

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF QUARTERLY MEETING, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, THE OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, QUARTER ENDING OCTOBER 26, 1961

President George H. Shirk called to order the meeting of members of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, October 26th.

Immediately Dr. Chapman announced that he had a small item to show to the members of the Board and which subsequently would be given to the Society to be placed in the museum. He produced a gavel, ballot box and seal which he said had been used by the Anti-Horse Thief Association in Oklahoma. The President used the gavel in presiding over the meeting.

Roll call by the Administrative Secretary showed present: Mr. Lou Allard, Mr. Henry B. Bass, Mrs. George L. Bowman, Mr. Q. B. Boydston, Judge Orel Busby, Dr. B. B. Chapman, Judge J. G. Clift, Mr. Joe W. Curtis, Dr. E. E. Dale, Dr. Emma Estill-Harbour, Dr. L. Wayne Johnson, Mrs. Frank Korn, Mr. Joe W. McBride, Mr. R. G. Miller, Dr. James D. Morrison, Mr. R. M. Mountcastle, Mr. Fisher Muldrow, Mr. Milt Phillips, Miss Genevieve Seger, and President George H. Shirk.

Members absent and requesting to be excused were: Mr. W. D. Finney, Mr. Thomas J. Harrison, Judge Robert A. Hefner, and Mr. J. Lloyd Jones. Mr. Mountcastle moved that the members absent and so requesting be excused. Dr. Dale seconded the motion which was put and carried.

After the roll call, President Shirk announced that he noted a number of visitors present. Introduced were: Mrs. Willard Carver, Mrs. Lotus Alexander Harper, Mrs. Ralph Wicker, Mrs. Charles Ault, Dr. Elizabeth Borden, Mrs. Edward Beecher, Mrs. Emery D. Wiley, Mrs. Lulu Dowell Post, Miss Nell Fangel, Miss Ethel Bosinger, Miss Juanita Harris, Mrs. D. W. Keating, Mrs. Glen L. Dark, Mrs. Arthur Petrie, Mrs. Adele Martin Medina, Mrs. Duard Pyle, Mrs. John G. Dougherty, and Mrs. Irene Butcher.

Mr. Mountcastle moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion which was put and carried.

The Administrative Secretary read the list of applicants for annual membership and a list of items given to the museum during the past quarter. Miss Seger moved that the applicants be elected to membership and the gifts be accepted. Mrs. Bowman seconded the motion which carried when put.

Mrs. Bowman gave the Treasurer's Report which showed for the past quarter total cash receipts of \$3,071.23, total disbursements of \$6,091.21, and a cash balance as of September 30, 1961, of \$1,851.80. Mrs. Bowman said the Membership Endowment Fund cash balance in the City National Bank and Trust Company is \$103.65, the Life Membership Endowment Fund in the Oklahoma City Federal Savings and Loan Company is \$1,800.00. Mrs. Bowman also said the Endowment Fund has \$17,500.00 in government bonds in safekeeping at the First National Bank and Trust Company.

Mr. Mountcastle moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as given. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion which was put and carried.

The President called for the report of the Microfilm Committee and Mr. Phillips reported that the Society now has two machines in operation; that better to fit in with other departments the Microfilm Department has taken an employee who had already been in the employ of the Society; and that this employee is still working in some other departments in the building part-time and has received special training at the microfilm processing firm. Mr. Phillips pointed out that every newspaper publisher is offered his own old papers when they have been microfilmed. He said some want to give them to schools or local libraries, and he added that a good number are purchasing microfilm. He called attention to the fact that the Society now has a machine which will reproduce from microfilm full-size newspaper pages or two tabloid-size pages.

Mr. Muldrow asked how many pages have been microfilmed to now and Mr. Phillips replied about 3.25 million. He said this includes current newspapers as received.

Reporting for the Tour Committee, Mr. R. G. Miller told of plans for the proposed Historical Society Tour for June 7, 8, 9, 1962. The tour is to be made through the southeastern part of the state as previously outlined.

Mr. Muldrow moved that the recommendations of the Tour Chairman be accepted. Miss Seger seconded the motion which was put and carried.

Mr. Joe W. McBride, reporting for the Membership Committee, said the Society was now prepared to get out better mailing to prospects for membership and asked the members of the Board to submit any suggestions.

