
land run, and Stillwater was
settled in the first hour. Its
courageous pioneers were leaders
in building Stillwater, Payne county,
and Oklahoma

4. Located on South Main Street, at S city limits of Stillwater

OKLAHOMA A. AND M.
COLLEGE

Serves the State by instruction, experimentation and extension service. Established Dec 25, 1890, by first Legislative Assembly of Oklahoma Ter. Prairie broken for experimental farm, 1891. "Old Central" dedicated 1894. Extension Division established, 1915.

Oklahoma Historical Society & State Highway Commission.

5. Located in Stillwater on the Oklahoma State University campus.

OKLAHOMA MUSEUM OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Old Central/Oklahoma State University 405-744-2828
Tu-F 9a-5p, Sa 10a-4p
Closed state holidays

History and artifacts of higher education in Oklahoma from 1880-present. Housed In 1894 Old Central, the first permanent building on the Oklahoma State University campus. Nation's only museum devoted to a state's higher education history.

6. Located on South Main Street, about halfway between the crossing on Stillwater Creek and the S edge of Stillwater.

LAST BOOMER TOWN
About 3/4 mi. east. Here 300 armed "boomers" made their last stand for settlement of the Oklahoma country, led by Wm. L. Couch, and surrendered

to U.S. Cavalry troops commanded by
Col. E. Hatch, Jan. 26, 1885. On this
Site the "boomers" had built log cabins
And dugouts for their town of Still-
water founded by them on Dec. 12,
1884.

Oklahoma Historical Society & State Highway Commission

7. Granite monument at the David L. Payne Memorial and grave site,
located in Boomer Lake Park at Washington and Lakeview

Side 1:

ERECTED BY
JAMES SHIELD
Post. No. 57 G.A.R.
In Loving Memory of
CAPT.
D.L. PAYNE
June 29, 1836
Nov. 28, 1884
—
CORRECT
BIRTHDATE
DEC. 30, 1836

Side 2:

TITLES GIVEN
CAPT. PAYNE

THE FATHER OF
OKLAHOMA
OKLAHOMA MOSES
PRINCE BOOMER
CIMARRON SCOUT
THE OKLAHOMA
BOOMER
OKLAHOMA PAYNE
OX HEART

merry. It was lighted at night by a coal oil lantern.

The school was a problem. No teachers, no school house. When we were in Old Oklahoma, we went to a subscription school 3 months. Each child's parent paid the teacher \$1 per month for each child.

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8. Metal highway marker located east of Stillwater on SH 51 on SE corner of intersection with Bethel Rd

OUTLAW BATTLE

Site about 1 mile S.E.

A Battle at Ingalls, on Sept. 1, 1893, between a Doolin-Dalton gang and U.S. Marshals was a climax in bringing law and order to Oklahoma and Indian territories. Three marshals and two residents were killed; several persons were wounded; one outlaw was captured. Ingalls was once the home of "Rose of Cimarron."

Oklahoma Historical Society and State Highway Commission 1956

9. Stone monument at Ingalls, one mile south of SH 51 on Council Creek Rd. and east 1/8 mile on 19th Street.

IN MEMORY OF

U.S. MARSHALS

DICK SPEED TOM HOUSTON

LAFE SHADLEY

WHO FELL IN THE LINE OF DUTY

SEPT. 1, 1893

BY DALTON AND DOOLIN GANG

10. Metal highway marker located in Yale in the Jim Thorpe Municipal Park East of downtown on SH 51 on North side of road.

WORLD FAMOUS
ATHLETE JIM THORPE

At the Olympic games in Stockholm, 1912, American Indian Thorpe was the winner in both the Pentathlon and Decathlon contests. The King of Sweden declared him, "the greatest athlete in the World." Thorpe made his home near here in Yale, 1917

Oklahoma Historical Society and State Highway Commission 1968

11. Brass plaque located in Yale in the Jim Thorpe Municipal Park East of downtown on SH 51 on North side of road.

The camp of Washington Irving, the first American litterateur, was established near this spot October 20, 1832, during a tour on the prairies.

This marker was erected October 20, 1932, by school children, original settlers of Oklahoma, and citizens of the vicinity.

Its erection was sponsored by Oklahoma Historical Society, Hon. Chas. F. Colcord, Pres, and Hon. Joseph B. Thoburn, curator; by Oklahoma A&M College, Dr. Henry G. Bennett, Pres.; an by Payne County Committee, Mrs. Corinne Hart, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Hon. Frank C. Orner.



12. Granite marker one mile north and 1/4 mile west of the intersection of Hwys 51 and 18 (four miles west of Yale.). Text written by Angie Debo.

SITE OF BATTLE OF ROUND MOUNTAINS

Here between the landmark known as Round Mountains to the south, and a camp on Salt Creek three miles to the northwest, was fought the first battle of the Civil War in Oklahoma.

