

History of the
Eastern Oklahoma
Library System

Margaret Rigney

Vol. III

Introduction to Sequoyah County Libraries



There are two EOLS branch libraries in Sequoyah County. The original intent of the first millage election in March 1972 after the initial multi-county demonstration period was to support the existing Sallisaw City Library and that other Sequoyah County

communities, including Muldrow, would receive library service via a Bookmobile. What was not known or taken into account in those early days was the desire of the Muldrow community for a Library of its own and the lengths they would go through to obtain one suitable for their community's needs.

The first Muldrow Public Library was dedicated in the City Hall Complex on October 28, 1979. Embraced by the community, the Library outgrew its allotted space in the City Hall by the early 1990s. The current Muldrow Public Library opened its doors to the public on March 3, 1998 through the efforts of many groups, organizations and individual donations of time, money, building materials and labor.

The Sallisaw community had a Library as early as 1906. In the early 1960s the community made a concerted effort through the Oklahoma Department of Libraries to establish a public library for the community. With the arrival of the multi-county library demonstration in 1970, Sallisaw took advantage of the opportunity to establish the Sallisaw City Library as an integral part of the City Hall Complex. The City Complex was soon outgrown and through the efforts of much of the community



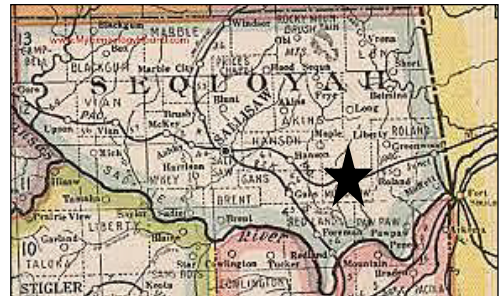
the train Depot was transformed into the Sallisaw Public Library, formally dedicated on May 19, 1985. In 1989 the City renamed the Sallisaw Public Library as the Stanley Tubbs Memorial Library named posthumously for businessman Stanley Tubbs who played a key role in raising money for the renovation of the Depot for the community's new Library.



Sequoyah County's two Libraries also have the distinction of having the first shared branch manager between the two communities. Bethia Owens became the manager of both the Muldrow and Sallisaw Public Libraries in 2002.

Introduction to Muldrow

Muldrow is located in Sequoyah County approximately ten miles southeast of the County seat of Sallisaw. It lies on State Highway 64B north of Interstate 40. Muldrow is part of the Fort Smith, Arkansas-Oklahoma Metropolitan Statistical Area thirteen miles west of the Arkansas border.



The Western Cherokees of “Old Settlers” began occupying the area in 1829 after they moved west from Arkansas. After 1840 Muldrow became part of the Skin Bayou District later renamed the Sequoyah District of the Cherokee Nation in 1851.



Henry L. Muldrow, 1837-1905.

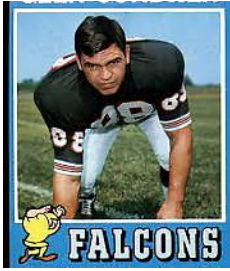
Henry Muldrow was a Confederate and a Mississippi Congressman prior to his assistant secretary post. Muldrow was a friend of one of the settlement’s founders and his influence with the Railroad to get a Depot for the community merited the naming of the new community after him.

A fire in 1895 destroyed most of the new town’s businesses but even then the 1900 census population stood at 465. Cotton was king in the early part of the twentieth century in Sequoyah County. Ranching was also important to the local economy. Agriculture, including truck farming, was important both before and after the Depression. Poultry processing became an important industry both in Muldrow and throughout the hills of eastern Oklahoma beginning in the 1990s.

The community merged around 1888 when the Kansas and Arkansas Valley Railroad built its tracks through the area. In November 1887 the post office was established and named for Henry Lowndes Muldrow, assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior during President Grover Cleveland’s first administration. In 1887 Muldrow negotiated with the Railroad to have the Depot and Switch located at the base of Turnham Mountain north of the current location of Muldrow.



An Early Muldrow Town Scene, 1901.



Glen Condren, 1942-

By 1960 Muldrow's population had grown to 1,137. The city's water system was improved in the mid-1960s which encouraged more economic growth in the community. The 1990 census reported 2,889 residents and the population in 2020 was reported as 3,272.



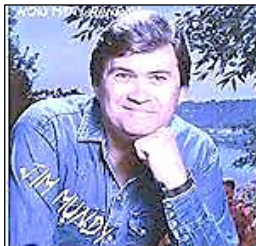
Shawntel Smith Williams, 1971- . Miss America 1996.

Muldrow native Shawntel Smith was crowned Miss Oklahoma in 1995 and went on to be named as Miss America putting Muldrow on the national map. Ms. Smith wasn't Muldrow's only claim to fame, however.

Muldrow's notables come from a variety of fields: sports, country music, and even a Cherokee Chief. Glen Condren was a former NFL defensive lineman for the New York Giants and the Atlanta Falcons. James White, known professionally as Jim Mundy, charted seven times within the Top 40 of the *Hot County Songs* charts. He reached



Joe Bryd, 1954-



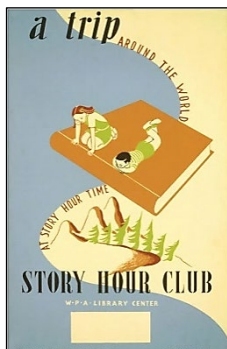
Jim Mundy, 1934-

Number 13 on the Chart with his 1973 song, *The River's Too Wide*. He also wrote commercial jingles for Pillsbury, Union 76, Coca-Cola and the Miller Brewing Company. Joe Byrd served as the Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation from 1995-1999. Chief Byrd was born in Muldrow and raised in the small community of Nicut on the Oklahoma/Arkansas border.

Muldrow's Early Library History

Despite the enthusiasm of the Muldrow Press's editor, F. N. Cambell and his support of the Muldrow Ladies in establishing a public library for the community, there is no record of there actually being a public library in Muldrow until the arrival of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Library Service and Book Repair Project in Sequoyah County was first announced in 1936.

The County-wide Library Project with an allocation of \$8,200 in WPA funds was announced by then Second District Congressman, Jack Nichols. The Project included the binding and repair of books for the County's public school libraries, and the organization and operation of branch library services in other sections of the County where they were needed. There were even traveling libraries operated over rural routes.



A WPA era library poster. (Google Images)

The WPA Libraries in Sequoyah County began operation on September 14, 1938 in Sallisaw's City Hall; in the Muldrow School Superintendent Adams' Office in the High School Building; and in Vian, in a classroom on the school's campus.

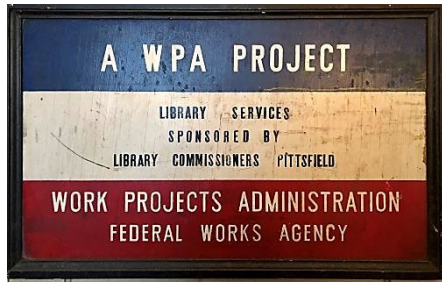
The WPA's Library Services regional office for eastern Oklahoma was located in Muskogee. Besides the libraries in Sequoyah County, there was a WPA Library in Stilwell for Adair County, one Library in Checotah for McIntosh County and ten WPA libraries in Muskogee County in the communities of Fort Gibson, Warner, Haskell, Summit, Porum, Briartown, Boynton, Council Hill, Braggs and Taft.

In the spring of 1941 the *Sequoyah County Times* reported that more than 1,000 persons had become patrons of the WPA Libraries in Sallisaw, Muldrow and Vian, according to Irene Brook, the WPA area supervisor. Readership was the biggest in Sallisaw with 585 readers. Vian had 302 readers and Muldrow 154 readers. Brook also noted that the County's children were the

Society

"Some of the Muldrow Ladies took the initial step Saturday toward a public library for our little city. It is a time moved in the right direction. We need a public library. The ladies will carry it through, too. See if they don't. The start will naturally be modest, but the start is the important part, for a library is something that will grow both in size and usefulness and the years roll by."

*Muldrow Press
July 28, 1905*



An example of a WPA Library Services sign. This sign comes from the Berkshires area of the northeastern United States. (Google Images)

main beneficiaries of the WPA Libraries. Vian and Muldrow had more children using the Library from outside the city limits than did Sallisaw. The Library in Muldrow was co-sponsored by the Sequoyah County Commissioners. Vian and Sallisaw Libraries were co-sponsored by both the County Commissioners and City governments. By 1943 WPA funding ceased nationwide. No mention could be found of how long the Vian and Muldrow Libraries may have survived after the program's dissolution. It wasn't until 1970 and the beginnings of the Eastern Oklahoma Library System that Muldrow community members once again had hope for their own public library.

Muldrow Public Library – Together @ the Library!

In 1970 two Sequoyah County residents, Barbara Mayo and Miriam Pates, attended the second meeting of the newly-created Eastern Oklahoma Library System Board of Trustees on September 9 in Tahlequah. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss plans for the operation of the new six-county library system. Among the items on the agenda were Bookmobile schedules, library policies, job descriptions and salary schedules.



Today's Muldrow Public Library. (Library photo)

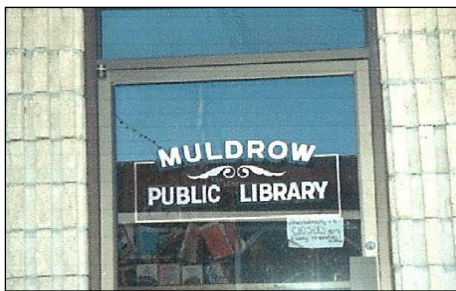
Muldrow and Sequoyah County were served by the System's Bookmobiles starting in 1971. EOLS Director Jim Wilkerson called Muldrow one of the Bookmobiles' "best stops". In 1972 the Muldrow JayCees, as well as many other organizations and individuals, worked hard to support the millage vote to insure library service in the County after the demonstration period. The Sequoyah County millage vote passed in March 1972. For Sequoyah County at this point in time millage passage meant that the Sallisaw City Library would continue to be a branch of the System and that Muldrow and the county's rural communities would continue to receive Bookmobile service. By 1978 however, rural Bookmobile service was discontinued throughout the System.

As early as the spring of 1976 there were discussions on the System Board about the establishment of a branch library for Muldrow. Federal funds were available via the Oklahoma Department of Libraries for library construction. The Board voted to establish a branch library for Muldrow in March 1976. By June a \$30,000 grant application was in process for the establishment of a library. In July the City of Muldrow set aside \$10,000 of revenue sharing funds for the possible addition of the library to the town's city hall.

OOPS!

While the interest in establishing a library in Muldrow was popular with both the Muldrow City leaders and the Library System's Board, EOLS Assistant Director Mary Beth Ozmun pointed out in the April 1977 EOLS Board Minutes that Muldrow had not formally requested a library as required by state statute. A formal request by the City was made in June 1977.

EOLS Board Minutes



Entrance to the first home of the Muldrow Public Library in the City Hall Complex. (Library photo)

By early 1977 the Muldrow City Council began discussions in earnest about a proposed public library for the community. Bill Ed Mabray, Town Council head, had been in contact with EOLS and was told that when the City provided a suitable building, the System would have books, supplies and furniture ready to move into it. As of the January 6th City Council meeting, plans were formalized to build an addition to the south side of City Hall to house the proposed library. Construction money had been set aside by the Council as well as an amount donated by Dr. W.M. Wilson of Sallisaw earmarked for library use in Muldrow.

In the following month's Council Meeting, Mabray submitted a set of preliminary plans for the library's construction. The proposed add-on to City Hall would be approximately 31'x27' giving the proposed library around 2,000 square feet of floor space. The plans were then submitted to the System and State Library

Boards for review in May 1977.

During the first half of 1977 when the City of Muldrow was in planning for a library the System submitted another grant application in the amount of \$35,000 to the Library Development Program at the Department of Libraries for the proposed Muldrow Library. With the help of available Federal grants, the City, community groups, organizations and individual support the Muldrow Public Library was dedicated October 28, 1979 in the Muldrow City Hall Complex, 100 South Main Street. Nancy Morgan was Muldrow's first branch manager.

Along with the books, newspapers, magazines, interlibrary loan, reference services, story hours and children's programs that most everyone expects in a public library, the Muldrow Library offered its community a genealogy section with concentration on Oklahoma records with extensive Five Civilized Tribes collections. The genealogy section also included microfilm collections, film, census data, Tribal and BIA data and rolls, early Sequoyah County newspapers

and records. Art displays were popular in Muldrow and the Muldrow Friends of the Library volunteers were a valuable resource for the new Library.

“The Muldrow Public Library and librarian Bethia Owens were honored as being the Outstanding Branch Library of 1985 of the six-county Eastern Oklahoma Library District System. The award was presented at a luncheon held at the Tahlequah Public Library during the regularly scheduled monthly board meeting for December.”

*Sequoyah County Times
January 2, 2011*

Throughout the 1980s the Library was active with the area Genealogical Society, the DAR, Extension Homemakers and its Library Friends group with programs of interest to the community. Writing classes were offered beginning in 1986 and the Library was heavily involved with Muldrow’s Heritage Day Celebrations commemorating the town’s 100th birthday.

By 1991-92 budget cutbacks were announced that impacted almost all the Library System’s book budgets including both Muldrow and Sallisaw.

Muldrow’s book budget was cut in half, from approximately \$10,000 to \$5,000. When the proposed increased millage levy campaign failed in the County in May 1990, it resulted in a reduction of ad valorem to operate the Sequoyah County branches. Also, because of a decrease in population in the counties served by the System, State Library aid was also reduced to all branches as well. Not all the news was bleak, however. Both Muldrow and Sallisaw libraries were able to maintain their open hours at their current level.

By early 1992 the Sequoyah Citizens for Libraries held a “Celebration of Libraries” at the historic Sequoyah’s Home, northeast of Sallisaw, to thank Sequoyah County library supporters and as a reminder of a millage increase campaign vote scheduled for the March 10 Super Tuesday ballot. Despite the work of library supporters, both individuals and groups, and editorials in the County’s newspaper, the millage increase proposal was defeated.

Noting that the millage losses across the System were lost primarily in the rural areas served, a previously-owned Bookmobile was purchased for the express purpose of once again extending the work of the branch libraries to rural locations, giving families the opportunity to keep kids reading especially during the summer months.



The Bookmobile toured the System during the summer months stocked with children’s books and activities. It also carried light fiction for the adult’s summer reading pleasure, 1993. (Sequoyah County Times)

By 1993 the lack of adequate funding, cramped space, old collections and a leaky roof were reaching critical mass in Muldrow among library supporters. In September, EOLS Director Hinshaw spoke with thirty library supporters gathered to discuss the Library's future. She told the group that while shrinking budgets and declining services seemed disheartening it was up to the library's supporters where the Library went from that point on. She shared that she believed in "miracles" and used the examples of the System obtaining a used Bookmobile at a cost of less than 3 percent of the cost of a new one to use in Sequoyah and other system counties, and Checotah supporters beginning work on a new 6,000 square foot



The children's reading area in the original Muldrow Public Library consisted of only one table for all of the children's activities and Summer Reading Programs. (Library photo).

Library with no more going for them than the people in Muldrow. Muldrow was capable of its own "miracles" she added. Hinshaw concluded by telling the group that there was an opportunity currently available to obtain around \$125,000 for a building project. The catch? The community would have to match the grant amount. The supporters in attendance echoed the statement of one of the members, *"We aren't ready to pack it in. We need our library."*

The following month, on October 4, the group met again to discuss procedure for forming a support group for the Library and brain-stormed ideas for fundraising projects and ideas for increasing the library's shrinking book collection. The group planned a November meeting and urged the public to get involved in the Library's future.

As foretold by Director Hinshaw, miracles were possible. In April 1994 the Friends of the Muldrow Public Library applied for and received a \$100,000 construction grant through the Oklahoma Department of Libraries from the federal Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA). Official notice of the award came in in late January 1995. The matching funds had to be received by December 15, 1995 to be credited to the match.



Upon the receipt of the grant award, other grant applications were sought, a building site near Muldrow's High School was donated, and the Friends had a nest egg of \$10,000 in their building account. The Friends also formed a \$100,000 Club that recruited members who donated \$1,000 or more to the Library's construction account. The donor's name would be added to a bronze plaque installed in the Library. Among those who contributed,

the County's newspaper, the *Sequoyah County Times*, a supporter of both the Muldrow and Sallisaw Libraries, made a \$1,000 donation to the \$100,000 Club. The Friends also sold monogrammed bricks for \$40-\$50 to be placed in an interior wall of the new building.

Anything and all things of value helped the Muldrow community match the LSCA grant. City officials, local banks, civic groups, organizations and individuals donated money and other resources to the Building Construction Fund. Garage and bake sales were held. In June 1995 the Oklahoma Department of Libraries/Muldrow Building Contract was officially received at the EOLS Service Center and accepted by the System Board in July 1995.

By January 1996 Muldrow not only had reached its first funding goal and December deadline of \$100,000, but also had \$33,000 toward the next \$100,000 goal. Branch manager Bethia Owens was quoted in a December 7th issue of the *Times* that she wasn't surprised by the financial support the Library received from its surrounding community. *"We started talking about a new library in 1993, so everyone had plenty of advance notice. There has been so much planning and dreaming that went into this – we knew the support had to be there."* The site for the new Muldrow Library was 701 West Shawntel Boulevard just off of Highway 64 near the public school complex. The groundbreaking for the new Muldrow Public Library was held March 30, 1996.

The Library's March groundbreaking didn't mean the end of fundraising for the new library facility, however. Fundraising continued through 1996 and into 1997. The Eastern Sequoyah County Friends of the Library set a goal to raise at least \$60,000 by the end of 1996 to pay for the new Library's interior furnishings. Fundraising ideas included donations to the "Muldrow Quilt". Each quilt block was designed by a different Muldrow Elementary School student. The blocks depicted famous people and places in the town's history.

Miss America commemorative mugs, cups and license plates were sold and proceeds deposited in the Library's construction fund. The women of the Family Community Education committed monthly donations to the construction fund. Oklahoma Gas & Electric made a



Cherokee Nation's Bingo Outpost employees donated \$7,500 to the MPL construction fund. (Sequoyah County Times)



Former Miss America Shawntel Smith Williams, donated \$1,000 plus Miss America memorabilia to sell for the Library's construction fund, 1995. (Sequoyah County Times).



While fund-raising was on-going in 1996, Summer Reading Programs continued. Participants show their editions of their Panda Press newspapers with the help of Becky Mayo, Educational Services Director for the Sequoyah County Times. (Sequoyah County Times).



The new Library neared completion in the fall of 1997. Bethia Owens stands in the midst of the interior construction debris. (Sequoyah County Times)

donation. TCI Cable Company of neighboring Arkansas in conjunction with the Quail Run Golf Course in Muldrow sponsored a Team Scramble to benefit the Library's construction fund and brought in \$1,350. Local businesses also sponsored holes at \$100 each for the construction account. Others provided door prizes for the Scramble participants. Bake and garage sales, flea markets, and personalized bricks continued to be sold. Indian tacos, books, quilt tickets and mugs were sold during Muldrow's Old Settler's Day bringing in almost \$600 to the construction account.