Reporting for the Portrait Committee, Mr. Shirk said that an invitation issued to the Muldrow family to submit a portrait of Mr. H. L. Muldrow had been accepted. He said that the portrait was ready but suggested that formal acceptance be deferred until the annual meeting next April. He added that he felt the annual meeting would be the only appropriate time to accept the portrait with fitting dignity. He further stated there was also on view in the Board room the commission of Judge Edgar S. Vaught, signed by President Coolidge. Mr. Shirk said that the commission had been presented to the Society by the Vaught family. He added that the Commissions of the late Judge W. R. Wallace and the late Judge Bower Broadus were being given by the families and that they would be presented at the next meeting for acceptance. Dr. Harbour made a motion that the commission be accepted and the family of Judge Vaught be thanked. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion which carried.

President Shirk invited attention of the Board to the fact that the Administrative Secretary, Mr. Fraker, had been elected a member of the Council of the American Association for State and Local History. He pointed out that the National Council is composed of 15 members, each serving a term of four years, and that the election was a signal honor to the State of Oklahoma.

President Shirk laid the following letter before the Board and asked that it be made part of the minutes:

United States District Court
Western, Northern and Eastern Districts of Oklahoma
Oklahoma City 2, Oklahoma

Luther L. Bohanon
Judge

Mr. George H. Shirk, President
Oklahoma Historical Society
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Dear George,

I want to thank the Oklahoma Historical Society and you for your letter of congratulations to me on my appointment to the Federal Bench.

It was very nice indeed for you to write, and your letter and the interest of the Oklahoma Historical Society does me great honor and fills my heart with pride.

I have been a life member of the Oklahoma Historical Society for more than twenty years, and I truly believe that we should enlarge our Life Membership to not less than a quarter of a million people, because Oklahoma history is rich in so many different fields of endeavor.

The work I did in the Otoe and Missouri Tribe of Indians case before the Indian Claims Commission enlarged and extended my knowledge of our Indian people, not only in Oklahoma but throughout the nation.

I have now laid down the duties of an advocate and have assumed the duties of a Judge, and it reminds me of a quotation I recently read in the Great Book, which I should like to pass on to you:

Micah 6:8

"And what doth the Lord require but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God."

I shall endeavor always to remember the Bible's admonitions.

With sincere and all good wishes, I am

Yours very truly,

LUTHER BOHANON

At the call of the President for a report from the Civil War Centennial, Mr. Henry B. Bass said that a philosophy that he had evolved was that history was probably the most important thing in any of our lives. He said he thought we needed a thorough knowledge of the past. Along with history, he added, he did some letter-writing — mostly to correlate his own thinking. He said, I heartily approve of everything our patriotic organizations are for. Our Commission and its Chairman have shown so much interest in the Civil War that we are regarded as being one of the Confederate States of America. The Highway Department will print the Civil War map on the back of the next Oklahoma Highway Map. As you know, we are also conducting the newspaper column, 'One Hundred Years Ago Today in Indian Territory.' For writing this column, Mr. Shirk is due the undying gratitude of everyone in this state. The Society is putting on a contest among the school children of the state to get them to prepare scrap-books.

Mr. Shirk explained the contest and said he also received fine cooperation from Channel 13 Educational Television Station. He said the response from the school children of the state had been amazing. He said there was a matter that needed to be ruled on formally. He explained that families of several members of the staff of the Society had evidenced interest in the contest. He asked for a vote on whether the children and grandchildren of the members of the staff be eligible for participation in the contest.

Dr. Harbour moved that they be allowed to participate. Mr. Muldrow seconded the motion which was adopted.

Judge Busby brought up the question of the Resolution passed by the last legislature to change the name of the building to the Wiley Post Historical Building. He said he had written to each member of the Board with an addendum to his letter. He stated he wanted to file a motion which would open this question for discussion. Judge Busby read his entire motion.

Mr. Boydston commented to the effect that he was a member of the Legislature when the 1929 bill regarding the Oklahoma Historical Society was adopted. He said that, as he remembered, the original act gave the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society concurrent jurisdiction with the State Board of Affairs.

Several members of the Board made comments voicing their opposition to any change in the name of the Oklahoma Historical Society Building. It was finally agreed that the President be authorized to appoint a committee, the duty of which would be to prepare a Resolution setting forth the reasons for the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society opposing any name change for the Historical Society Building. It was directed that such Resolution be presented to the State Board of Affairs. In furtherance of this objective, President Shirk appointed a committee consisting of Mr. Joe McBride, Chairman; Mr. Milt Phillips; and Mr. Joe Curtis.