When the Five Civilized Tribes of the Indian Territory joined the Confederacy, a numerous group of fullblood Creeks under Opothle Yohola remained loyal to the Union. With wagons containing their families and household goods and driving their herds of cattle and horses, they circled to the west and north of their settlements hoping to effect a junction with a similar element among the Cherokees. They were pursued by the Confederate commander, Colonel Douglas H. Cooper of Mississippi with a contingent of Texas cavalry, six companies of Choctaw and Chickasaw mounted rifles, and Creek and Seminole units under native officers. He overtook them on November 19, 1861, and the battle was fought that afternoon and evening.

During the night Opothle Yohola withdrew toward a place in the Cherokee Nation northeast of Tulsa. After a second and third battle in that vicinity the Union Indians were completely routed and fled to Kansas, where they remained as refugees until they were able to enlist in the Union Army and join an expedition to recover the Indian Territory.

13. Located at 706 E Boston in Yale

Oklahoma Historical Society

HOME OF JIM THORPE

Fr-Sa 10a-5p

Su 1-5p

Closed state holidays

Home of the legendary 1912 Olympian,
who lived here from 1917-1923.

Track and field awards and
family items on display.

14. Granite marker located east of the intersection of SH 33 and SH 99
on the south side of the east bound lane.

TURKEY TRACK

RANCH

Site of ranch headquarters was
1 1/4 mi north of here. Round-
ups were on present site of
Cushing. This area was grazing
land for Texas cattle driven
north, 1866 to 1885. The region
was opened to settlers on Sept.
22, 1892, Sac and Fox village 1/4
mile north.

Oklahoma City Society

60-1995

15. Granite monument located on the NW corner of the intersection of
Judy Adams & Harrison

OIL IN THE CUSHING
DRUMRIGHT AREA

Discovered in March, 1912 by Tom Slick and C. B. Shafer.

The Cushing field became one of the greatest oil discoveries in the early 1900's — ranking as the nation's largest oil province for the next eight years.

Played havoc with domestic and international oil markets.
Led to above ground storage exceeding 1.75 million barrels of unsold oil with resultant loss of valuable volatiles.

Helped bring maturity to Oklahoma's oil industry and an awareness of conservation needs.

Turned Cushing into a boomtown and vital supply center for area oil operations.

Made the Cushing area a major processing center with 23 refineries.

Brought into being a new town Drumright, located near the discovery well.

Provided much of the increased U.S. oil supply during World War I that prompted Britain's Lord Curzon to state that the Allies floated to victory on a sea of oil.

In 1919 the Cushing Drumright area accounted for 17 percent of U.S. and 3 percent of world production of oil. Cumulative production exceeded 450,000,000 barrels by the end of 1978.

Cushing retains its role in oil history as the pipeline crossroads of the world. Here in 1979 is the greatest concentration of major operators in the world with 23 pipeline systems and total capacity of over 30,000,000 barrels.

Oklahoma Historical Society with
Oklahoma Petroleum Council 1979

16. Brass plaque is currently in the Washington Irving Trail Museum, 3918 S. Mehan Rd. (six miles east and two and three-fourths miles south of Stillwater). The plaque was originally dedicated at the IXL School, four miles west of Perkins on Highway 33.

The camp of Washington Irving, the first American litterateur, was established one and one-third miles northwest of this spot October 22, 1832, during a tour on the prairies.

This marker was erected October 22, 1932, by school children, original settlers of Oklahoma, and citizens of the vicinity.

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17. A small granite monument with a bronze plaque is located approximately a mile north of Highway 33 on Wild Horse Creek.

Washington Irving Campsite

October 21, 1832

During "A Tour on the Prairies" famous author and party made trip with company of U.S. Army Rangers. While in this camp Pierre Beatte, attendant to Irving, caught a wild horse nearby.

Oklahoma Historical Society, 1963

18. Located on the SE corner of SH 51 and CR323 W of Stillwater

Indian Meridian

Kansas to Red River

< range East

range West >

surveyed by E.N. Darling 1870

170th Anniversary of Washington Irving's Tour on the Prairies



Second from the left is Roger Johnson, of Tulsa, who portrayed Washington Irving at the encampment held at the Washington Irving Trail Museum.

On October 26, 2002, the Washington Irving Trail Museum, southeast of Stillwater, celebrated the 170th anniversary of Washington Irving's trip through Oklahoma. The celebration included a reenactment of Irving's encampment in Payne County. The Payne County Historical Society joined with the museum in marking the anniversary and made a donation of \$300 to help with expenses.

In October of 1832 Washington Irving spent three nights in what is now Payne County—one night near Yale (Storm Camp), one north of Mehan (Fountain Camp), and the other west of Perkins (Wild Horse Camp). The Washington Irving Trail Museum is located near Fountain Camp. Irving's month-long trip through Oklahoma resulted in his book *A Tour on the Prairies*, which is still in print.

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

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