By the late fall of 1996 the final changes to the architects' plans were completed. Upon completion and approval of the plans, the State released the first \$25,000 of the grant money. In mid-October, the Town of Muldrow posted the acceptance of bids on the construction of the 6,700 square foot Muldrow Public Library. Construction of the new Library began in earnest.

Another positive as 1996 drew to a close was the expansion of the Muldrow Library's open hours. The expansion was the direct result of an increase in State Aid and in the re-assessment of Sequoyah County property values.

The year 1997 ushered in even more creative fund-raising ideas for the construction of the new Library. People could make donations on a beautiful afghan. The Whirlpool Foundation donated \$4,000 to the cause in mid-January. A chili supper was held in February at the high school before a Roland-Muldrow basketball game. The Library even collected pennies for their "Libraries Just Makes Cents" campaign. By summer's end the pennies campaign alone had raised \$2,182 for the construction fund. By March the new Library's foundation and slab were completed.

The 2nd Annual Team Scramble Golf Tourney returned in the summer of 1997. The tourney again raised \$1,350 toward the Library's Construction Fund. By August, the Library's exterior brick work was complete and work on the heating and air-conditioning had begun. A used book sale was held during September's 1997 Old Settlers' Day. The sale served two

purposes: to weed out old materials no longer in use in preparation for the move to the new building; and, as another means of fund-raising for the Library.



The new Muldrow Public Library opened to the public on March 3, 1998. (Library photo)

The last few months of 1997 into early 1998 were dedicated to the details. Most of the construction work and detailing was done by local tradesmen, volunteers, vocational and other students while City personnel paved the parking lot. When completed all the materials



The new Library, spacious and bright, was a welcomed addition to the community. (Library photo)

and labor put into the facility plus the federal, state and local grants, land and monetary donations amounted to approximately \$402,000.

The new Library consisted of two large rooms that could be used independently of each other. One was the Library itself and the other a public meeting room. The meeting room had its own entrance for meetings held outside of Library hours. A smaller area for Literacy and



Muldrow Library patron Leah Gregory, accompanied by her children Caleb and Layna, was the Adult Winter Blast winner in 2008. (Sequoyah County Times)

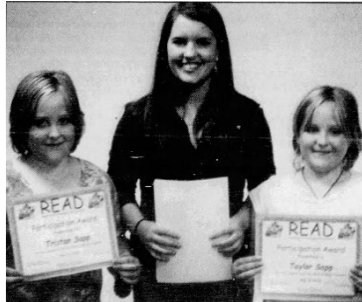
Internet/computer use was added. A workroom, an office, restrooms, entrance lobby, maintenance closet and large storage area were also included encompassing 6,700 square feet - a far cry from the size of the first Muldrow Library of only 2,000 square feet.



Genealogy fans learn about a new online genealogy tool available at the Library. (Library photo)

Library staff and volunteers began moving to the new facility the week of February 17, 1998 and officially open its doors to the public on March 3. The Grand Opening for the new Library was held April 19, 1998. The Grand Opening included multiple activities within the building that showcased various library services and activities including a new automated circulation system that could now be utilized. Branch manager Bethia Owens said of the new circulation system, "There are a little over 10,000 books here...now, but being on the new system allows the patrons

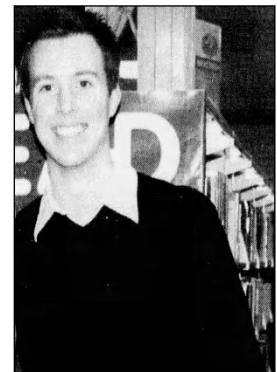
access to so much more. The automated system is probably the biggest bonus that we have right now.” Last but certainly not least, not many new libraries can say that that their own hometown Miss America was on hand to perform at its Grand Opening.



Twins Tristian (left) and Taylor (right) received READ participation awards in May 2006. Erin Martin, center, presented awards to all the elementary students who participated during the 2005-06 school year. (Sequoyah County Times)

The room to grow afforded by the new Muldrow Public Library provided much needed space to hold classes, special events, and programs only dreamt about in the old building. Over the ensuing years, classes included, but were not limited to, the following: classes on various computer skills such as email, Internet searching, genealogy, online job searching, Facebook, GED preparation, etc. Other classes covered a variety of topics such as: scrapbooking, leather craft, drawing for kids, novel and creative writing, watercolor art, gardening, digital photography, Tai Chi, drumming, crochet, Zumba, Mom and Me yoga, ballet for fitness, ukulele, fishing and the Cherokee language. Special events

included family game nights; Meet the Author events; Cherokee Nation Career Services; the Winter Book Blast, a reading incentive program that included prizes, sponsored by the Friends group; various book clubs for different age groups; daytime and nighttime story hours; and, a golf tournament originally created as a funding-raising event for the Library building construction fund but was then held annually with proceeds benefiting the Library until the arrival of the pandemic in 2020. The tournament celebrated its 22nd anniversary in 2017. Some special one-of-a-kind events and programs are highlighted below.



Kyle Alderson was the founder of the READ program in 2000. (Sequoyah County Times)

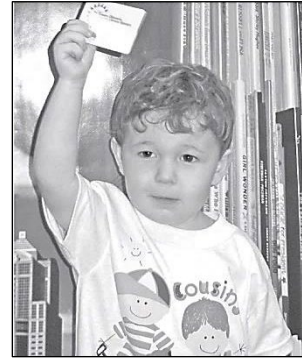


Potential READ mentors in training, 2002. (Sequoyah County Times)

In May 2001 the Muldrow Library was awarded the “Make a Difference Day” Award from the Oklahoma Library Association for the Reading Encourages All Dreams program. The READ program was a mentorship program that paired trained high school mentors with elementary school age children needing help with reading. Muldrow High School student Kyle Alderson an avid library fan and one time ten-year old Library

volunteer, founded the program in 2000.

With the READ program mentors met with their elementary children and with parental input set weekly meeting times for their children to meet with their mentors at the Library for 30 minute sessions. The mentors and children read, played games and spent quality time together. *“READ participants found that their grades increased up to two letter grades. Most children who struggle academically don’t like to read. The READ program allowed children to see first-hand that reading is not only fun but fundamental,”* stated 2008 READ coordinator, Jennie Barnes.



Young reader-to-be Wyatt Price celebrated getting his first Library card. (Library photo)



Gideon Moore, dressed as Sequoyah, won in the Kindergarten through 4th grade division in the Famous Oklahoman Costume Contest as part of the Library’s 2007 Summer Reading Program. (Library photo)

Monetary awards such as the one from the Oklahoma Library Association allowed READ to purchase books, computers and programs such as *Hooked on Phonics* for the students to use to increase their reading skills. The READ program was active during each school year from 2001 until the end of the 2019 school year. The program was suspended in 2020 with the arrival of the pandemic.

Alderson, by his own admission in the February 1, 2009 edition of *the Sequoyah County Times*, stated that he had a passion for literacy, especially children’s literacy, after seeing a statistic at age 14 that not many Sequoyah County youth had their high school diplomas. He attributed that statistic to, *“not being able to read or read well, because if you can’t read or read well it makes everything in this world that much more difficult. Children’s literacy has been a big passion of mine and will always be,”* Alderson added.

In 2002 a bi-monthly book luncheon began in the Library as the result of the state-wide “Oklahoma Reads Oklahoma” library movement in 2003. The program encouraged residents to read books written by Oklahoma authors or written about Oklahoma or Oklahoma-related topics. According to branch manager Owens, *“Local residents wanted to keep up the program.”* The bi-monthly luncheon became a regular Muldrow Library program as a result.

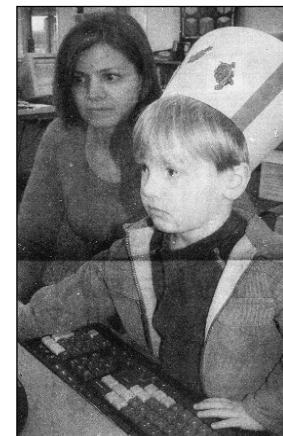
In the fall of 2006 the Friends of the Muldrow Public Library and the Stanley Tubbs Memorial Library in Sallisaw along with the Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce hosted the reception when the Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma (FOLIO) added Sequoyah's home to the National Literary Landmark Register. Sequoyah, the inventor of the Cherokee syllabary, was one of the most famous Cherokees in the Tribe's history. The syllabary, introduced in 1821, consisted of 84 characters representing the 84 syllables used in the Cherokee language. Sequoyah's Cabin is located between Muldrow and Sallisaw and east of the small community of Akin on the east side of Highway 101.

Also, in 2002 Oklahoma Reading Stars became an annual award program sponsored by the Muldrow Friends group to honor individuals who have supported the Library in outstanding ways. Stars were determined by the Friends group. They discussed and submitted nominations which were then voted on by the members. The honoree(s) were feted at a reception and presented with a small engraved star paperweight. Honorees in 2006 included State Senator Kenneth Corn, State Representative Bud Smithson, and Miss Western Arkansas 2006, Ashton Wickett. In 2007 the honoree was Ethard Smith, a valued Library supporter since his days on the Muldrow Town Council in 1977, as a local and as a System board member, as the namesake of the annual golf tournament benefitting the Library, and the volunteer building supervisor during the construction of the current Library. The awards program was generally conducted annually until the arrival of the pandemic in 2020.

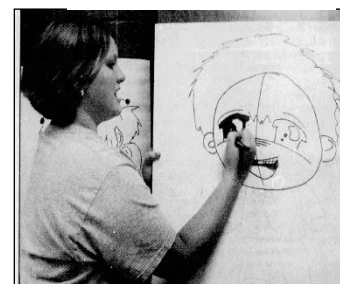
On October 26, 2007 the first noon-time meeting of the Books-Sandwiched-In group was held. Readers were invited to



Clare Delaney, State President of the Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma, unveiled the National Literary Landmark plaque at Sequoyah's home place in 2006. (Sequoyah County Times)



Landen Allen and his mother concentrate on the new Early Literacy Station at the Library. (Sequoyah County Times)



Megan Mooneyham conducted the first Teen Read program in June 2006 by presenting a hands-on Manga Cartoon Art class. (Sequoyah County Times)

Muldrow Public Library



Preschool StoryTime Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.
 Stories, Songs, Crafts, Finger Plays... FUN with Miss Candy!

3/5 - Dr. Seuss 3/12 - Color: Green
 3/19 - Color: Red 3/26 - Color: Blue

Upcoming events:
 3/10 5:30 p.m. - Guys Reads Too
 3/13 Noon - Books Sandwiched in Brown Bag Lunch
 3/17 1 p.m. - Funny Movie 6:30 p.m. - Scrapbooking Class
 3/18 1 p.m. - Wii Tournament
 3/20 1 p.m. - Just for More Fun Arts and Crafts
 3/28 9:30 a.m. - Genealogy Meeting
 3/31 6 p.m. - Basic Computers: Internet & Email

Check out our home page:
www.woods.lib.ok.us

Tue. 10 am - 4 pm
 Wed. 10 am - 4 pm
 Thu. 10 am - 4 pm
 Fri. 9 am - 1 pm
 Sat. 9 am - 1 pm

An  informational advertisement. 711 W. Shawntel Smith Blvd. • Muldrow, OK
 918-427-6703 or 1-888-291-8153

An example of the Muldrow Library newspaper announcements in 2006. (Sequoyah County Times)



Holocaust survivor, Nick Wintory, stands in front of the World War II display with County branch manager Bethia Owens. Wintory was the special guest of the Paper Clips presentation at the Muldrow Library in April 2008. (Sequoyah County Times)



In October 2015 the Library's Story Time topic was "Learning to Count." This picture represents the hundreds of weekly pictures of children's activities published by the Times newspaper over the years. (Sequoyah County Times)

bring a sack lunch and a favorite book to share with the group. The Library provided the refreshments. From that initial meeting those in attendance chose the books and dates for the Winter Discussion Series. After a hiatus, Books-Sandwiched-In returned to the Library in 2013.

During the next few years, book clubs were organized and provided for teens 5th through 8th grade and adults in 2006 to discuss young adult books. The *Guys Read, Too* book group was opened in 2008 to all boys 2nd through 4th grades. Branch manager Owens, was the discussion leader of the boys' book group.

The Muldrow Library took full advantage of the *Sequoyah County Times* support of the County's libraries. The Muldrow Library routinely posted weekly announcements of Library events among other community announcements. Also on the "Mark Your Calendar" page of the *Times* that was set aside for announcements of upcoming events of non-profit organizations and events in the County there would be weekly pictures of children's Story Time and other activities in the Library. Many times these pictures would appear under the sub-headline of, *County Libraries Offer Many Activities for Children*. As social media became more popular and widespread by 2015 or thereabouts, the children's pictures on the

Calendar page of the *Times* became less frequent but still appeared occasionally.

In 2008 the Library presented the Holocaust documentary movie, *Paper Clips*. The movie was followed by a discussion led by High School Social Studies teacher, Joe Phillips. Along with the movie there was a WWII display entitled, "*A World in Flames*." Local Holocaust survivor, Nick Wintory, was also present for the discussion.



New public access computers in the Teens' Corner, 2009. (Library photo)

In January 2009 the Library received six new public use computers funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Library Initiative Grant and the Muldrow Friends. In the fall of the same year two additional computers were added to the Teens' Corner area of the Library bringing the total number of public use computers up to nine.

The theme of the 2009 Summer Reading Program was "Be Creative @ Your Library." To support that theme the entire Library System received a Mid-America Arts Alliance Grant to provide performances of KINDERSONGS in the Libraries throughout the System. The Kinders, a couple from Arkansas performed original songs and interactive activities for Sequoyah County children in both Library locations on June 25, 2009.

In 2011 the Universal Class Library Edition, a new online continuing education service, became available to all branch libraries in the System, including both the Sallisaw and Muldrow branches. The course offered library patrons an online education with over 500 courses on a wide variety of topics. The video-based lessons offered a collaborative learning environment, graded lesson tests, certificates of achievement and/or continuing education units, all led by qualified instructors. Many classes could also be audited for those seeking self-improvement only and not needing or desiring certification or continuing education credit.



The "Glue and Go" program was just one of the creative activities of the 2009 Summer Reading Program. Participants were encouraged to create inexpensive, original and imaginative costumes with everyday items such as paper bags, newspapers, CDs, video tapes. (Sequoyah County Times)



In the fall of 2012 the Universal Class Library was joined by access to free downloadable e-books from the Library's web site via the Overdrive online service.

A few months later, audio books were also made available to the *Overdrive* platform now known as Libby. By 2014 broadband Internet would make its appearance at the Muldrow Library. As digital lending became more popular *Hoopla Digital* was added to the mix. Hoopla included not only e-books and audio books, but also music, graphic novels, movies, and television programs.



Young library users interested in STEM helped staff unpack the first delivery of STEM equipment and supplies purchased with grant funds in 2015. (Sequoyah County Times)



Science Fair participants stood ready to answer any questions that the interested on-lookers had about their projects. (Library photo)

Science was the unofficial theme of the Library in 2015. The Library received “The Kid is the Rocket” Grant from the Oklahoma Department of Libraries and the Institute of Museum and Library Services in the amount of \$4,000. The grant’s purpose was to help libraries increase STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) programs and opportunities for community youth. The Library partnered with a teacher in the public school system to provide equipment and supplies for use to encourage continued interest in STEM topics. This included exploration topics in subject such as robotics, photography, design, and electronic circuitry. STEM topics were also included in the 2015 Summer Reading Program theme called, *Super Heroes Read*.

The STEM emphasis also resulted in Library-sponsored Science Fairs in 2015. The Fairs were funded through monies raised by the annual golf tournament for the benefit of the Muldrow Library. The projects were done for fun. They weren’t graded or judged, only enjoyed by participants and library patrons who viewed the student-created displays and projects.

By 2016 the Library made a request to the City for a new roof and ceiling tile restoration eighteen years after the construction of the new building. The spring of 2016 was a particularly wet and windy one not only for Muldrow but also for several other of the System’s branch libraries.

Evening Story Hours made an appearance at the Library in 2016. The program was geared toward ages 0-6 but was also open to caregivers and siblings. By the spring of 2017 the name of the program became *Bed Time Story Time*. *Story Time* was held on Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm.



The theme of this Bed Time Story Time in 2017 was “A Day at the Beach”. (Sequoyah County Times)

On March 5, 2017 the Library held an Open House and Reception honoring the County's Vietnam Veterans and their families. Prior to the Reception, an exhibit entitled the *Vietnam Scrapbook* was created as part of a series of events sponsored by the Library System entitled *Revolution: From Pages to Change*. Area Vietnam Veterans and their families were invited to submit photos, memorabilia and brief biographical sketches about their soldier's life while on base or on ships during the War during the time period of



Our Vietnam Scrapbook exhibit in 2017 caught the attention of this teen. (Sequoyah County Times)



1965-75. The stories submitted ran from humorous to tragic, according to Library staff. The resultant display was open to the public from February 12 through April 20.

Both Sequoyah County Libraries participated in a System-wide event in 2019 centered on the Ernest Cline novel, *Ready Player One*. Both hosted several events centered on the novel and the time period of the 1980s, all with the opportunity for participants to win prizes and to earn an entry for a Grand Prize. The Muldrow Library hosted 1980's movies, a Pac Man Party, various board games, a month-long scavenger hunt, and online discussions of the book itself.

During the early months of 2020 the Library continued serving its community as it had been doing for the past forty-one years. In mid-March, the Muldrow Library closed while the entire System found ways to serve their communities safely.

To be continued....

Introduction to Sallisaw

Sallisaw is the County seat of Sequoyah County. It is located 20 miles east of the Arkansas state line at the junction of Oklahoma State Highways 64 and 59. Interstate 40 crosses the town's southern edge. Geographically, it lies at the southern edge of the Ozark Plateau.



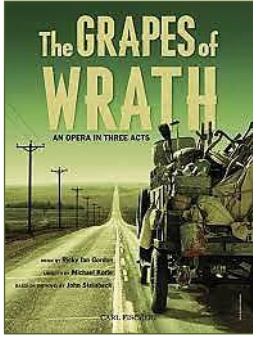
The town, named by early French settlers to the area, stems from the French word *salaison* which means “salt meal” or “salt provisions.” It is believed that English naturalist Thomas Nuttall may have been the first to record the name “*Salaiseau*” in his area travels diary.

An organized settlement in the area can be traced to circa 1887-88 when early Sallisaw pioneers, Argyle Quesenbury and Will Watie Wheeler, a descendent of Cherokee Confederate leader Stand Watie, laid out town lots. But, it wasn't until 1898 that the town was incorporated.

Present day Sallisaw is actually the site of an early-day post office called “Childers Station” that operated from 1873 to 1888. In 1888 its name was changed to Sallisaw. Another area town fifteen miles north was also referred to as Sallisaw for a time but the name was changed to Mays in 1888.