Following the adjournment of the meeting, the Committee, using the materials submitted by Judge Busby, drew a resolution to be presented to the State Board of Affairs. The resolution as drawn by the committee is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes.

President Shirk introduced Mr. Hugh Randall who was a former member of the Oklahoma Legislature. Mr. Randall made a formal request that the Board of Directors grant him authority to remove from the Oklahoma Historical Society facilities certain items of Confederate money that he had once donated to the Society. He said that he needed the loan of this currency to help him in preparing an exhibit; and as soon as he had completed his work he would return the currency to the Oklahoma Historical Society.

It was moved by Dr. Harbour and seconded by Mrs. Korn that the request of Mr. Randall be granted. The motion was put and adopted.

Mr. Fraker handed the first copy to be received of the Cumulative Index to Mr. Shirk who stated that Mrs. Looney, who had compiled the Cumulative Index, was entitled to commendation and thanks by the Board.

Mrs. Bowman observed that Mrs. Rella Looney began the work of forming an index for her own use and that the book represents twelve years of love and labor. Mrs. Bowman moved that Mrs. Looney be

given formal commendation of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion which was unanimously adopted.

The attention of the Board was called by Mr. Shirk to the Civil War Centennial exhibit that had been on display at the Oklahoma State Fair. He said that this exhibit, which had been prepared by the military forces, was made a success by the special pageant put on daily by Major Elwin Hatfield. He recommended that the Board grant a commendation certificate to Major Hatfield. Mr. Allard moved and Mr. Bass seconded a motion commending Major Elwin Hatfield for the contributions he had made to the effectiveness of the Civil War Centennial Commission work. The motion was unanimously adopted.

It was noted by President Shirk that several women were present representing patriotic organizations. He introduced Mrs. Petrie of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Mrs. Petrie stated that the presence of the group was due to their desire that the Confederate Room and Union Room not be closed or discontinued. Several other of the women present spoke expressing the same concern and opinion.

It was explained by President Shirk that no one connected with the Oklahoma Historical Society had suggested the closing of either, or both, the Union and Confederate Room. He stated that the Assistant Curators in those rooms had been placed on a part-time basis, but that the rooms were not being closed. He further stated that such arrangements had enabled the establishment of a more efficient system of operation and the securing of another employee.

Mr. Fraker, the Administrative Secretary of the Society, said that all the changes that had been made had come through specific recommendations that he had made to the Executive Committee. He said he was assuming full responsibility for any and all changes that had been made. He pointed out that there was no full time immediate supervision for the museum which was at least ten times as large in area and materials as either the Confederate Room or the Union Room. He stated that modern museum techniques did not require employees in each and every segment of a museum. Museum staff members, he said, should not spend their time lecturing or talking to visitors in the museums unless such visitors requested information. He pointed out that surveys showed that most visitors to museums prefer not to have someone talk to them while viewing exhibits.

The Administrative Secretary said that one of the greatest needs facing the Historical Society was a receptionist at the main entrance to the building who could not only give directions to visitors but also provide them with descriptive literature along with selling items provided by the Historical Society. He continued by pointing out that such receptionist would also be a typist who could help take the load from the office staff. He stated that within the last five years the clerical work in the Oklahoma Historical Society had more than trebled with no addition to the clerical staff. He said the changes he had recommended were based on the proposition that employees should be assigned to the places and duties where work was being done.

Mr. Phillips commented that the Legislature had not increased the appropriations for the Historical Society but had written the appropriation bill in such a fashion that the Society had greater leeway in apportioning its funds to the various departments and personnel. He expressed the opinion that the Legislature had done this with the

expectation that greater efficiency in the operation of the Oklahoma Historical Society would result.

President Shirk asked for a show of hands among the women representing the patriotic organizations and indicating how many were members of the Society. Only two raised their hands.

It was moved by Mr. Muldrow and seconded by Mr. Mountcastle that the Board of Directors approve the action of the Executive Committee in adopting the schedule of salaries and budget items as submitted by the Administrative Secretary. The motion was put and carried with Dr. Harbour casting a dissenting vote.

It was announced by Judge Johnson that sufficient money had been subscribed to enable the completion of the bust of Sequoyah which was to be unveiled next May at the Indian Hall of Fame at Anadarko.