As was the case for many early settlements, the railroad played a significant role in their continued growth. Sallisaw was no exception. The railroad came to Sallisaw during the years 1888-90 from Arkansas as the Kansas and Arkansas Valley Railway moved west. In 1895 a north-south line of the Kansas City, Pittsburg and Gulf Railway came north into the region. It was during this time that several businesses were established in the town including a cotton gin, gristmill, lumberyard, mercantile shops, hotels, pharmacy, farm implement store and a newspaper.

In 1900 the population of Sallisaw was recorded as 965. Sallisaw's population in the early part of the twentieth century generally rose and fell with cotton. Lumber, oil, natural gas and coal were other important economies. The postwar population rose from 2,140 in 1940 to 2,885 by 1950. By 2020, Sallisaw's population had grown to 8,510 residents.



The book was published in 1939 and the movie appeared in 1940.

Sallisaw is known more or less for two legendary reasons. One of the legends is true and the other, a work of fiction. John Steinbeck’s novel, *The Grapes of Wrath*, which told the story of the Dust Bowl migration of the Joad family from Sallisaw to California, was pure fiction. The hilly region of eastern Oklahoma did not experience the Dust Bowl as portrayed in Steinbeck’s novel. The Dust Bowl was predominantly centered in the Panhandle area in extreme western Oklahoma.



Charles Arthur Floyd, 1904-1934.

From the same time period as the novel there was a real-life character from the Sallisaw area whose exploits became legendary. His name was Charles Arthur “Pretty Boy” Floyd. Floyd spent his early years and was buried in the Sallisaw area in 1934. Estimates range from twenty to forty thousand people attended Floyd’s funeral. Ironically enough, his brother, E.W. Floyd, was the Sequoyah County Sheriff from 1948 to his death in 1970.



Jack C. Montgomery, 1917-2002.

Jack C. Montgomery was from the Sallisaw area and was a World War II Medal of Honor recipient. In November 2006 the VA Medical Center in Muskogee was named after Montgomery.

University of Oklahoma quarterback from 1973-75, Steve Davis was raised in Sallisaw. Derek Fine was born in Sallisaw. He was drafted by the Buffalo Bills in 2008 as a tight end.

Last, but certainly not the least among them, was the most famous of all Sequoyah County residents and namesake of the County itself, *Se-quo-ya* or Sequoyah (aka George Guess or Gist), a Cherokee



silversmith, blacksmith, educator, politician, inventor and linguist created the *Cherokee Syllabary* in 1821. The *Syllabary* made reading and writing in the Cherokee language possible. His creation allowed the Cherokee Nation to be one of the first North American Indigenous groups to have a written language. By the 1850s the literacy rate of the Cherokee Nation was

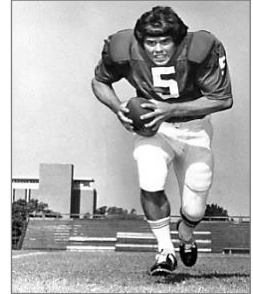
almost 100 percent.



Sequoyah, 1778-1843.



Derek Fine, 1983-



Steve Davis, 1952-2013.

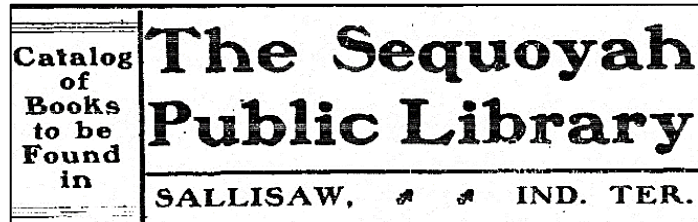
Built in 1960 Blue Ribbon Downs was a proving ground and starting place for many champion quarter horses. In 1982 Oklahoma voters approved of pari-mutuel betting. There was a construction boom in motels, restaurant and other related industries in the Sallisaw area for several years. However, as the popularity of horse betting waned the track struggled financially with several owners. Bankruptcy was filed in 1997 and again in 2002. It was bought by the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma in 2003 and converted into a combined horse track and casino. It closed permanently in late 2009.

Sallisaw's Early Library History

The Sallisaw Star

"A ladies literary and reading club is being organized in this city.... The object of the club will be to promote literary ideas and social intercourse, and probably the establishment of a public library. There is room for and need of such a feature among the people of Sallisaw, and THE STAR hopes the undertaking will terminate successfully."

November 28, 1902



Sallisaw, like many communities in the EOLS service area, had a public library prior to the arrival of the multi-county library system in 1970. And, like in the majority of the communities, it was the women who initiated the establishment of a Library for Sallisaw.

According to *The Sallisaw Star* newspaper in May 1903 the Sequoyah Public Library opened to the public Saturday, May 30, 1903 in the Court House building. The newspaper called the event, "*one of the most memorable in the history of Sallisaw.*" The Library was under the supervision of the ladies of the City. By opening day there were over "200 volumes" available. The membership fee was "\$1 per year which entitled one to a year's reading."

Over the next few years the Sequoyah Public Library moved locations several times. In late 1903 the Library moved from the lower floor of the Court House to "*Judge Brown's office in the Court House for the winter months. This was done to avoid buying a stove*

"That things do move when the ladies undertake anything is being fully demonstrated in the establishment of a public library in Sallisaw. The ladies have been at work for some time on this enterprise and are now about ready to open the way to the public whereby one can read all the late and classical books for the small fee of 25¢ per month. A room has been secured in the court house and the library will be open each Saturday afternoon. Over 100 volumes will be placed on the lists for readers to select from...."

The Sallisaw Star
February 27, 1903

and fuel for the use of the library room." In June 1909 the "*circulating library is now in operation at Irwin's Drug Store.*" In February 1911 the new location for the library was in one of the "*rooms of the Office of County Attorney, T. F. Shackelford, upstairs in the Merchants National Bank Building*". By March 1911 the *Star Gazette* reported the management of the

Some of the Library's Rules & Regulations

1. *The Library shall be open every Saturday afternoon from May to Oct. from 3-7 o'clock; from Oct., to May, 3-5 o'clock.*
2. *Not more than one book shall stand charged to the same name at the same time.*
3. *Books must...be charged in the librarian's ledger and members registered before books are taken from the library.*
4. *Any person not a subscriber...many draw books upon the same conditions as subscribers upon payment of 10¢ for each week.*

*The Sallisaw Star
May 29, 1903*

Library had “*transferred to the Pleasant Hour Club and the library moved to the Farmers National Bank Building.*” The Sequoyah Public Library was dissolved while under the management of the Pleasant Hour Club and its contents given to the city’s public schools in November 1914. The desire for a Public Library in Sallisaw did not end with the dissolution of the Sequoyah Public Library. The next mention of a public library was found in the January 13, 1922 edition of the *Sequoyah County Democrat* in an advertisement for a Community Institute to be held January 18-20. “*Public Library*” was one of the twenty subjects listed for discussion on the program. The stated objective of the Institute was to promote community welfare and was conducted by the University of Oklahoma and the A&M College (Oklahoma State). The Institute was held in the

High School Auditorium.

The Education Committee’s report of the April 1932 Chamber of Commerce meeting included the recommendation “*to procure a Carnegie Library for Sallisaw.*” The *Democrat-American* newspaper in was a big supporter of a public library as part of their platform included in every issue of the paper in 1934-35.

The *Democrat-American* reported in late

January 1935 that the Women’s Federated Club supported the creation of a community library and by the February 7th edition of the newspaper noted the Club’s “library program” for their February 11th meeting. The meeting’s program included speakers who spoke on the value of a public library to the city, its value as a recreation center, its value to the local schools and teachers, and its value to citizens. The February 21st edition of the *Democrat-American* noted

The Democrat-American Platform.

- More Paved Streets and Highways.
- Completion of Highway 17 South.
- City Park and Municipal Swimming Pool.
- Active Chamber of Commerce and closer cooperation of Business Houses for Better Service to the Public.
- Fewer Laws, Better Laws.
- New Industries.
- Enforcement of Publication Laws relative to Public Expenditures.
- Diversified Farming.
- Encouragement of Honesty and Efficiency in the Selection of Public Officials.
- Stop the Buying and Selling of Teachers' Jobs.
- Public Library.

that the Club would meet at City Hall the following Monday, “*at which time plans for the proposed public library will be submitted and discussed.*”

At this point in time the two newspapers serving Sallisaw at this time, *The Democrat-American* and the *Sequoyah County Times*, made no further reference to the Women’s Federated Club or the creation of a public library. The only reference to library news was Library Club news from the school library.

An Introduction: Let’s Get Acquainted

1. *“I am the Library. I am the store house of knowledge in this city.*
2. *I am opportunity. I am the continuation school for all.*
3. *I am a house of wisdom and an institution of happiness.*
4. *I am supported by the people for the people.*
5. *I offer the opportunity to know all there is to know about your work.*
6. *I have books of all tastes and needs, and creeds.*
7. *I am free to the public to profit from and enjoy.*
8. *I am in the care of courteous attendants whose duty is to help you profit from me.*
9. *I open my doors as a general public mental recreation ground for your leisure hours.”*

The Democrat-American
October 27, 1938

However, the November 27, 1936 edition of the *Sequoyah County Times* posted an article entitled “*Sallisaw Will Have Public Library.*” The article stated that the plans had been completed for the opening of the Sallisaw Public Library which had been made possible by a Federal government project. A committee of church women met to complete plans for the Library’s opening on Tuesday, December 1, 1936. The article requested book and magazine donations from the public.

The Library would be located in City Hall and would be open from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. daily. Books could be checked out or read at the Library, according to the article. By August 1938, District 2 Representative, Jack Nichols, announced that Presidential approval had been given for a library project for Sequoyah County with an allocation of \$8,200 in Works Progress Administration (WPA) funds. The project included both binding and repair of books for the county’s public-school libraries and the organization and operation of branch library

services in areas of the County where needed. Also, traveling libraries were to be operated over rural routes.

The WPA project began operation in the County on September 14, 1938, with four library units. One was located in Sallisaw’s City Hall. Muldrow’s was located in School Superintendent Adams’ office in the High School building. Vian’s Library was in a classroom on

the school's campus and Marble City's Library was in that community's City Hall. (Marble City's Library was not mentioned in the 1941 progress report of the WPA Libraries in Sequoyah County so its fate was not known).

On November 8, 1938 a group of Sallisaw women formed a Library Club. The only requirement was a love of good books and magazines. Their mission was to help the WPA library grow and to *"make a library that Sallisaw will be proud of."* Book reviews and regular postings of library-related articles in local newspapers appeared as early as December and continued until the end of the WPA Library Service Project.

In May 1939 a Vacation Reading Club was established in the Library. The Club was open to all, adults as well as youth. Every person who read ten books through the summer would receive a reading certificate from the State Library in the latter part of August. The proposed plan for the Vacation Club was to have 400 participants involved.

By July 1940 the *Sequoyah County Times* noted that Sallisaw's City Council voted to assist the WPA Library in securing more reading material by providing \$25. Although the news article states that the money was *"to be used in buying books along through the years,"* it wasn't exactly clear in the article if the money was a one-time allotment or a continuing one. The newspaper article noted that the Library's readership was growing rapidly. Saturday afternoon Story Hours for children (total attendance for July 1940 was 69 children) were also mentioned as were the 47 members of the Summer Vacation Reading Club. The article ended stating that the City has *"furnished housing for the Library and the American Legion also supplied a large room adjoining the Library which is used as a reading room."*

*"Books for mother,
Books for father,
Books for brother,
Books for sister,
At the city library,
Sallisaw, Oklahoma."*

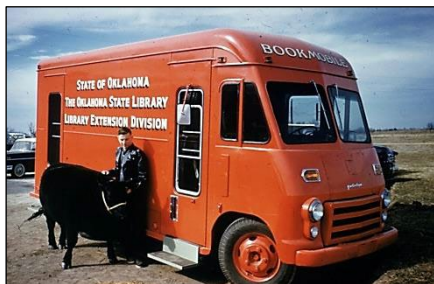
*The Democrat-American
November 3, 1938*

In 1941 the *Times* reported on the successes of the WPA libraries in Sequoyah County. According to the April 4, 1941 article over 1,000 persons had become patrons of the WPA libraries in Sallisaw, Muldrow and Vian. The Sallisaw Library had the most books at 921 and the biggest readership at 585 readers. The WPA area supervisor also reported that children were the chief beneficiaries of the County's libraries. The Sallisaw and Vian Libraries were co-sponsored by the County Commissioners and local City governments while Muldrow was co-sponsored by only the County Commissioners.

Sequoyah County's Traveling Libraries were the topic of a *Times* article in October, 1941. According to the Oklahoma Library Commission (now the Oklahoma Department of Libraries), "48 Traveling Libraries containing 1,270 books were loaned in Sequoyah County during the past year. These books served 34 school libraries, 12 communities and homes, and 2 study clubs."

By early 1943 the Works Progress Administration program ended and was totally dissolved by mid-1943. By mid-1943 Sallisaw's Library was once again in the hands of local women volunteers. Beginning August 3, 1943 the City Library was open only Monday and Friday afternoons. A Library Club made up of women of the town supplied the volunteer workers. After 1943 the Library was mentioned less and less in the *Times* and *Democrat-American* newspapers. It is unknown as to when the community's early library was no more.

The next mention of libraries relative to Sallisaw was to note in 1952 that Sallisaw and Stilwell were the only County seat towns in the six-county area that did not have a City Library. This fact was unearthed by a Chamber of Commerce committee touring five northeastern Oklahoma towns to study their city governments and found that towns like Wagoner, Tahlequah and Claremore all had made appropriations for libraries. While it would be another decade before the City committed funds for the construction of a City Complex that included a City Library, the seed was planted.



The red Bookmobile from the Oklahoma State Library that toured Sequoyah and other EOLS counties in the late 1958. (Sequoyah County Times)

By the late 1950s, public library development on the state level was increasing. The primary emphasis in the late fifties and early sixties was the development of Bookmobile service in rural areas. Esther Mae Henke, extension librarian at the Oklahoma State Library, now the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, was in charge of the Bookmobile program at the time. She would also be instrumental in the formation of EOLS and other Oklahoma Library Systems.

An article in the *Times* on December 12, 1958, discussed at length the Muskogee, Wagoner and Cherokee Counties' interest in Bookmobile service and opined how it would be "ideal" for Sequoyah County to join with these counties for library service. The article noted that the Bookmobile was in Sallisaw two weeks prior for a brief visit. The article then described the bookmobile in detail – scarlet-red color, propane heating and electric cooling, fluorescent

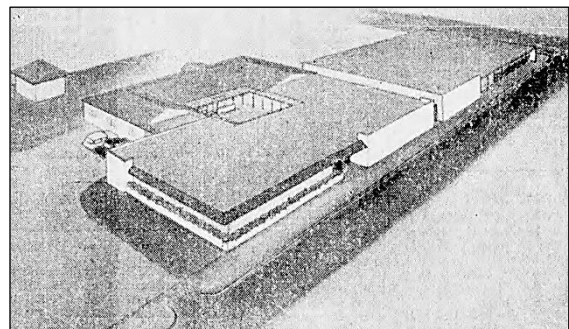
lighting, the Bookmobile's interior arrangement, volume capacity and even cost - \$10,000. (The steer not included).

Despite the *Times* enthusiasm for the Bookmobile and its possible use in Sequoyah County, it was the women of Sallisaw who again took charge to obtain a Library. In this case, it was the women in the community's three Garden Clubs who sponsored an effort in late 1959 to secure a community building that included a Library. The women filed an application with the Sears Roebuck Foundation for \$14,700 for the project. Several other local groups and individuals also supported the project. They included the Lions and Rotary Clubs, the Chamber of Commerce, Mayor, City Commissioners, City Manager, Ministerial Alliance, Onawa and Forum Clubs, American Legion, Farm Bureau, Home Demonstration Clubs and the Epsilon Sigma Alpha sorority. Only three Oklahoma projects were funded that year by the Sears Roebuck Foundation. They were in Muskogee, Tulsa and Pryor.

In July 1960 State Question 392 was put to a vote. The purpose of the Question was to change the Oklahoma Constitution to allow counties to vote for a millage to fund public libraries. The Question passed in Sequoyah County and the Question also passed state-wide by a 623 vote margin. This Question ultimately helped Sequoyah County with the arrival of EOLS in 1970.

Also, in early 1960 the Onawa Study Club agreed to co-operate with the Good Earth Garden Club to start a City Library. All other clubs were invited to donate books for the proposed library. One club member even donated office space for two afternoons each week for the Library. However, the dream that there would be a public library in Sallisaw was "shattered" two years later when at a special called meeting of the City Commissioners on February 26, 1962 disclosed that the \$3,750 in budgeted funds earmarked for the Library had been transferred into the general utility account to pay bills. The title of the article in the *Times* that reported the story was entitled "*Ladies, There Went Your Library.*"

A year later, Sallisaw voters went to the polls on February 26, 1963 and overwhelmingly approved \$125,000 worth of civic improvement bonds that included "*the construction of a civic center, library facilities, a large meeting hall, several offices and a fire station to be added to the present city hall building which will also be*



Architect Ray James and Associates' rendition of the improvements to be made to Sallisaw's Municipal Building, 1965. (Sequoyah County Times)



In 1967 the Sallisaw Jaycees committed their support to the proposed Library. At the Library's Open House the Jaycees presented Loris Dickey, Chair of the local Library Board, with a check to buy books. (Sequoyah County Times)

remodeled.” The construction project was completed in late 1965 but it would still be a couple of years before a Library in the complex would become a reality.

The ground work for the Sallisaw City Library began in mid-1965 while the City Complex was under construction. City Manager Linton Godwin invited State Library Extension Librarian, Esther Mae Henke, to present a program on May 27, 1965 in the High School Cafeteria about how an area or cooperative Library System worked and the ways in which such a System was established. At the time there were preliminary talks about a possible cooperative Library System of several eastern Oklahoma counties, including Sequoyah County. At the time the possible cooperative project was known as the Eastern Oklahoma Library Association. Ultimately, the library system that was formed was called the Eastern Oklahoma District Library System (now called the Eastern Oklahoma Library System) and Sallisaw became one of the early members. But, the priority in 1965 was to get the Sallisaw City Library established. The group met again in June 1965 to *“map out plans for the promotion of a library to be set up in Sallisaw.”*

Jumping ahead to 1967, the Sallisaw Jaycees started a book drive for the purpose of opening the City Library. A spokesperson for the Library committee of the Jaycees also stated that they also planned on building shelves and providing equipment for the books. The Jaycees also wanted the City to establish a temporary Library Board to spearhead the project.

On September 12, 1967 City officials appointed a temporary library organizing board to decide the name of the proposed Library. The Sallisaw City Library was the name selected. On September 19, Esther Mae Henke sent instructions to City Manager Shawnee Stewart on the relevant Public Library Ordinances. On September 26 the City Commissioners appointed Sallisaw's first City Library Board and empowered them *“to activate a program that would put the city's first public library into operation.”* The five member board included: Barbara Mayo, Loris Dickey, Cleo Post, Elsie Dudley and Madge Gabbard. The newly formed Library Board met for the first time within days of their appointments to begin preparations. Funding for the new Library had already been included in the last city budget.

In less than a month the board members toured similar community libraries of relatively same floor space and configuration as Sallisaw's to determine shelving arrangements and needed furniture. City employee Noah Miller began shelving construction immediately thereafter. Patricia Taylor was named the first Library employee and became the first full-time librarian on January 1, 1969. Until Taylor's official appointment as branch manager the Library Board and Friends actually worked at the Library and a training program paid for by the Community Action program provided Ms. Taylor's salary.



Patricia Taylor was the first paid employee of the Sallisaw City Library via a Community Action training program. On January 1, 1969 she became the Library's first full-time librarian. (Sequoyah County Times)

By January 1968 it was reported in the *Times* that the Library was progressing ahead of schedule and would soon open. Shelves were completed, equipment and furniture in place, the Library's workroom completed and carpet laid, books donated and purchased. The Library's opening date ultimately depended on the time needed to process and shelve the received book purchases and donations.



Two young Sallisaw ladies pose on the steps of the City Hall Complex and at the original Library's front door just inside the gates. (Library photo)



The opening date for the new Sallisaw City Library was set for Sunday, March 3, 1968. Individuals, clubs, churches and even city commissioners who contributed books, cash, labor, supplies and equipment were recognized as charter members of the Sallisaw City Library's new Friends of the Library organization for their contributions to the long-awaited library.



Local Library Board members and Mayor cut the ribbon in 1968 and the Sallisaw City Library was open to the public. Left to right: Cleo Post, Madge Gabbard, Mayor Joe Rigsby, Loris Dickey and Barbara Mayo. (Sequoyah County Times)

Throughout the rest of 1968 and 1969 individuals and clubs continued donations and fundraising for the new City Library. The Onawa Study Club conducted a large rummage sale in early 1969 with all proceeds going to the Library. A former county resident, Neome Pratt,



donated 300 books to the fledgling Library. Patricia Taylor also reported in an August 1969 *Times* article that Library usage had increased to a 1,000 circulations per month with some busy days experiencing over 100 check-outs a day. Seems the long-awaited Sallisaw City Library was proving its worth within its first two years.

In April 1970 the City Board of Commissioners signed Ordinance No 70-6 providing for library service to the city of Sallisaw, Oklahoma, *“to finance and supervise for a demonstration period of two years a multi-county library for the people of the district.”* The continued growth of the Sallisaw City Library as part of the Eastern Oklahoma Library System began April 14, 1970.

Stanley Tubbs Memorial Library – Connect @ the Library



Stanley Tubbs Memorial Library. (Library photo)

Sequoyah County was approved eligible to receive multi-county library demonstration services by action of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries Board at their regular meeting held March 6, 1970 at the State Capitol. Sequoyah County was joined by other eastern Oklahoma counties for inclusion in the next area scheduled to receive federal grant funds to begin multi-county library services. Those counties included some destined to become fellow EOLS counties – Adair, Cherokee, Delaware, McIntosh and Muskogee – as well as Mayes, Okmulgee, Rogers and Wagoner Counties. As reported in the previous section, Sallisaw City Commissioners approved Sallisaw’s inclusion in the newly forming Library System, referred to then as the Eastern Oklahoma District Library System on April 14. Libraries in the remaining four counties ultimately chose to remain independent and solely locally-funded.

By July 1970 the *Sequoyah County Times* was already reporting about the rapid growth of the newly-formed Library System with the announcement that the Adair County communities of Stilwell and Westville were approved for inclusion in the multi-county demonstration.

The article also outlined some of the conditions necessary for the continuance of each County’s participation in the System beyond the demonstration period including the requirement for each County to participate in a millage vote at the end of the two-year demonstration period. The terms of the grant also required towns to supply a building and pay the building’s utilities. The demonstration grant would provide books, staff, supplies and equipment.

Every County’s Board of Commissioners would select a County board member to represent the County and every town with a Library or every County Seat would have persons appointed to serve on the multi-county Board of Trustees. In May 1970 new local Library Board

Sequoyah County Times

“The Eastern Oklahoma county Multi-County Library system board held its first meeting at 10:30 a.m. August 8 at the Muskogee Public Library. Local members attending were Mrs. Charles Pates...representing Sequoyah County, and Mrs. Dick Mayo, representing the City of Sallisaw.”

August 13, 1970

members were elected. Barbara Mayo, one of Sallisaw's original Library Board members prior to the establishment of EOLS, retired from the local Library Board and was voted by the City Council to represent the community on the new multi-county Board of Trustees.



One of the two Bookmobiles that covered the entire six county Library System beginning in January 1971. (Library photo).



Newly-appointed EOLS Board member Barbara Mayo and Librarian Pat Taylor brought the first shipment of new books from the Muskogee Service Center, 1970. (Sequoyah County Times).

The final point in the article of special interest to Sequoyah County was the acquisition of two new Bookmobiles which would make stops every two weeks in each System county. At this point in time, the Sallisaw City Library was the County's only public library so Bookmobile service to the other Sequoyah County communities was

viewed as definite plus.

One of the first issues confronting the Library in the summer of 1970 after its acceptance into the multi-county demonstration was a lack of space and a need to expand because of the addition of books, supplies and equipment now made available to the City's Library through the new System. The Chamber of Commerce manager offered the Chamber's office in City Hall pending the move of the employment service to its new quarters so the Chamber could move into those quarters.

In November the Chamber was able to make the move allowing the Chamber's office to be remodeled into a children's reference room.

The Chamber's move came in the nick of time because in December a "carload" of 200 volumes came from the Service Center in Muskogee to add to the Sallisaw Library's collection. The new books included both adult and children's fiction and nonfiction titles.

Bookmobiles began their routes in Sequoyah County and the other System Counties on Monday, January 11, 1971 according to Jim Wilkerson, EOLS Director. Wilkerson described the Bookmobiles, their schedules, items included for both children and adults, including books, magazines, and phonograph records. He outlined the services offered including reference, 16mm films, Summer Reading Programs, children's story hours and Interlibrary Loan. He also stated

that all stops would be evaluated at the end of March to reassess service and to change schedules, if needed, to better meet the needs of rural residents.

By the end of 1971 the two years of library service in Sequoyah County as a demonstration paid for by a grant through the Oklahoma Department of Libraries was coming to an end. The time to prepare for the two-mill levy to continue library service permanently was at hand. Barbara Mayo said in a November 1971 issue of the *Times* stated, *“If the two-mill levy does not pass, the library service provided by Eastern Oklahoma District Library will stop at the end of the demonstration, period. The two bookmobiles and thousands of dollars’ worth of books, magazines, films, furniture and equipment...will be withdrawn from the county.”*

On December 12, 1971 the *Times* reported that three of the library demonstration counties – Cherokee, Delaware and McIntosh – passed their two-mill levy votes to continue library service. Adair County voters defeated their millage levy but supporters vowed to hold another election as quickly as possible. Muskogee and Sequoyah Counties were scheduled to vote on or before June 1972.

Sequoyah County’s vote was scheduled for March 7, 1972. The *Big Basin Herald* newspaper wrote articles in the February 24th and March 2nd editions supporting the millage vote for the Sallisaw Library and the Bookmobiles serving Muldrow and other rural communities. *“Approval of the two-mill library levy on March 7th will provide the residents of Sequoyah County with the most direct public library service possible.”* The millage vote passed. If the event

“Sequoyah County voters approved the library issue in Tuesday’s election. This means continued library service as well as expansion of the bookmobile program in the area.”

Big Basin Herald
March 9, 1972

of opening of the Sequoyah Public Library in May 1903 declared by *The Sallisaw Star*



O.J. Grosclaude was Sallisaw’s second branch manager, 1972-2000.

newspaper as, *“one of the most memorable in Sallisaw,”* perhaps citizens voting positively for County-wide library service could be considered the second most memorable event as far as library service for all residents.

Upon the resignation of Pat Taylor in October 1972 to take a job with the City, O.J Grosclaude became the Sallisaw’s second library branch manager. She would serve as Sallisaw’s branch manager for the next twenty-eight years.

There were regular newspaper postings of new additions to the Library's collection under the heading, *City Library Book List* later evolving into the *Sallisaw City Library News* by the year 1979.

City Library BOOK LIST

Children's story hours and Summer Reading Programs were popular even though the Library's floor space remained limited. Jim Mayo in his *Big Basin Foot Notes* column in the *Times* wrote: "I would like to nominate the ladies over at the Sallisaw Public Library for some



One of the earliest Summer Reading Program Story Hours held in the City Library, 1973. (Sequoyah County Times)

kind of award for valor. Each Wednesday they have a children's story hour....The library room isn't very large, and the number of children attending has averaged around 41, and one week more than 50 came. At the end of each week's story session the children are invited to check out books..., and most do.... It takes a lot of bravery to take on that many active kids."

Improving literacy in Sallisaw and Sequoyah County was a focus of the Sallisaw City Library, the City's schools, the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, and the Library System in the early 1980's. A "Reading Blitz" was held in early January 1980. The purpose of the "Blitz" was to raise literacy awareness and the literacy level in the area. It included two reading-based programs included under one name. Project RIF combined *Reading is Fun* and *Reading is Fundamental* programs. Designated grade levels in the public schools were able to choose paperback books to keep at various points throughout the school year. Another part of the Blitz included tutor training sessions aimed at helping functionally illiterate adults to learn to read.

In the early 1980s branch manager Grosclaude took 16mm films of interest to area audiences participating in the Sequoyah County Nutrition programs. The films were shown during a noon-time lunch programs and were well-received. While there, the branch manager shared what the Library had to offer exposing to a new underserved audience what the Sallisaw Library had to offer.



The formation of a Literacy Council was the culmination of the "Reading Blitz" sponsored by the Oklahoma Department of Libraries in early 1980. (Sequoyah County Times)

At the Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet in October 1982 an event occurred that ultimately had a tremendous impact on the Sallisaw Library. W. F. Hillebrandt, representing the Missouri Pacific Railroad, presented the Chamber with its Depot building to be used as either as a site for the Chamber's office or perhaps even for the Sallisaw Library. The Depot was built in 1912-13 at an estimated cost of \$10,000. (The Railroad through Sallisaw had been built in the late 1800s). The Railroad entered into a long-term lease agreement with the Chamber for the land on which the Depot resided. At the same meeting, Stanley Tubbs, a local business owner, was the recipient of the Chamber's first Sequoyah Award. The purpose of the newly-created award was to honor a County resident who contributed through his or her civic life, to the betterment of Sallisaw and the County.

Guess What Is

*"Free, friendly, easy to use, open
all the time, free, bright and
cheerful, for all ages, free, lively,
comfortable, free, accessible and
free
It's Your
Public Library
the
Sallisaw City Library"*

*Sequoyah County Times
December 12, 1982*

The possible opportunity to obtain a larger space for the ever-growing Sallisaw City Library was not lost on the local Library Board. At their February meeting in 1983 the Board voted to move into the Depot as soon as arrangements were finalized with City officials.

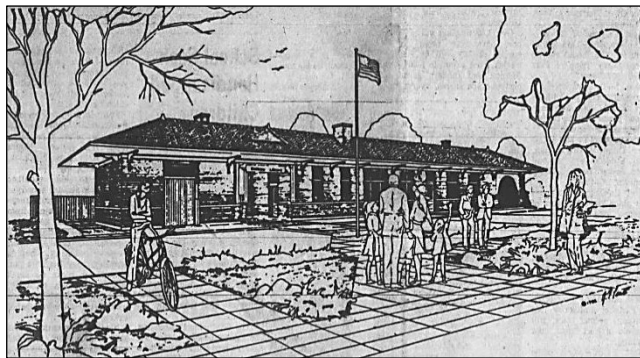
In the same *Times* article that noted the local Board's vote in favor of the Library move, the Sallisaw City Manager, Jim Hudgens, told the *Times* that remodeling costs were the main hold-up on the City accepting the Railroad's offer of the building. He told the newspaper that he would like a cost estimate before presenting a proposal to accept the Depot to the City Commission. He did say that an application had been made for a 50-50 grant. The grant would provide \$2,000 and the City would provide \$2,000 to pay for a design plan. Some of the work that was anticipated on the Depot included roof repair, heating and air-conditioning installation, and some interior wall work. He also noted that the Library System representatives with input from the State Library were also working on a floor plan that



The Badger Lee Extension Homemakers show O. J. Grosclaude, second from left, the fan quilt they planned to use as a Library fund-raising project, 1983. (Sequoyah County Times)

would include the building's requirements to serve as a functional Library. Hudgens reported that once all the cost figures were in, he would present the proposal to the City. He concluded his comments that if the City Commissioners approved the City's costs could not be figured until the new budget year.

By April 28 the City Manager was in discussion with the City Commission to select an architect to design a new Library in the Depot. And by early May, the *Times* reported that the County Extension Homemakers were making a quilt as a fund-raising project to help with the remodel of the Depot. Later in the month the City Commissioners voted to contract with John Lane and Associates of Ft. Smith, Arkansas to begin work on a design to convert the Depot into



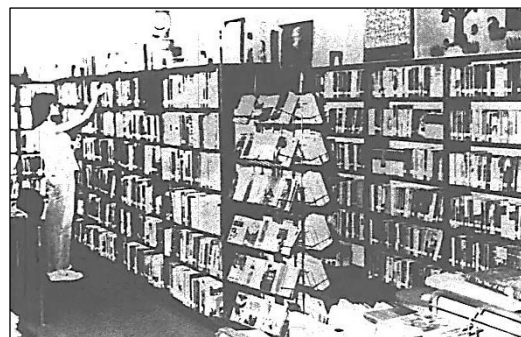
The Architect's rendition of the proposed renovation of the old Missouri-Pacific Depot into the new Sallisaw Public Library, 1983. (Sequoyah County Times)

a public library. The work would be paid for with the 50-50 match grant applied for earlier.

By late August and early September the local Library Board, branch manager and other library supporters were meeting with local organizations, clubs and individuals about fund-raising ideas for the renovation of the Depot. Ideally, the city manager was

hoping to be able to schedule a bid-opening meeting for late September with a contractor on board within 30 days to start construction. At this point the City had committed \$50,000 to the Depot renovation; the Oklahoma Department of Libraries had awarded the City a \$75,000 grant on the condition of the town raising an additional \$25,000 by December 1, 1983.

Branch manager Grosclaude explained to groups that the move to a larger location was long overdue. The move to the Depot would increase the Library's square footage from 1,000 square feet to 3,500 square feet. The additional room meant that the Library would be able to hold meetings and special events in the Library itself rather than having to use the Civic Center. The parking planned around the Depot also meant that library patrons would not have to compete with



The shelving at the original Library location in the City Hall Complex. (Sequoyah County Times)

City Complex and Civic Center event parking. Grosclaude noted that one thing she was looking forward to was that in the proposed new library “two people will be able to walk between the stacks of books as opposed the current 1 person at a time limit.” She continued by saying that in 1972 when she became branch manager, approximately 125 items were checked out on a heavy-use day. The current heavy-use check-out figure in 1983 routinely exceeded 350 items in a day.



Businessman Stanley Tubbs chaired the Library Building Fund Drive. He holds one of the posters used to advertise the fund-raising effort. He later became the namesake of the Depot turned Public Library, 1983. (Sequoyah County Times)

The Lions Club was credited as being the first organization to make a \$1,000 contribution to the Library renovation fund after Grosclaude made a presentation to the membership in late September 1983. The Club president Tom Gardner challenged other Sallisaw organizations to meet the Lions’ contribution.

Within days, the Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors agreed to support a fund-raising effort for the proposed renovation of the old Depot into the Sallisaw Public Library. Sallisaw businessman, Stanley Tubbs, was named to chair the Library Building Fund Drive. The goal was to raise a minimum of \$25,000 by December 1 as the requirement needed to match the \$75,000 grant provided by the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. More money than the \$25,000 was needed, however, to cover the projected costs from the low bid of \$163,000 provided by the selected contractor. The Library Fund

Committee set a final drive goal of \$45,000 to add to the ODL grant and the City’s contribution. The funds over the required match of \$25,000 were to be used for necessary library equipment, shelving and furniture.

The fund-raising drive formally kicked off with a breakfast at Lessley’s Café on October 17, 1983 and was set to run for two weeks, ending on October 31. Within the two-week period the committee met three times for status reports. The fund-raising drive was formed with the intent of being a total community effort, which involved as many area businesses, employees, schools and individuals as possible.



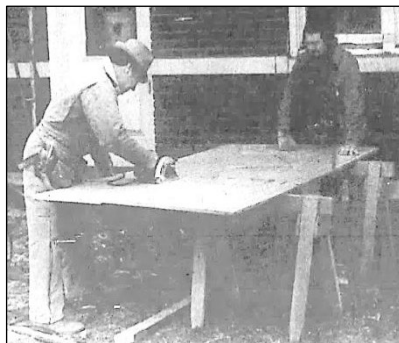
O.J. Grosclaude (center) accepted a check from the president of the Tommie Spear Junior High Student Council for the Library’s fund-raising drive, 1983. (Sequoyah County Times).



Sallisaw Middle School students presented Stanley Tubbs with \$796.62 in cash they earned for the Library fund-raising drive, 1983. (Sequoyah County Times)

Chair Stanley Tubbs was in charge of special gifts and other team members, who were mostly Chamber and Lions Club members, would approach businesses and individuals for contributions of \$1,000 or more. Those donating \$1,000 or more had a permanent name plaque placed in the renovated Library. By the October 20 edition of the *Times*, the fund-raising team already had a total of \$23,704 toward their \$45,000 overall goal. Several businesses and individuals had made \$1,000 contributions. Two local grade schools, a junior high school student council, an extension homemakers club and a garden club also made early contributions. The October 23 edition of the *Times* announced that the donation total had risen to \$29,594.

Besides the donors mentioned in *Times* news articles about the fund-raising drives, many other significant monetary gifts came from a variety of local sources. The American Legion and Auxiliary conducted a benefit bean dinner. The Dogwood Garden Club donated to the Library fund. The Sequoyah County 4H'ers and Historical Society participated. Sammy's Pizza held a fund-raising drive in November 1983 by donating \$1 to the Library fund from the sale of every large or giant pizza. Sammy himself added



Workers cut lumber for the Depot renovation, 1984. (Sequoyah County Times)

an additional \$500 to the total. Sallisaw High School's Future Homemakers of America added to the fund. The Onawa Study Club, a long-time supporter, donated the ticket proceeds from their annual Christmas Tour to the fund drive plus donating an additional \$1,000. The Badger Lee Extension Homemakers also donated \$1,000. The range and extent to which Sallisaw's citizens embraced the Library's fund drive was noted in *Times* editorials, letters to the editor and the proliferation of fund-drive posters in local businesses windows and doors.