It was requested by Mr. Curtis that Judge Busby and Mr. Allard sit with the committee that had been appointed to prepare the resolution opposing the changing of the name of the Oklahoma Historical Society Building to the Wiley Post Historical Building.

It being determined there was no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

George H. Shirk, President

Elmer L. Fraker, Administrative Secretary

GIFTS PRESENTED—OCTOBER 23, 1961

LIBRARY

Poems—Gerald M. Van Dyke

Donor: Gerald M. Van Dyke, Cordell

"The Story of 'Little Town' (Oswego, Kansas) and Its Founder John Matthews"

Donor: W. A. O'Connell, Peoria, Illinois

"Oklahoma" 1961—Harold Keith

Donor: Harold Keith, Norman

2 Lists of Alabama Confederate Soldiers, 40th Regiment Alabama Volunteers

Donor: John C. Cheek, Oklahoma City

"Annual Report 1960" Oklahoma City Fire Department

"Firefighter" August-September, 1961

Donor: Oklahoma City Fire Department

26 copies of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*

Donor: Thomas J. Harrison, Pryor

Sayula Popoluca Texts—Lawrence Clark

Donor: University of Oklahoma Library, Norman

Collection of National Park and National Monument brochures

Donor: Lucyl Shirk, Oklahoma City

Collection of rough field notes of the Indian Territory Survey 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898

36 notebooks

42 letters

Donor: William H. Thorn, Redlands, California

1 Roll Microfilm: 1870 Census of Illinois (Peoria-Pope counties)

Donor: Mrs. Bertha King, Shawnee

Union Mission—Carolyn Sulzer

Donor: Carolyn Sulzer, Bethany Nazarene College

"Sooner 75", 1934

Map of the travels of George Washington

Donor: George H. Shirk, Oklahoma City

Wagar-Wager-Weger Families—Paul W. Prindle

Donor: Paul W. Prindle, Darien, Connecticut

"The Choctaw Indians of Mississippi"—Irwin M. Peithmann

Donor: Rupert Hall, Oklahoma City

"Oklahoma Poetry" October 1961

Reproduction of Coffeyville, Kansas paper October 7, 1892 with account of the Dalton Gang.

Donor: Albert McRill, Oklahoma City

The Chisholm Trail—Sam P. Ridings41 copies of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, 1 Album

Donor: Estate of Millar W. Hickox. Given by Joseph O. Hickox

Civil War Naval Chronology 1861-1865—Naval History Division

Donor: U. S. Navy Department, Washington, D. C.

"Four Firsts in Berks, 1861"—Arthur D. Graeff

Donor: Historical Society of Berks County, Reading, Pa.

"Texas Military History" Volume I, No. 2

Donor: National Guard Association of Texas, Austin, Texas.

NEW MEMBERS**QUARTER JULY 28, 1961 TO OCTOBER 27, 1961***New Annual Members*

Helton, David	Ada, Oklahoma
Walker, Dr. Ethel	Ardmore, Oklahoma
Buckles, Mrs. John A.	Dacoma, Oklahoma
Rogers, J. J.	Duncan, Oklahoma
Anderson, Joe	Hugo, Oklahoma
Hughes, Miss Mabel	Muskogee, Oklahoma
Gilliland, Mrs. A. W.	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Helmer, Chester Knepper	" " "
Hull, Dick	" " "
Lucas, Laurina	" " "
Stephanou, Virginia	" " "
Tuck, Gary A.	" " "
Wythe, Joe	" " "
Crowder, Mrs. L. H.	" " "
Smith, Frederick James	Shawnee, Oklahoma
Abbott, Mae	Tulsa, Oklahoma
Dewel, Edgar H.	" "
Hickman, Mary M.	" "
Kincaid, Mrs. Pricilla M.	" "
Stroud, Harry A.	" "
Harper, Thomas Arthur	Tuskahoma, Oklahoma
Ellison, Emma J.	Yukon, Oklahoma
Hembree, Kathryn Hesson	Los Angeles, California
Tener, Mrs. Mary Ruth	Miami, Florida
Relph, Geneva Ross	Fredonia, Kansas
Johnson, Milton G.	Silver Springs, Maryland
Stump, Mrs. L. E.	Slater, Missouri
Radnick, George	Bethel Park, Pennsylvania
Welsch, Glenn A.	Austin, Texas
Rogers, Lawrence	Fritch, Texas
Hart, R. M.	Midland, Texas
Munguia, Miss Lupe Jean	Mexico City, Mexico