The Depot awaits renovation. The City Commissioners voted to award the contract for the renovation January 9, 1984. (Sequoyah County Times)

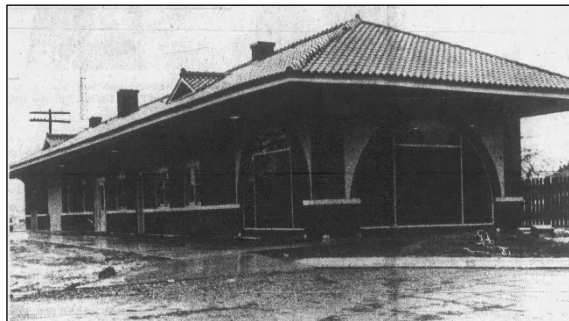
Sequoyah County Times

“Tubbs announced that the Library fund was now over \$90,000. A plaque was also displayed...donated to the library by the Lions club. The plaque, called Talking Leaves, has the names of those who donated \$1,000 or more engraved on bronze leaves. Dan Heritage donated the engraving.”

November 15, 1984



By September 1984, the Sallisaw Public Library was slowly evolving from a Depot to a Library. (Sequoyah County Times)



Almost ready! All that remained was some minor interior work and the completion of the parking lot delayed by wet weather, 1985. (Sequoyah County Times)

The fund-raising drive total announced in the November 6 edition of the *Times* was \$74,256.25, well over the \$45,000 original goal. During the waning days of the two-week drive period the Sallisaw Classroom Teachers Association, several realtors, a doctor and staff and another business and staff participated at 100 percent. Branch manager O.J. Grosclaude was quoted in the *Times* as saying, *“Had the drive stopped at the \$45,000 goal, the new library building would be a bare bones library. There would have been no extras and some of the services would have still been lacking. With the added money we’ll buy the things we have to have, then buy some of the things we would like to have.”*

On January 9, 1984 Sallisaw’s City Commission awarded the contract on the renovation of the Missouri-Pacific Depot to Brody Waterproofing of Mountainburg, Arkansas. The Commissioners also voted to transfer \$50,000 from the revenue sharing fund to the Library Construction Fund budgeted by the Commission earlier. The Department of Libraries \$75,000 grant was also available at this time. At this point, the Library Building Fund Drive account held

\$73,000, well over the \$45,000 goal set by the committee.

Interior work on the Depot began circa the week of February 13, 1984. The interior renovation focused on providing more room for shelving, equipment and furniture. Exterior work included a general renovation of the building’s exterior, the closing of some exterior doors and windows and parking.

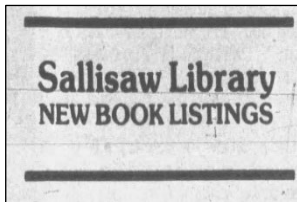
While the City Commissioners were taking care of the business and financial end of the library building project, branch manager O. J. Grosclaude announced that the Library was



On March 4, 1985 a flag-raising ceremony was held at the new Sallisaw Public Library. In the foreground, third from the left, was O.J. Grosclaude, and Sallisaw Mayor George Glenn, fifth from left. The DAV donated the flag. (Sequoyah County Times)



Siblings attended the Library's Rummage Sale in 1985. Proceeds from the Sale went toward the purchase of E-Z book shelving for beginning readers' books. Over time, book sales became a way to supplement book budgets. (Sequoyah County Times)



Armel Walden, owner of Gifford Monument Company, unveiled a Monument to Sequoyah County's war dead on the grounds of the Sallisaw Public Library on May 25, 1986. (Sequoyah County Times)

collecting labels from Campbell's Soup products to redeem for audio-visual and learning aid equipment through the company's Labels for Education Program. Along with label-collecting for audio-visual equipment, shopping and taking bids for furniture, shelving, flooring and all the needs for an expanding public library, the Sallisaw City Library continued to provide the materials, services and programs the residents had come to expect over the years. By January 1985 the Library was almost completed

pending a few minor interior details and the completion of the parking lot pending dryer weather.

The new Sallisaw Public Library opened to the public the first week of March 1985. A formal dedication was scheduled for later in May. Library staff and community alike were anxious to move into their new, larger quarters after almost a year of Depot renovation. The former location in City Hall was turned into a Municipal Court and City Commission meeting room area.

The Library was formally dedicated at an Open House on Sunday, May 19, 1985. At the celebration, the plaque that listed the \$1,000 or more donors was unveiled outside near the front doors. A special presentation honoring Stanley Tubbs, the Chair of the fund-raising drive, was also included in

the Dedication program. The final fund-raising total for the renovation was \$79,506.66. Tubbs and other fund-raising committee members received a plaque and special thanks for their commitment to the project. The employees of Colt Industries Inc. - Holley Special Products Division were acknowledged for their contribution of \$11,000 for the renovation. The Badger Lee Extension Homemakers, one of the \$1,000+ donors, provided the refreshments.

Throughout the next few years the Library was referred to either as the Sallisaw Public Library or as the Sallisaw Library. Library news articles and new book listings were printed in the newspaper under the heading of the Sallisaw Library.



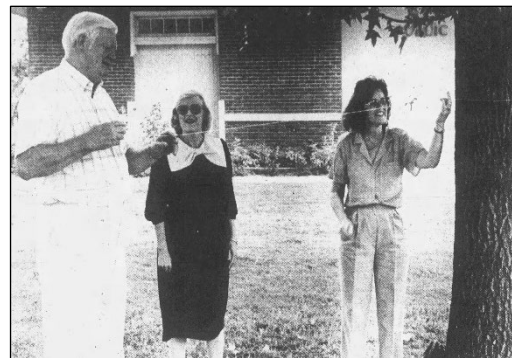
In July 1988 a historical marker was placed in front of the Sallisaw Library by the Sequoyah County Historical Society to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the City's founding. Lori Frye, the great-great-granddaughter of Argyle Quesenbury, co-founder of Sallisaw, looked on. (Sequoyah County Times)

In early May 1986 ground was broken for a Memorial to be placed in front of the Library. The Memorial was a 4-H project with assistance from the City. The Memorial honored Sequoyah County's war dead in World Wars I & II, Korea and Vietnam. It was unveiled and dedicated Sunday, May 25, 1986. Cherokee Street, the main downtown street in front of the Library, was closed to traffic to accommodate the large crowd. To date, the Library's Veterans' Monument still stands on the Library's lawn.

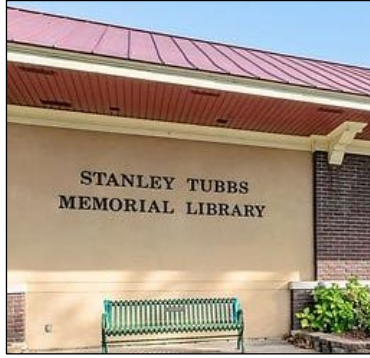
While earlier in the 1980s the Library focused on youth literacy in the *Reading Blitz* program, in October 1986 the Library became involved with the Sequoyah County Literacy Council. The Library held a Laubach Literacy training workshop from October 27th to 29th, to train volunteers to teach area adults to read and write. *"The need is great in Sequoyah County as it is in most of rural Oklahoma. We hope to help by providing tutors for one-on-one confidential assistance,"* added branch manager, O.J. Grosclaude.

The years following the Library's move to the Depot can best be described as a time of opportunity and growth for the Library. The Library's larger interior space including a meeting room, its expansive yard plus gazebo and parking area, its location on the City's main arterial street all helped the Library to become even more popular in the eyes of its citizens.

Local clubs and organizations began using the available meeting room in greater and greater numbers over time. The annual Summer Reading Programs now had room to hold both inside and outside activities. The Library, through the monies



The 16th Annual Arts & Crafts Festival included a Clothesline Art Exhibit of students' art hung on wires strung among trees on the Library's lawn. Preparing for the exhibit were, from left, Stanley Tubbs, assistant manager of the Festival, Billy Sue Taylor, of the Onawa Club, O.J. Grosclaude, chair of the planned Clothesline Exhibit, 1987. (Sequoyah County Times)



donated via the fund-raising drive and through other sources, provided audio-visual and tech equipment for use in meetings and special programs, both for adults and children. The Library was able to now participate and assist with more with already established groups and organizations as well such as the Family Alliance, various reunion groups, the March of Dimes, the Sallisaw Centennial, the Arts and Humanities Council, the Arts and Crafts Festival, the Lions and Lioness' organizations, and the annual car show, to name just a few such collaborations. The *Times*, in several of their annual special editions from this point on heralded the Library as the, "*center of area activities*" and as a place that, "*offers more than books.*"

The Library's expanded role as the new focal point in the community can best be illustrated by Sallisaw's 1986 Christmas celebration complete with the Library being adorned with custom-made lights made by a company that specialized in Christmas lighting and donated by the Downtown Merchants group. The celebration included a local church choir, the Sallisaw High School band and the lighting of the Library and the living Christmas tree on the Library grounds. In the decades since, the Christmas celebration has become an annual event with the Library remaining as the focal point. The Library as the focal point of the community's Christmas celebrations was followed by the Sallisaw Library being named the outstanding branch library of the entire EOLS system in 1986. From July 1985 to July 1986 the circulation of library materials from the Sallisaw Library had increased 27 percent which, at that time, was a record for the entire System. The Library increased in every one of the ten performance categories which indicated the performance of each Library for a year. In six of those categories, the Sallisaw Library exceeded by more than 100 percent. Programming expanded for both children and adults. There were more visits to groups and schools, more displays, more answered reference questions. The move to the renovated Depot in the spring of 1985 heralded a new beginning for the Sallisaw Library.



It became a Christmas tradition for the Library and its grounds to serve as the focal point of Sallisaw's Holiday Season. Preparing for the Christmas tree lighting became a routine job for City employees, 2008. (Sequoyah County Times)

On March 25, 1989 Stanley Tubbs, the leader of the 1983 fund drive that raised over \$90,000 to remodel the old railroad Depot died following heart surgery. On Monday, June 12, 1989 the City Commission unanimously voted to rename the Sallisaw Public Library as the Stanley Tubbs Memorial Library. Mr. Tubbs had served on the local Library Board until his death. In August, the local Library Board designated a Memorial fund for the purchase of a microfilm reader-printer in memory of the late civic leader.

The decade of the 1990s can best be described as years of belt-tightening for the majority of the libraries in the Eastern Oklahoma Library System but it was especially difficult for the Sequoyah County branches. The costs for books, periodicals, emerging technologies including computerized resources and new hardware, required personnel, benefits, etc., were all growing faster than the System's ad valorem "income" allowed. Since the creation of the System the two-mills per county earmarked for libraries allowed was expanded by statute in the 1980s to caps of four to six mills depending on population served. All EOLS counties were at the two-mill ad valorem rate except for Muskogee County. It had voted positively for four mills in late 1986.

For Sequoyah County's libraries, May 22, 1990 was set aside for a county-wide special election to increase the County's millage from two to four mills. The increase was to be used to improve services in both the Sallisaw and Muldrow Libraries and possibly to establish additional Libraries in other County communities, possibly Gore or Vian.

EOLS Director Marilyn Hinshaw and Sallisaw branch manager O. J. Grosclaude, met with Sallisaw City Commissioners in April to explain the need for passage of the two-mill



increase. The Director explained that both Libraries were understaffed and that Sallisaw's Library was the second highest-use Library in the entire system after Muskogee. She also explained that the cost of the millage increase to homeowners was minimal - \$3/year on a \$25,000 home, \$8/year on a \$50,000 home – costs equivalent to a paperback or a children's book, respectively.

It was not to be, however. Sequoyah County voters turned down the millage increase. Voters defeated the question by a vote of 671 against to 503 for. As expected, the 1991-92 book budgets were reduced, in part, because of the millage defeat. Sallisaw's Library lost its \$13,000 book budget and Muldrow's lost half of their material's budget, about \$5,000. The Library System itself also lost some of its State Aid funds, allotted on a per capita basis, because of a loss

of the overall population in the member counties which would also impact ad valorem in those counties with a population loss as well. O. J. Grosclaude told the *Times* that, “funds raised by the individual libraries, such as through the sale of donated books..., may be used to purchase new books.”

A bright spot in the first two years of the 1990s was the City’s intent to build an addition to the Stanley Tubbs Memorial Library on its north side. Bids for construction were originally published September 27, 1990. All bids were rejected because they were all too high for the allotted city budget of \$60,000 of state grant money and the \$60,000 of matching local funds.

New bids were published November 19, 1990. The second round of bids on the Library’s proposed expansion were opened by the City Commissioners the first week of January 1991. The winning bid of \$101,613 went to J. D. Stephens Construction of Muskogee.

Construction of the 1,800 square foot addition began in February 1991. Leaks that occurred in the roof and walls where the new addition met the roof of the existing building halted



The interior of the Stanley Tubbs Memorial Library. (Library photo)

construction on the addition for a time. The architects and the construction company met to assess the problem and the construction company addressed the leaks once the source was found. The purpose of the addition was to expand both the general book and genealogy collections plus adding

more seating areas.

Once again, Sequoyah County voters were asked to approve an additional two-mill levy for the County’s libraries on Super Tuesday, March 10, 1992. And, once again, voters turned the measure down with a “no” vote of 2,992 to 2,631. The rejection of the two-mill increase resulted in dire consequences for both the Sallisaw and Muldrow libraries as well as other EOLS branches that had turned down their respective mill levy votes. Reductions in branch budgets were estimated to include cutbacks in personnel, open hours, and materials (book) budgets.

As predicted, cutbacks in both the Sallisaw and Muldrow Libraries began with the Library System’s 1992-93 fiscal year. The book budget at Sallisaw’s 1 Library was cut to \$9,000, from a high of \$27,000 in 1990. At Muldrow, the book budget was cut to \$3,000 from a high of \$10,500 in 1990. The open hours at Sallisaw were cut back to 35 hours per week, a reduction

from 51 hours which also resulted in an employee salary cut and loss of a part-time employee. Children's programming was also reduced. Muldrow's Library open hours were cut 5 hours per week from 35 to 30 hours. Both Libraries also lost their equipment budgets for the year.

In 1993 the Summer Bookmobile, a joint project of both the Sallisaw and Muldrow Libraries, extended the work of the two Libraries to the County's more rural communities. Besides books and other reading materials for both children and adults, the Bookmobile also provided crafts and activities for the youth.



The Summer Bookmobile made the rounds in Sequoyah, Adair, Cherokee, Delaware and McIntosh Counties during the summer of 1993 and for several years thereafter. (Sequoyah County Times)



Barbara Mayo, Education Director of the Sequoyah County Times newspaper, helped a Summer Reading Program participant with her newspaper, 1992. (Sequoyah County Times)

Not all of the Library news in Sallisaw was gloom and doom, however. During this time frame, the *Sequoyah County Times* made the 1992 Summer Reading Program, *Summer Safari* an even more special event by helping youth age 7-12 make their own newspapers. Becky Mayo, the *Times* Director of Education Services, coordinated the program for the two Libraries. The newspaper project was so popular that it was offered during several Summer Reading Program years at both locations.

In the spring of 1994, Sallisaw's local Library Advisory Board, citing the drastically-cut book budget, scheduled an organizational meeting of a Friends of the Library group. The meeting was held March 24 in the Civic Center. In announcing a need for a Friends group, the local board noted, "*Due to the twice-failed millage vote, our funds for...the library have been cut tremendously. Our new-book budget...dropped from \$27,500 in 1990-91 to...\$7,500 in 1993-94. Consequently, circulation in January 1994 dropped to the same point as recorded in January 1984.*"

Approximately thirty attended the organizational Friends meeting. Attendees began by considering by-laws and the election of officers so that a non-profit organization could be formed. The non-profit organization papers would be filed with the state after the appointed

directors and officers completed the by-laws. The purpose of the group was to support the library in areas where funding cutbacks have had a major impact.



Library staff member Chris Loudon and O. J. Grosclaude checked out the new Dynix circulation system at the Library, 1995. (Sequoyah County Times)



Becky Mason was the Literacy instructor for Clients of the Needy Families Program. The program was funded by the Oklahoma Department of Libraries and was conducted in the Library, 1998. (Sequoyah County Times)

In February 1995 the Sallisaw Library added the *Dynix* Circulation System made possible by an anonymous donation. The System listed all the resources of not only the local library but also the resources of all the EOLS branch libraries in the six counties. The new circulation system also reduced the amount of time and paperwork library staff had to do for book searches and Interlibrary Loan requests. Library staff could now have more time available to assist patrons in person. The Library was also able to add additional open hours by using work-study students from the Sallisaw branch of Carl Albert State College.

By April 1995 the Library added *SIRS Researcher*, a computerized reference system delivered via CD-ROM and a computer work station. *SIRS* allowed access to thousands of current articles on a variety of subjects. The System was on loan pending purchase by the Friends group.

The addition of the *Dynix* automated catalog/circulation systems and the *SIRS Researcher* database trial heralded the bare beginnings of what now are considered basic expectations of the

service expected in today's public libraries.

In early 1998 the City planned a spruce-up for the Library. The fix-up included roof repairs, interior and exterior painting, and new carpeting in the original part of the building. This was the building's first freshening-up since the Depot's renovation in the 1980s and the north side addition in 1991.

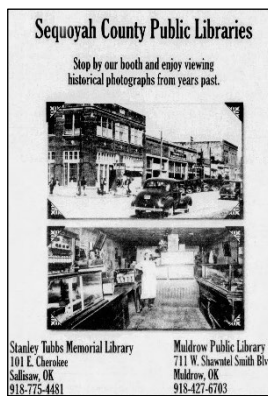
In the fall of 1998 a new Literacy program for the clients of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services Temporary Assistance to Need Families was underway at the Library. A \$10,688 grant from the Literacy Resource Office of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries was awarded to the Sequoyah County Literacy Council. The Grant's purpose was to teach adults how to read and write.



Bethia Owens, Muldrow's branch manager, also became the Stanley Tubbs Memorial Library's branch manager in 2002. (Library photo)

In 2002 Bethia Owens, the Muldrow Public Library's branch manager became the Library System's first shared branch manager when she was also made the Stanley Tubbs Memorial Library's branch manager. Since then, there have been shared branch managers among the smaller EOLS branches in Muskogee, Adair, Delaware and Cherokee Counties but Sequoyah County has the distinction of having the first shared branch manager.

Beginning with her tenure in Muldrow, Owens had implemented two methods to bring that Library's news events and information to the public. Pictures of children participating in various library programs and activities were featured regularly on the *Sequoyah County Times Activity Calendar* page that carried county-wide events, programs and meetings of the County's non-profit agencies and organizations. When she became branch manager in Sallisaw she expanded the pictures to include children participating in events at the Stanley Tubbs Library as well.



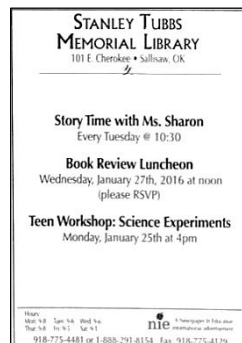
An example of a Library announcement for the Stanley Tubbs Library. The notices would change formats over time but would always serve to keep the community abreast of events and programs before the days of social media, 2010. (Sequoyah County Times)

Along with the children's participation photos on the *Times' Area Calendar* page, notices of current and upcoming events at both Sequoyah County Libraries were posted in every edition of the newspaper. These regular notices were eye-catching and helped keep both Libraries in the public's eyes.

Oklahoma's 2007 Centennial year was the backdrop for the Sallisaw Diamond Daze Centennial Festival held in May. Sallisaw's celebration was chosen by the State as an official Centennial event. It gave the Sallisaw and Muldrow Libraries the opportunity to participate fully. Both Libraries showcased exhibits of photos from the 1900s to current times with the purpose of showcasing Sequoyah County's history.



A City employee checked on the Centennial Clock installed on the Library's lawn as part of the State's Centennial in 2007. (Sequoyah County Times)



The City of Sallisaw was also the recipient of an Oklahoma Centennial Clock which was placed on the Library's front

lawn. The clock was obtained through a grant from the Oklahoma Centennial Commission with the City and the Chamber of Commerce splitting the costs.

Along with its centralized location in town, the Library's spacious, tree-studded lawn also played and continues to play an important role in the Library's popularity and its importance to the community. Besides library-sponsored programming, organizations like the Chamber of Commerce, Main Street and Veteran's groups used



Recently published members of the Just Write Club met regularly at the Library, 2008. (Sequoyah County Times)

and still use the Library's lawn for a variety of festivals, holidays, observances, pop-up shops and for social awareness issues such as domestic violence and smoking cessation among others. People who may not routinely use the Library or who live in other Sequoyah County communities have opportunities to see what the Library has to offer by attending such events.



Sallisaw's local heroes – the police, sheriff and fire departments, EMS and Highway Patrol – always answered the Library's call for programs and demonstrations as part of the Summer Reading Program, 2009. (Sequoyah County Times).

The list of programs, classes, displays, exhibits, workshops, and programs conducted by the staff of the Stanley Tubbs Memorial Library and others continued to expand well into the 2000s. Besides the established and popular Summer Reading Programs, book reviews, meet the authors/book signings, and other related events, the Library offered workshops and classes on a variety of topics, included but not limited to, the following:



photography, first aid, knitting, beginning genealogy, line dancing, senior citizen health, wellness and safety classes, bee-keeping, sewing, CPR, online databases, apps, tax preparation, email and social media, Tai-Chi and chair exercises to name only a few.

As 2008 drew to a close, options for a new Library roof were considered by the local Library Board and the City Commissioners. Water was coming in under the north wall and in other areas. All the leaks, regardless of their origin, caused insect infestations, dampness and mildew. The red Spanish tile roof was original to the building. The building itself was believed



With the NTIA grant, library users experienced an increase in online access speed, 2010. (Sequoyah County Times)

to have been built in either the late 1800s or early 1900s. It was hoped that the old tiles could be replaced by new tiles to protect the building’s historic look. It was not to be, however. The first round of bids opened in May 2009 was rejected because of the cost, but the second round bid was accepted in August. The cost of the tile turned out to be prohibitive and instead a red metal roof was deemed acceptable by both the City and Library Board.



Main Street members get ready for the first annual Bluegrass and Barbecue Festival to be held in April on the Library’s lawn, 2012. (Sequoyah County Times)

In mid-summer 2010 the Stanley Tubbs Memorial Library was one of 25 Oklahoma public libraries that received a grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) for the purpose of providing network connections to increase broadband speeds from 10-45 mbps.

In April 2011 the Main Street organization hosted a free evening bluegrass concert on the Library’s lawn as part of the organization’s fund-raising projects to restore the downtown historical district. From that humble beginning in 2011, Main Street began in 2012 to host the annual Bluegrass and Barbecue Festival on the Library’s lawn that continues to the present time.



Ben Kiger painted the 14 Flags over Oklahoma horse commissioned by the Main Street organization in 2012. (Sequoyah County Times)

Another Main Street Project in 2012 the installation of an artistically painted horse statue. The purpose of the statue, according to Main Street members,

was to have something fun to bring people downtown. The Library’s lawn was the perfect location for what the group believed would be the first horse for the Community’s Art Project. The fiberglass horse was six feet tall, eight feet long and 20 inches wide. Students of the Environmental and Spatial Technology program at Indian Capital Technology Center’s Sallisaw Campus created four to five designs for the Main Street members to choose from. The final choice was Colt Wright’s design of “14 Flags Over Oklahoma”. The horse continues to



welcome people to the Stanley Tubbs Library.

While the Library's lawn still continued to be a center of Community and Library activities in its own way, the Library itself continued to serve the Community with new services and programs throughout the remainder of the decade into 2020 and beyond. Downloadable audio and e-books became available to the community in the second half of 2012. In prior years CDs and VHS media, large print books, public access computers, the Internet had already changed the face of library service in America's public libraries.



Sallisaw Teen Book Club members discuss the book, Twilight, over slices of pizza and soft drinks, 2010. (Sequoyah County Times)



Members of the Teen Read program visited the Cherokee Nation as part of a program series about different cultures. They learned how to play Cherokee marbles and sampled grape dumplings, 2013. (Sequoyah County Times)

Until relatively recently in library history teens have been a mostly overlooked demographic. There were children's and adult's sections in libraries but no teen areas. In more recent years libraries have begun to provide resources targeted to teens. Sallisaw's Library was no exception. In Sallisaw there was a concerted effort to provide teen programming. Area teens and pre-teens as part of the Teen Read program held a four-part program called, "Our Culture, Our Food and Our Folklore" in the summer/fall of 2013. The program looked into the stories, games and foods from different cultures, including the local Cherokee Nation as well as that of cultures outside the United States. Activities of the group weren't always strictly educational, however. Karaoke parties were also known to be scheduled for the enjoyment of the teens.

Anyone who has seen *The Grapes of Wrath* movie knows that the opening scene shows a Sallisaw road sign. Both the book and the movie have been synonymous with Sallisaw since the 1930s. In the 1990s Sallisaw was home to a *Grapes of Wrath* Festival that eventually died for lack of interest. Historically, Sallisaw and eastern Oklahoma were actually not part of the Dustbowl although it is true that many people from eastern Oklahoma did make the trip to California because of economic hardships brought about by the Great Depression.



Sallisaw's Grapes of Wrath display in 2013. (Sequoyah County Times)

Both Sequoyah County Libraries have taken the opportunity to have several Steinbeck and *Grapes of Wrath* displays, discussions and programs over the years. At one time both libraries won a federal humanities grant for a special *Grapes of Wrath* program held at both locations. In 2013 in conjunction with the 75th anniversary of the novel, the Sallisaw Library invited those residents with memories and tales of the Great Depression era to relate those tales at a beans and cornbread luncheon at the Library on October 4.



Fifty+ people attended the meal of beans and cornbread at the kick-off of the Steinbeck Center's retracing of the Joad family's trek to California, 2013. (Sequoyah County Times)

Attending the October 4 luncheon were people from the National Steinbeck Center. The group planned on documenting their trip from Sallisaw to Weedpatch Camp, California that would be shown during a Festival being held at the Steinbeck Center in May 2014 to commemorate the book's anniversary. Also in attendance at the luncheon were people from the Oklahoma Oral History Research Program at Oklahoma

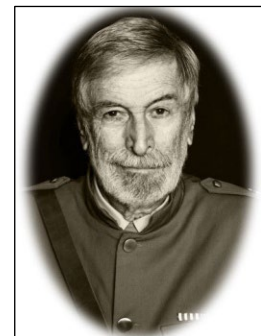


During a True Grit book review and luncheon in 2014 Bethia Owens (right) presented Linda Copeland (left) with a first place award in a related photo contest, 2014. (Sequoyah County Times)

State University. They took the opportunity of the event to record stories from area residents about their recollections of the 1930s.

Over the years, history has been a popular topic at the Sallisaw Library for presentations, book review series, programming, displays and other Library and non-Library events. Two programs in 2014 illustrate that fact. In March as part of the Library System's "Salute to True Grit" celebration, the Library hosted a virtual tour and chat with Judge Isaac C. Parker who presided over the Federal Court of the Western District of Arkansas from 1875-96. Also, as part of the True Grit series there was a photo exhibition/contest and a meal of beans, greens and cornbread at a luncheon held a month earlier in February.

In December 2014 the Library presented a program on World War I, the "war to end all wars" on the 100th anniversary of the start of hostilities that lasted four years and cost thousands of lives. Along with slides, maps and artifact facsimiles of the time, John Hinkle, ODL



John Hinkle, former ODL consultant, master puppeteer and reenactor, portrayed a WWI general at a Library program on December 29, 2014, the 100th anniversary of the start of WWI. (Photo courtesy of www.johnhinkle.net)

consultant, donned the uniform of a World War I general and shared stories of how three cousins, the Kaiser of Germany, the Czar of Russia and the King of England dragged France, the United States and others into the conflict.

In January 2015 the Library put a call-out in the *Times* about a meeting to discuss the possibility of once again organizing the Friends of the Library group. The president of the Library's advisory board told the newspaper that there were a number of chores, big and small, that volunteers could do to help from straightening books, fundraising and even landscaping the lawn. By the fall the newly reorganized Friends had teamed up with Mazzio's Pizza with a fundraising plan. In 2018 the Cherokee Nation donated \$1,000 to the Friends. In 2020 the Friends began a fund-raising campaign for a new digital information sign to be placed near the Library's front entrance. Money raised by the Friends since its reorganization had been used for library equipment, supplies and programming not otherwise available in local, system or state funding avenues.

In 2015 and 2016 youth-oriented technology programs took center stage at the Library. In 2015 the Library received a \$4,200 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services administered through the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. The purpose of the grant was to help increase STEM programs for area youth.

In 2016 the Tulsa Mobile Flight Night Fabrication Laboratory or LabFab was welcomed to the Library. Thirteen 5th through 9th graders participated in a three hour hands-on workshop focused on teaching the basic tenants of digital fabrication. During the workshop, students were introduced to many aspects of physics, chemistry and engineering by creating their own etched light sculpture.



Students try out LEGO EV3 and LitBits Electronics provided by the Institute for Museum and Library Services grant to help increase STEM programs for area youth, 2015. (Sequoyah County Times)

Once again in 2017 the Chamber of Commerce found another way to utilize the Library's lawn. In the summer the Chamber promoted "Thursday Night Local" which included arts and crafts, barbeque, vendors and a movie showing after dark on the Library's lawn. The Chamber also sponsored the "Pop-Up Prairie Days" in the fall with flea market items, food vendors, crafters and retail items. Also in October, the Main Street organization sponsored "Cruizin'64" in the street in front of the Library as well pop up vendors, music, vintage cars, a chili cook-off,



City employees remodeled the Library's entrance for better handicapped accessibility, 2020. (Sequoyah County Times)

and a carnival on the Library's lawn. "Cruizin'" and "Pop-Up Prairie Days" were also held in 2018. As 2020 grew closer the use of library technology became more common and available at the Library for adults and children to use. By mid-summer 2018 additional educational databases for students and parents were added such as *ABC Mouse*, *Learning Express* and *Britannica School*. Along with the databases, Family Literacy nights

were implemented to explore the available educational databases and their offerings. Playaway Launchpad tablets were also available for children to checkout. The Playaways were preloaded with high-quality learning apps for children age 3-10.

In 2019 the Library participated in the *Every Child Ready to Read @ Your Library* workshops that showed parents and caregivers easy-to-use practices to develop language and other early literacy skills to children age birth to 5 years. The addition of these educational databases and early literacy workshops were helpful in improving the County's overall literacy rate by addressing the issue early in a child's life.

The Stanley Tubbs Memorial Library started the year 2020 as it always did with a plan for another successful year serving the people of Sequoyah County. As was true with all the EOLS libraries, in mid-March the Covid-19 pandemic closed the Library doors while the System addressed issues of public health concerns balanced with staff safety. On the plus side City employees took the Library's closure as an opportunity to do some necessary repairs in the empty building including the installation of new handicapped accessible front doors.

To be continued....

Introduction to Cherokee County Libraries



Cherokee County has two EOLS branch libraries. The Tahlequah Public Library holds the distinction of being one of the two oldest libraries in the System. Tahlequah's Library was established in 1905 when Tahlequah Board of Trade members applied to the Andrew Carnegie Foundation for funds to build a Library. The Tahlequah Carnegie Library became a part of the EOLS multi-county library demonstration in 1971. In 1977, a new Library was built adjoining the original Carnegie Building to meet the needs of the growing Tahlequah community. The original Carnegie Building was then renovated to become the Library's meeting and activities room.

The Hulbert Public Library became a part of the System in the late 1990s. It was one of the last small community libraries to become part of EOLS. The Library was originally created by a group of civic-minded women in the 1980s and was first located in a house that one of the women owned. It was staffed by volunteers with a book collection consisting of donations. In early 1991 the women approached the EOLS Board with their desire to have Hulbert become a branch library. At the time the discussion was tabled. Not to be deterred, the group approached the Board in 1995 and then again in the fall of 1996. Finally, Hulbert became part of EOLS in 1996. The first Hulbert Friends of the Library group was created shortly thereafter. The Group's first goal was to raise funds to buy land and build a library building. In 2007 the dream of Hulbert having a free-standing, city-owned, EOLS branch library for their community was fully-achieved by a tenacious group of women who wouldn't accept "no" as an answer.



Introduction to Hulbert

Hulbert is a small, rural community located in Cherokee County. It lies on Highway 51 between the larger communities of Wagoner to the west and the Cherokee County seat, Tahlequah, east of Hulbert.

Hulbert's origin is the stuff of legend. The community was named after Benjamin H. Hulbert, a trapper and hunter from Kentucky. Hulbert married a Cherokee woman and built a

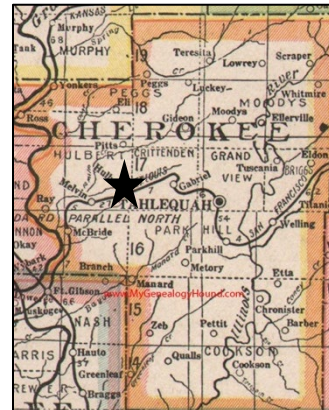
store/trading post on her land allotment situated west of the Double Spring Creek area circa 1888. As happened with many early Oklahoma communities, the town was relocated to its current location in the early 1900s, closer to the nearest railroad. The first post office was established in 1903. Soon after the move, Hulbert became a prosperous community that included hotels, cotton gins, a blacksmith, feed mill, livery stable, dry goods stores, restaurants, phone office, doctor's office, a bank, schools, and churches.

The combination of the Depression in the 1930's, the Railway's decision to discontinue passenger and freight service in the 1940's, and the building of Ft. Gibson Dam in the 1940s-50s, all negatively impacted the Hulbert

Community and its population began to decline.



In 1965, Hulbert's citizens voted to incorporate and became a Certified City in 1996. These actions facilitated needed civic and economic growth in the area. Currently, there is a volunteer fire department, a senior citizen's center, new businesses and city parks, police station, health clinic,



The Hulbert Community today. (Google Images).



Benjamin H. Hulbert, 1861-1950, considered to be the founder of Hulbert. (<https://findagrave.com/memorial/122570334/benjamin-h-hulbert>)



Our Lady of Clear Creek Abbey. (Google Images).



Dr. Barbara Staggs, 1940-2014. (Google Images)



Ryan Dirteater, 1989-. (Google Images)

public library, regional water and electric offices, and a K-12 school system among other growth indicators. The eventual growth of Ft. Gibson Lake’s recreational potential, renovations of Sequoyah State Park, including Western Hills Lodge and Three Forks Nature Center, and the Illinois River recreational areas have all helped to stabilize the Hulbert area population over the ensuing years. Hulbert’s first federal census in 1970 recorded 505 residents. The most current census figures for 2020 list Hulbert as having a population of 483.

In 1999 Our Lady of Fontgombault in France located in

the Tulsa diocese became Our Lady of Clear Creek Abbey located north and west of Hulbert by 2010. The Abbey is a self-contained contemplative order of less than one hundred monks, devoted to silence and solitude.

Even a small community like Hulbert has a couple of notables who have called it home. Muskogee educator, School Superintendent, and Oklahoma District 14 State Representative from 1996-2006, Dr. Barbara Staggs, was born in her grandmother’s house in Hulbert before making a name for herself in Oklahoma K-12 education and in state government. She was recognized in 1990 as an Oklahoma Library Legend by the Oklahoma Library Association’s Centennial Project. The project identified 100 Oklahomans who made significant contributions to the development of Oklahoma’s libraries – especially those in rural areas.

Professional Bull Rider Ryan Dirteater also calls Hulbert home. He retired from bull riding in 2020 in his 30s to become a mentor to the next generation of professional bull riders. He was and continues to be a friend of the Hulbert Community Library.

Hulbert Community Public Library – A Community of Family and Friends

The only mention of a public library in relation to the Hulbert community was a *News Brief* in the *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* in March 1970. Since the *News Brief's* original purpose was to highlight a college student from Stilwell; there weren't any details or follow-up as to the Library Club's or VISTA's success in establishing a library in Hulbert. The Volunteers in Service to America program was founded in 1965 and still exists today but was at its peak prior to 1993, as an anti-poverty program. Throughout the 1970s, the Stilwell newspaper reported on several VISTA-related programs serving not only the Stilwell area, but also in surrounding counties and communities, but no additional information about the proposed public library project for Hulbert was found.



Hulbert Library is haunted by a ghost Library staff refer to as Mr. T. Mr. T's unfinished house once stood where the Library now stands. Mr. T has been known to push books off shelves, lock doors and otherwise cause mischief. (EOLS Video)

What is known, however, is that in the 1980s a group of women from the community started the Hulbert Community Library. Many of these same women pictured, excluding guests

Stilwell Student Help (sic) Set Up Library

“Miss Marcia Padgett, a Junior at Northeastern State College, Tahlequah, is helping set up a public library at Hulbert.

Miss Padgett, from Stilwell, was among the college's Library Club members who went to Hulbert to help VISTA workers set up the library.”

*Stilwell Democrat-Journal
March 5, 1970*

and library staff, also belong to the Hulbert Women's Club established in 1937. This core group of women has had a hand in just about every project to improve the Hulbert community.

The Library began in a home on 6th Street owned by one of the Club women. The Library was operated by volunteers and the core of its beginning book collection came from the closing of Flaming Rainbow University located near Stilwell. Donations further added to the Library's collection over time.

Fast-forwarding to the early 1990s, EOLS Board Minutes noted that the first meeting concerning Hulbert's desire to have a branch library was held in Tahlequah in September 16, 1991. Those in attendance included Cherokee County Commissioners, Hulbert and Tahlequah



Friends and Guests of the Hulbert Library in 2017 included (L-R): Front Row: Ryan Dirteater, Mamie Hall, and Hulbert Mayor Shirley Teague. Back Row: Lillian Gambill, Lisa Schluns and Terry, Reta Meyers, Jill Haynes, Donna Shade Brown, Jan Stauss, Pam Davis, and Blaise Glory. (Library photo)

school librarians, the Tahlequah branch manager, State Senator Herb Rozell, State Representative Bob Ed Culver and representatives from Hulbert’s City government. It was determined that there was a lack of adequate revenue to continue the discussion at that time.

In April 1995 Hulbert Library supporters presented another library branch request to the EOLS Board of Trustees. In May 1995 the supporters asked for four percent of the Cherokee County ad valorem to fund the proposed Library. A proposed contract between Cherokee County, Hulbert City and the Library System was presented to the Board. The contract was tabled by the Board in June 1995 but they later accepted the contract for a new Hulbert Branch Library from the Cherokee County Commissioners in July 1995.



The 2018 Incredible Hulbert Library staff included (L-R): Kayla Rooster, Cherokee Lowe and Pam Davis. (Library photo)

In October 1996 the EOLS Board met at the Hulbert Library. The Board accepted the latest contract between Hulbert City and the System in September 1996, completing the triad of commitments needed to become a member of the EOLS.

Shortly thereafter, the Library was moved out of the house into a rented building space at 118 East Main Street. The same group of women who started the original library created Hulbert’s first Friends of the Library group. Their primary mission from the beginning was to raise funds to buy land and build a new library building.



Andrea Sizemore (1996-2000) was the first Hulbert branch manager of record. She served as manager from 1996 to 2000. After Sizemore’s tenure, the Library had two branch managers between the years, 2001-2004. In 2005 Hulbert became a sub-unit of the Tahlequah Library in an effort to assist with staffing and resource issues. In 2008 the Small Branch Library Coordinator experiment was launched in hopes of providing the small Haskell, Hulbert, and Kansas Community Libraries with more stable staffing. Susan Engelman

served from 2008-2010 and Kathleen Ryan served from 2010-2012. Finding qualified, dedicated staff in the smaller branches has continued over the years with varying degrees of success.

Grants have played an important role in the Hulbert Library over the years. Examples included a \$14,000 grant from Southwestern Bell in the fall of 2004 that provided the Library with computers and scanning



equipment. The Dollar General Literacy Foundation awarded a \$3,000 grant in the summer of 2015 to help support summer literacy and to assist with aspects of the Library's Summer



Reading Program activities. According to Cherokee Lowe, Hulbert's branch manager from 2013-2021, *"Our programs give children the opportunity to stay connected to reading over the summer in a way that's fun and rewarding."*

Other grantees that have helped with the Library's Summer Reading Programs and other activities include the Bank of Cherokee County, Lake Region Electric Cooperative, the Cherokee Nation and the NEO Health Clinic.



The Friends of the Library were also responsible for the creation of Memorial Park across the street from the Library. (Library photo)

Perhaps the most notable grant gift happened in the fall of 2007 when a Cherokee County Commissioner offered the Friends of the Library that if they could get the land, the Commissioners had REAP grant funds available to build a new Library. At the same time, Melinda Webb, a Hulbert library assistant, sold the house she just moved out of on 210 North Broadway to the Friends group. The Library's ground breaking

was held in the fall of 2007. Construction of the proposed 4,500 square foot building officially



Hulbert's City Park is a great place to hold Summer Reading Programs and other Library-sponsored activities or to celebrate holidays and special Community events. (Library photo)

began in March 2008 and was completed by the first of December. The Hulbert Library officially opened its doors right before Christmas 2008, a welcomed gift to the Community. The Grand Opening of the Hulbert Community Library was held on January 16, 2009.

In the winter of 2011, the Library was closed temporarily because of a concern about the weight of snow and ice on the Library's roof after a forecasted overnight and day snowstorm. The call to close was made by the Cherokee County District 2 County Commissioner who wanted the Library closed until District 2 employees could remove the snow and ice from the roof. Some ceiling tiles in the library were later replaced because



Basic car maintenance and tire care was just one of many programs offered in 2019. (Library photo)



The City Park is also a great place for the Library's Halloween Trunk or Treats and costume contests. (Library photo)



Library patrons enjoyed the chili offerings at the Library's 2017 Chili Cook-Off. (Library photo).

of the snow and ice damaging the roof and gutters. The books, movies, computers and other interior items were covered with plastic as an added precaution during the Library's closure. As soon as the ice and snow were removed, the Library re-opened a few days later after the winter storm passed.

After their goal of obtaining a new building for the Library, the Friends group turned their attention to the establishment of the Hulbert Memorial Park across the street from the Library. The Hulbert City Park, whose creation is due in large part to Mayor Shirley Teague, is located about six blocks east of the Library. The Park serves as a gathering place for Summer Reading Program activities – especially those with live animals or anticipated large crowds – and for special occasions and Community events, such as Halloween and Trunk or Treat activities.

In 2012 the Hulbert Library had a very special visit by the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus Ambassadors of Laughter, clown couple Dave and Cherie Gregg. The couple read Dr. Seuss' book, *"If I Ran the Circus."* According to the clown Ambassadors, *"the Reading with Ringling Brothers program was one of the ways the Circus gave back to the communities that it performed in. Kids who participated in the program earned a chance to win free ticket to the circus held in Tulsa by simply reading books."*

To participate, children aged 2 to 12 enrolled with the Hulbert Library staff. If they read five books, they would get a free ticket to the circus with one paid adult. The year 2012 was the third year the Hulbert Library participated in the program to the delight of area children.

The level of creativity and the number and quality of activities offered by the Hulbert Library over the years would belie the size of the community. Besides having the ambassadors from a nationally-known circus and system-wide Summer Reading Programs on tap for the community, library staff has provided Fall



One never knew when or where spooky old Shelly and Bruce would show up at the Library. (Library photo)



Library staffer, Pam Davis, manned the Library's table at the Hulbert Public Schools' 2016 annual Open House. (Library photo)



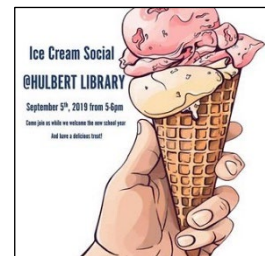
The Library's STEM and STEAM classes in 2017 were very popular. (Library photo)

and Spring Break activities as well as participating in the annual Hulbert Public Schools Open House activities in August, book clubs for adults and youth alike, story times, Touch a Truck and basic car and tire maintenance classes for teens, Adult and Kids' Crafts, Kayla's Teen Cooking Club, sewing classes for adults and youth alike, a Lego Club, Beading classes, Trunk or Treat in the Park, STEM and STEAM projects, Teen Cosplay Book Club, Glass Etching, Pinterest Club, Ice-Cream Socials, and Chili Cook-Offs, to name but a few. The Library has also participated in City-

held events, manned booths and tables at community groups and organization events. They even participated in annual Christmas parades and won the parade trophy one year. It's also important to include the input of Skelly Story, Bruce Booksworth, Mr. Finn and Fred in the Library's successful outreach to young and old alike.

Last, but certainly not least, the Hulbert Friends of the Library formed all those years ago, was the real reason Hulbert has a Library to be proud of. It was a group of women who wanted their little town to survive and felt it deserved a Library no matter their town's size. Over the years since the Library was built, the Friends have worked with other civic-minded individuals to improve other aspects of the Hulbert Community. Besides providing the Library and the Memorial Park across the street from the Library, another such project

was with the public schools to renovate a historic school building into an Auditorium and Community Building. In a cooperative agreement, the Friends used Cherokee Nation Community and Cultural Outreach grant money of \$60,000 with Hulbert Schools covering the remaining costs for the \$150,000 project in 2012. According to Mammie Hall, a board member of the Friends of Hulbert Library, *"Renovating this building benefits every Hulbert citizen. The school has more room for activities, and our community now has a place to gather."* The Hulbert community is a community of family and friends.





Fred the Shark pointed out the Library's new books on the Library's social media pages. (Library photo)



L-R) Library Friends Blaise Glory, Mamie Hall and Ruth Womack; along with School Board member, Matt Meredith; Friends' member, Charles Lile; Cherokee Nation Tribal Councilors David Walkingstick and Tina Glory-Jordan; and Hulbert School Superintendent, Dr. Marilyn Dewoody, stand in the kitchen of the newly renovated Community Center. (Library photo)



Doesn't everyone in 2019 have a Christmas tree that included a T-Rex tree topper? (Library photo)



Mr. Finn was especially popular during the pandemic months at the Library when parking lot drop-offs and pick-ups were the norm. (Library photo)

To be continued....

Introduction to Tahlequah



Tahlequah is the County Seat and largest town in Cherokee County. Tahlequah's history is deeply intertwined with the history of the Cherokees as they arrived in Indian Territory from their southeastern homelands at the end of the Trail of Tears. Tahlequah was established as the Capital of the Cherokee Nation in 1839. It is the oldest municipality in the State by virtue of an incorporation act by the Cherokee National Council in 1843, more than fifty years before Oklahoma gained statehood in 1907.



Street signs in Tahlequah are in both English and Cherokee. (Google Images)



Illinois River, Cherokee County, Oklahoma. (Google Images)



People come from far and wide to float the clear, cool waters of the Illinois River. (Google Images)

Like all the EOLS counties bordering neighboring Arkansas, Cherokee County's terrain is predominantly hilly as part of the Ozark Foothills. Tahlequah is centered in the middle of the Illinois River Valley with Ft. Gibson and Tenkiller Lakes close by. Both provide beautiful scenery and recreation for residents and tourists alike.

According to legend the origin of the name, Tahlequah, comes from the Cherokee word "Ta'ligwu" meaning "just two" or "two is enough". The "just two" phrase referred to a meeting held shortly after the Trail of Tears. Three tribal elders had planned to meet to determine the location of the Cherokee Nation's permanent capital. Two of the three elders arrived and after waiting for the third elder until dusk decided that "two was enough" to make the determination as to the capital's location.

More likely it is believed that the town's name originated from the ancient southeastern U.S. Cherokee town of Great Tellico, the English spelling of the Cherokee word, "Talikwa", which some have traced to the word "tel-quah" interpreted as "plains".



The Female Seminary in Tahlequah built to replace the original built in 1887 in Park Hill. (<https://www.waymarking.com> photo)



Three columns from the original twelve that once encircled the Cherokee Female Seminary built in 1889 remained on the campus of NSU until the early 1970s. (Google Images)



NSU's Seminary Hall, a reminder of the emphasis the Cherokee Nation placed on education. (Northeastern State University photo)



The W.W. Keeler Tribal Complex in Tahlequah is the hub of Cherokee Tribal government. However, there are many sub-offices and service sites throughout the fourteen county Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. (www.cherokee.org)

Education was an important element in Cherokee society, then and now. Schools began opening in the town and county as early as 1845. Higher education became a reality with the establishment of the Cherokee Male and Female seminaries in 1851.

The original Female Seminary in Park Hill

burned in 1887, and was rebuilt and reopened in Tahlequah in 1889. Shortly after Oklahoma Statehood in 1907, the Female Seminary became Northeastern State Normal School and is known today as Northeastern State University (NSU). NSU's Seminary Hall, the focal point of the campus, is the last remnant of the second Female Seminary. Three stone columns from the original twelve that once encircled Seminary Hall are all that remain of what was re-built in 1889. For many decades, the three columns remained on NSU's campus. In the early 1970s, the Cherokee National Historical Society restored the columns and moved them back to Park Hill to the Cherokee Heritage Center.

By 2000 the Cherokee Nation employed more Tahlequah citizens than any other entity. Northeastern State University is the community's second largest employer. Health care, social services and tourism are also important contributors to the County's



economy. In 1920 the population of Tahlequah was approximately 2,000. The 2020 census figures for Tahlequah were 16,209, making Tahlequah the second largest town in the EOLS service area.

Notables who have called Tahlequah home included, among others: Wilma Mankiller, the first female Principal Cherokee Chief. She served as Chief for ten years from 1985 to 1995. She was inducted into the National



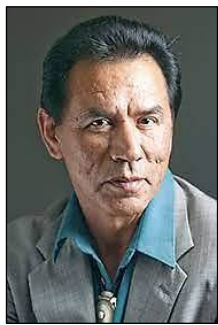
Wilma Mankiller, 1945-2010.
(Google Images)

Women’s Hall of Fame in 1993 and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Bill Clinton in 1998. Her autobiography, *Mankiller: A Chief and Her People*, was published in 1993.



Bill John Baker, 1952-
(Google Images)

Another long-time Tahlequah native that served as Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation was businessman Bill John Baker who served as Chief from 2011 to 2019. Prior to being Chief, Baker spent twelve years on the Cherokee Tribal Council. As the son and grandson of educators, he made education a top priority during his tenure.



Wes Studi, 1947-
(Google Images)

Native American actor and musician, Wes Studi, was born in a small community near Tahlequah called Nofire Hollow. Studi spoke only Cherokee prior to attending grade school. He began acting at the American Indian Theatre Company in Tulsa in the mid-1980s. Within a few years of his arrival in Hollywood, he appeared in movies, among them, *Dances with Wolves* in 1990 and *The Last of the Mohicans* in 1992. He’s also played the roles of the legendary Chiefs Geronimo, Red Cloud and Cochise in television and the movies.

Teresa Miller is an American writer, television host, literary activist and educator. After the completion of his first novel, *Remnants of Glory*, she established the Oklahoma Center for Poets and Writers which she led from 1994 to 2015. She also launched and edited the *Oklahoma Storyteller* series at the University of Oklahoma Press from 2007 to 2011. *Writing Out Loud*, a radio and TV series hosted by Miller, ran from 1999 to 2015 on OETA, Oklahoma’s PBS affiliate. Miller was inducted into the Oklahoma Writers Hall of Fame in 2019.



Teresa Miller, 1952- (Google Images)

Creek-Seminole brothers and artists, Johnny Tiger Jr. and Jerome Tiger were both born in Tahlequah but spent most of their lives living in the Eufaula and Muskogee areas as adults. Johnny was an Air Force

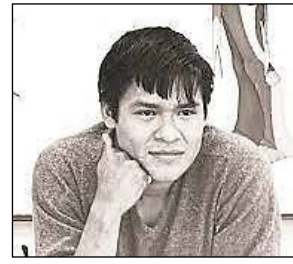


Johnny Tiger, Jr., 1940-2015 (Google Images)



veteran. His paintings illustrated the oral history of his tribes based on his own experiences and the stories told to him by his grandfather. He became a full-time artist in the late 1970s known for both his paintings and sculptures.

Jerome Tiger dropped out of high school at age 16 and joined the U.S. Navy. Encouraged by an artist friend, Tiger submitted several paintings to the American Indian Artists Annual at Tulsa's Philbrook Art Museum in 1962, which launched his professional art career. Much of his work was sold as quickly as he produced it but he has had collections in Tulsa's Philbrook and Gilcrease Museums, Muskogee's Five Civilized Tribes Museum and Bartlesville's Woolaroc Museum.



Jerome Tiger, 1941-1967
(Google Images)

Tahlequah's Early Library History

It could be said that Tahlequah's first library began as early as the mid-nineteenth century. In J. H. Beadle's book, *The Underdeveloped West*, published in 1873, Beadle described the nature of this first library: "For twenty years all books, papers and documents having relation to the people (the Cherokees) have been collected (at Tahlequah)." It was reported



Original Carnegie Library, Tahlequah, Commercial Photograph. No date given.

around 1928 that the Cherokee's early library collection was removed to the University of Oklahoma to be classified and catalogued. A quick Google search for "Cherokee Documents" and the "University of Oklahoma" today will result in numerous references to various Cherokee history collections available at the University of Oklahoma. Around 1953, Lorena L. Travis wrote a paper (or article) entitled, "City's Half-Century Old Library," in which she reported that, "a government ruling has directed that the Historical Museum in Oklahoma City be the repository (for the items sent to the University of Oklahoma). Tahlequah has no copy of the materials loaned to the University in 1928."

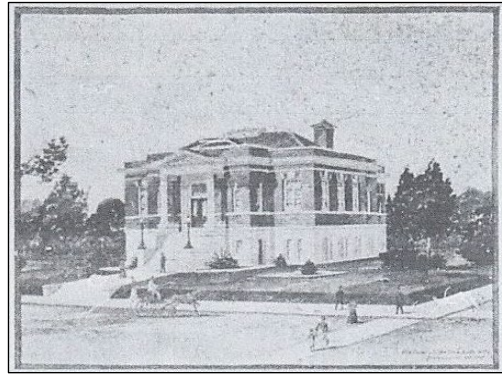


A. S. Wyly, Tahlequah's Mayor from 1904-06. In 1909 Wyly was selected by Governor Haskell as the first president of Northeastern State College, now Northeastern State University. (Google Images)

In September 27, 1902 the following quote appeared in the local *Tahlequah Arrow* newspaper: "There is no reason why Tahlequah should not have a public library. If the proper steps were taken one could be secured. It woud (sic) be secured. It woud (sic) not be a difficult matter to interest some philanthropist in this worth (sic) cause."

In April 1, 1905 the same newspaper announced that the Tahlequah Board of Trade members had appointed a committee to solicit the aid of Andrew Carnegie in securing a free public library for the "Capital City of the Cherokees." The ladies' auxiliary of the Trade Board also worked on the project. While Tahlequah's population of less

than 2,000 would have made it otherwise ineligible for a Carnegie grant, the committee hoped that the town's unusual history and circumstances as the capital of the Cherokee Nation would pique Mr. Carnegie's interest in funding a library. The article also stated that Mayor A. S. Wyly assembled the town's aldermen and they officially agreed to donate the building site and to annually appropriate \$1,000 for support of the library. The committee's strategy worked. In a letter dated



Architects McCaw and Bellis' drawing of proposed Carnegie Library, circa 1905. (Tahlequah Arrow)

March 25, 1905, Mayor Wyly received a letter from Andrew Carnegie's private secretary that stated the following: "*Dear Sir: - Responding to your communications on behalf of Tahlequah – If the City agree (sic) by Resolution of Councils to maintain a Free Public Library at cost of not less than one thousand dollars a year, and provide a suitable site for the building, Mr. Carnegie will be pleased to*



Early picture of the Carnegie Library, date unknown.

furnish ten thousand dollars to erect a Free Public Library Building for Tahlequah." Much later, in a letter written by Tahlequah's Librarian, Essa Gladney, "*In reality it (the Library) was a gift to the entire Cherokee Nation and located in its capitol town. Until fairly recent years, the mail was delivered to the Cherokee National Library.*"

According to the *Tahlequah Star-Citizen* newspaper, April 24, 1905 was the day that Resolutions Numbered 45 and 46 were adopted by the Tahlequah City Council. Resolution Number 45 accepted Carnegie's donation of \$10,000, and Number 46 expressed thanks to Carnegie and for "*the kind consideration received at his hands.*"

On May 1, 1905 the *Tahlequah Arrow* published that the money for the Library was now available on deposit to be remitted when needed. In the memo written by R. A. Franks, President of the Home Trust Company of Hoboken, New Jersey, and published in the *Arrow*, the Mayor was notified that "*Mr. Carnegie's gift of \$10,000...is now available and will be remitted from this office in installments of \$2,000 or \$3,000 each, on the certificate of the architect, as need (sic) from time to time during the process of construction.*"

In 1905 the proposed Library's cornerstone was laid with the appropriate fanfare. With the actual construction scheduled to begin in August 1905, McCaw and Bellis architects from Muskogee were selected to design the building. They chose the "Classical Revival" style, also known as "Carnegie Classical" that incorporated the elements specified by the plans provided by the Carnegie Foundation which included ornamental glass, plasterwork, carved woodwork and alcove ceiling that included a small glass-topped dome.

William Alston of Tahlequah was awarded the building contract for a total of \$8,572. A.D. Brown had the brick and stone contract. The brick came from Joplin, Missouri and the stone from Carthage, Missouri. The site chosen for the building was the donation of Block 77 containing 3.02 acres in the city park reserve, one block west of Main Street facing east. Sources have noted that the building site as being the former location of the Tahlequah District Court Building.

The Library was not welcomed by all, however. There was a faction of the town's population that were against its establishment and the fact that the City intended to support it annually. In the October 28, 1905 edition of the *Tahlequah Arrow*, a minister named G. T. Thompson wrote a lengthy editorial entitled *Carnegie Library...Facts Regarding It*. The writer noted that Mayor Wyly was aware of the anti-library faction and the mayor even wrote to Carnegie and told him that there would soon be an election and the city's financial commitment to the Library might be in jeopardy. There was no direct response from Carnegie. Both factions put the library matter in their election platforms. Voters seemingly approved those candidates whose platform did not support the construction of a Library and the town's financial commitment but, by then, the construction of the Library had already begun.

The building was completed in 1905, but not opened to the public. By 1907, the new Carnegie Library still stood empty. According to an article entitled, *Opening of the Library*, the *Tahlequah Arrow* reported that "*the Library building has stood as a mute reminder of our lack of*

Carnegie Library Opened
Some Rules:

1. *No loafing.*
2. *No talking or whispering.*
3. *No smoking, chewing or expectorating.*
4. *Persons entering or retiring must do so as quietly as possible.*
5. *Do not lean back in the chairs or drag them across the floor.*
6. *Children under ten years old will not be permitted to enter the library during library hours.*

The Tahlequah Arrow
February 29, 1908

pride in a public institution.” The article reported that members of the (library) board, including the above-mentioned Rev. G.T. Thompson, planned to meet with city representatives in hopes of opening the library and for a reasonable monetary appropriation from the Town Council to

Monthly Report of Carnegie Library

“Rev. J.F. Thompson, librarian at the Carnegie Library, made the following report to the library committee at their meeting Wednesday evening:

Cards issued during the month of June:

62

Books issued during the month of June:

130”

The Tahlequah Arrow

July 13, 1911

support it. The original intent to provide \$1,000 annually to the Library under the administration of Mayor Wyly was subsequently reduced to \$250, and then totally ignored by the new Town Council. The article summarized by asking for public support, subscriptions and donations to get the empty library open. For the first couple of years after its construction, the Library was stocked only by gifts and donations.

The *Grove Sun* also noted in an article dated September 13, 1907, “*what is believed to*

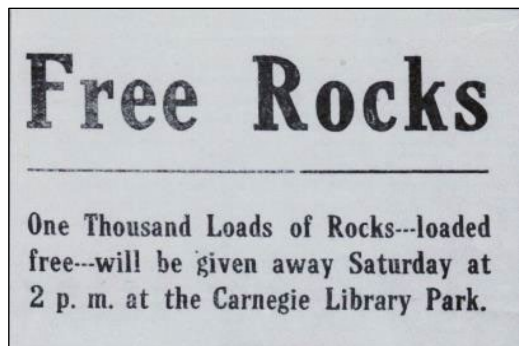
be the only bookless Carnegie Library in the United States... stands on a hill overlooking this quaint old capital of the Cherokee nation. It was finished more than a year ago, but has been tenantless to this date.” As previously noted, Carnegie was warned of the possibility of a less-supportive Town Council. The controversy divided the town into pro- and anti-Carnegie factions with the latter now in control. The article ended by wondering what Mr. Carnegie will do, “*when he learns of this bookless library is unknown. His money has been invested and the building cannot be taken away.*”

There is some controversy as to when the Carnegie Library was first opened to the public. Some sources reported that it opened on June 29, 1907. The *Tahlequah Arrow* reported that the Library opened on Saturday, February 29, 1908, after many months of setting and resetting opening dates due mainly to funding issues. Additional time to secure funds to maintain the Library from board members, concerned citizens, private sources and organizations were the main reasons for the opening delays.

Mary Lawrence was appointed as Tahlequah’s first Librarian. She and her husband were a part of the original group appointed to contact Carnegie for his financial support. She served for one year, 1908-1909. The second was Rev. Joseph Franklin Thompson, retired Brigadier General of the Confederate Army, a Cherokee, and also a Methodist minister. He had served at

one time as Superintendent of the Cherokee Male Seminary. He served as Librarian from 1909 to his death in November, 1922. On May 22, 1922 Rev. Franklin had been honored with a reception in the Library at age 81. The third Librarian appointed to head Tahlequah's Carnegie Library was Essa N. Gladney, who had worked briefly with Franklin as an assistant. Gladney served as Librarian from 1923 to 1975, which also made her EOLS's first Tahlequah branch manager of record.

In 1907 when Oklahoma became a State, the Cherokee Nation government had been dissolved. Cherokee-owned buildings were converted into use as city or county structures and the Cherokee-owned furnishings within those buildings were scattered. The Library was the recipient of a desk, eleven chairs, and original portraits of the chiefs and assistant chiefs of the Cherokee Nation. A picture of who was then the last Cherokee Chief, William C. Rogers,



Sometimes you just have to get creative when funding is needed. As part of a City improvement movement, it was decided to remove the rock piles around the Carnegie Library as one of the "easier" improvement jobs. (Tahlequah Arrow)

delivering his last message to the Cherokee Council in 1904 was also given to the Library. (Several sources noted this occurrence but no date was given as to when the Library actually received these furnishings was found).

Finally, on July 26, 1909 the Tahlequah Town Council approved and passed Ordinance 31, Section 8, that hereby appropriated, "*the sum of \$525 for public library for the city of Tahlequah and for the purpose of raising said sum of money there is hereby levied a tax of one-half mills upon the taxable property of the City of Tahlequah to be collect as other taxes are collected.*" While the allotment was only half of what Mayor Wyly and the 1905 town council promised Andrew Carnegie, it did provide a more or less steady means of financial support for the Library.

The Library continued to struggle for adequate financial support from the City for many years to come. Miss Gladney had reported that in her first year that the annual library budget was between \$40-50. Financial support did increase over time but was painstakingly slow. For example, in a City Council meeting held and reported on by the *Arrow* in May 1916, it was noted that, "*at the expense of \$646.96, the City has maintained and kept open the Carnegie Library. In addition, the City has furnished free water and light to the Library.*"

It wasn't until 1921 that an official library board, then referred to as the Board of Directors, was formerly created by City officials to manage the affairs of the Carnegie Library. Until then, all previous decisions about the Library had seemingly been made by what would today be called a Library Friends group with good intentions but no authority or overall leadership in dealing with the City or the Library's patrons.

In April 1924 the Secretary of the Oklahoma Library Commission visited Tahlequah's Library. She noted about "...the improvement of the public library, the increased circulation and the growing demand for better books. You have here, one of the most beautiful library sites in the state...but you need books...to fit the needs of everyone."

Shortly after the Secretary's visit, articles began to appear in local Tahlequah newspapers in the summer of 1924 asking the public, the library commission and specifically, the Muskogee Public Library for books to help with the noted shortage of books at the Carnegie Library.



Essa N. Gladney (1900-1989), was Librarian of Tahlequah's Carnegie Library from 1923 to 1975. (Friends' Scrapbooks)

In May 1927 Essa Gladney and "those in charge" considered the idea of a pay shelf of adult fiction as a way to increase the adult fiction collection. This technique was supposedly used at the time by public libraries with limited funds as a method of acquiring new books more frequently than they could otherwise afford. The "pay shelf" would contain only new adult fiction. Books would be checked out to readers at the cost of 2 cents per day until returned. Once the book is paid for - new adult fiction books in 1927 cost about \$2 - it would be put with the rest of the fiction collection and checked out for free. The funds acquired would then be used to purchase other new adult fiction books.



Gladney wrote library-related articles for the local newspapers her entire career, even writing detailed book-reviews after her retirement in 1975.

Gladney also noted in the Tahlequah newspapers that the Library now had obtained a typewriter and she would begin indexing the collection, something she'd not been able to do previously because of the lack of equipment. She reported that indexing would be a slow process but the result would be an easier way to search the Library's collection. Gladney had had some library education as a student at Northeastern State College. Her two predecessors had no library experience. She was the first person to tackle the task of accessing, classifying, and cataloging every item in the

Library, as well as developing a check-out system for the materials. Gladney accomplished this task over several years. For the majority of her career she was the Library's lone staff member. Occasionally, she was fortunate enough to get library science students from the College or high



The Carnegie Library's Circulation Desk was located on the west wall directly across from the Main Entrance. The mural above the desk was relocated to the entrance of the 1977 Library addition. The pictures of the Principal Cherokee Chiefs were located on either side of the desk. (Friends' Scrapbooks)



Some of the overgrowth that was removed from the Library's entrance in the 1955 renovation. (Tahlequah Star Citizen)

school student volunteers to help with the Library.

Maintaining the Library's collection was done during off hours or during lulls in the daily work schedule.

As early as 1931 the Gladney had formed a Public Library Reading Club for high school students. Students who joined the Club agreed to read thirty approved books during the school year. Vacation Reading Clubs for the children had been offered for many years prior. Also, National Library Week was an annual event celebrated at the Library since 1937.

Tahlequah's Twentieth Century Club made the Library the focus of their attention in May 1949 as part of the national "Better Your Community" program. They developed a three-fold Master Project Plan that began immediately. The first Project on their plan, to promote a story hour for children, was accomplished by June 23. Story hours were conducted by volunteers and, when possible, by education majors from Northeastern. The second Project on the Club's list was to plan and promote a hospital library service program. This service was also begun in June and, after a year of service, resumed again in the fall of 1952. The Club's third objective had a longer time frame to achieve. That goal was to add 1,000 books to the Library's collection.

In 1950 Gladney and Twentieth Century Club members opened a branch library for Tahlequah's "colored"

population. The Library was housed in a room in the Community Building also known as the Welfare building. The room was open on Wednesday afternoons from 3:00 to 5:00 and was

manned, in turn, by Club members and the Gladney. At the time of its opening the Carver Library, as it was called, had 500 volumes donated and collected by Club members available for check-out.

However, in 1955, City Attorney Gene Carr and the City Council ruled that the Carnegie Library's facilities were to be opened to the town's colored population. Carr noted that it was the "*privilege of the colored race to use the facilities of the Carnegie Library... and that any denial of such a privilege should be remedied as soon as possible.*" The City's ruling was in response to an inquiry made by a group of local Negro citizens.



By 1953 the Library's budget was decreased again from around \$500 per annum to \$350 for FY 1952-53. Not only was the operational budget reduced as early as 1952-1953, two years before the Carnegie Library's 50th anniversary, the *Tahlequah Star-Citizen* began running stories about the Library beginning to "*show its age.*" The newspaper reminded the community that the Library, "*was a historic institution and its preservation and upkeep was in the hands of the citizens of Tahlequah.*" In May 1955 the *Star-Citizen* ran a full-page special feature with the headline, "*Carnegie Library Enters 50th Year in Bad Repair,*" preceded by an editorial that again called attention to the Library's "*run-down condition*" in the year of its fiftieth anniversary.

By mid-June, the City Council got the *Star-Citizen's* message loud and clear. It authorized a contract with a roofing company to construct a new roof and accepted a bid from a flooring company to lay tile and another bid from a company for painting and interior redecoration. The Library was closed from June 25 to July 28 in 1955, to complete all the necessary work. Library patrons were not charged fees or fines during this period. The Vacation Reading Club participants were directed to return the books checked out earlier in the summer to an advertised location before school started.

The Open House for the remodeled Library was scheduled for Thursday, August 4, 1955 and regular Library hours resumed the following day. Along with the repairs to the building, the shrubbery and trees that had obscured the Library's entrance for years were trimmed and/or removed, opening up the entry way. The interior of the Library was made brighter with the colors of jonquil yellow, tan, and with pale blue and rose for the children's areas.

A Bookmobile from the State Library in Oklahoma City visited Tahlequah in July 1958. It toured communities in rural eastern Oklahoma in the late 1950s and early 1960s, including most, if not all, communities now served by EOLS. The Bookmobile's purpose was to spread the news about a proposed new library service made possible by Congress in 1955 as part of the Library Service Act. Oklahoma began its participation in the program in 1957. The Bookmobile's visit was to explain the state's plan to extend public library service to rural areas through the establishment of multi-county library systems. Even though the arrival of EOLS didn't happen until 1970, the earlier Bookmobile visit heralded the earliest beginnings of EOLS and Cherokee County's ultimate inclusion in this new type of public library service.

According to Essa Gladney in her 1932 letter to the Library to be opened in the year 2000, *"In so far as can be known, at this time, it is the only community library in Oklahoma to have been originally given to the tribal capitol of an Indian Nation."*

Tahlequah Public Library – A Gift to the Cherokee Nation

The prime reason Tahlequah had a Library prior to the arrival of the multi-county library system demonstration in 1970 was that in 1905 Andrew Carnegie awarded Tahlequah a \$10,000 grant to build one. While Tahlequah didn't have the population numbers required to apply for a building grant, much less be awarded one, the fact that the committee members who applied for the grant emphasized that Tahlequah, "*was the Capital of the Cherokee Indian Nation.*" Carnegie couldn't resist being on the right side of history by awarding a library construction grant to the Capital City of an indigenous peoples who'd been forced from their original homeland half a century earlier.



Tahlequah Public Library. (Library photo)

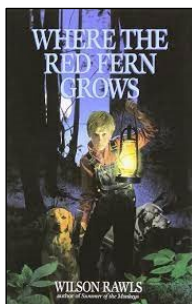
The first board meeting of EOLS was held August 8, 1970. An Agreement between EOLS and the governing officials of Adair, Cherokee, Muskogee and Sequoyah Counties was signed earlier that year on April 27, 1970, indicating the said Counties' intention to participate in the multi-county library demonstration. However, prior to the August 8 meeting, Muskogee and McIntosh Counties were added to the Agreement. Participating County and City governing entities, library friends, and other relevant parties began immediately locating and preparing adequate library facilities. As soon as the facilities met the physical requirements to be a library as determined by EOLS administration, then shelving, library materials and furniture were brought in. The first library branch to open was Delaware County in Jam on January 10, 1971, followed in quick succession by Eufaula in late January, Stilwell in March, Grove in April, and Checotah and Sallisaw in May.

Not everyone was excited about being a part of the multi-county library demonstration. Although Cherokee County was part of the original demonstration Agreement, the Tahlequah Librarian in the only existing public library in Cherokee County was less than enthusiastic about the changes on the horizon. EOLS Director Wilkerson, Cherokee County EOLS Board Members, City and County officials met with Essa Gladney in June 1971 with the intent of reaching an agreement on the Tahlequah Library's participation in the demonstration. Board minutes reflect that no agreement was reached at that meeting.

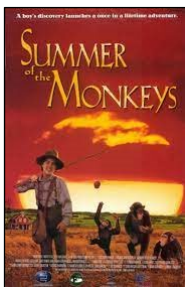


Author Wilson Rawls (1913-1984), visited his hometown Library for an autograph party in 1973. (Library Photo)

On August 2, the Cherokee County and Tahlequah City EOLS board members and the Tahlequah City Library Board Members presented a resolution to the Tahlequah City Council to continue with the library demonstration and it was accepted. The EOLS board then approved a resolution on August 5 allowing for the demonstration in Tahlequah to proceed. Immediately, EOLS staff began re-arranging and updating the existing collection, making the collection more accessible to the public. Tahlequah’s Open House was held in October 1971.



In November 1973 children’s author, Wilson Rawls, best known for his two youth novels, *Where the Red Fern Grows*, published in 1961, and *Summer of the Monkeys*, published in 1976, visited the Tahlequah Library and autographed his books. Rawls was born in a small community called Scrapper, thirteen miles northeast of Tahlequah. As a young boy he visited the Tahlequah Library and was quoted as saying that the day he discovered libraries was, “one of the biggest days of my life. Practically all my spare time was spent there.” Rawls’ books reflected his youthful experiences in Cherokee County and were popular, especially locally, but throughout the entire System.



On April 30, 2011 the Tahlequah Public Library was designated a Literary Landmark in honor of Wilson Rawls by the Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations (ALTAFF) then a division of the American Library Association (ALA). The dedication happened during



Essa Gladney’s Appreciation Plaque from the City of Tahlequah for her 52 years of library service to the community. (Carnegie Room)

Tahlequah’s sixth annual Red Fern Festival sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Council. Festival events included events such as hound dog trials, children’s games, car shows, and local music. There was even an outdoor showing of the 1974 Hollywood movie based on the *Where the Red Fern Grows*. Tahlequah and Sallisaw are two of the fifteen Literary Landmarks in Oklahoma. Sallisaw’s recognition was for the work of Sequoyah in creating the Cherokee Syllabary.

Essa Gladney, after 52 years of service to the community, retired on July 1, 1975 marking the end of an era. She became Librarian of the Carnegie Library in 1923, upon the death of the former Librarian.



Lyle Bowman followed Gladney as Tahlequah's branch manager in 1975, serving 16 years before retiring from the position in 1991. (Pictorial Daily Press)

During most of the ensuing years, she was the Library's sole employee. Even after her retirement, she was given office space in the Library where she continued to write book reviews for area newspapers.

Much had changed in Tahlequah during her tenure as the Carnegie librarian. Born in 1900, Gladney saw the community grow from a village of around 1,800 in 1904 to over 10,000 by her retirement in 1975. During Gladney's tenure the Library was the town's Community Center. Not only was it a Library, but also served in its early years as a museum and depository of some Cherokee Nation records, documents and artifacts. Gladney also provided displays of all types for all segments of the community. These displays included hobbies, collections, arts and crafts, and items worldwide brought home by local international travelers. Noted Cherokee sculptor, Willard Stone's, first ever exhibit of his career was held at Tahlequah's Carnegie Library.

Upon the requisition of a typewriter in the late 1920s, Gladney was able to begin the implementation of an entire library management system from the acquisition of materials, cataloguing those materials and providing a system for checking those materials out to patrons during slow times when the Library was open.

Gladney saw the Library's book budget through the leanest of the early years when the budget was \$40-\$50 annually to a high of \$9,000 in the years prior to the arrival of EOLS in the early 1970s. She also conducted annual reading programs for first graders through high school seniors. Extensive Annual National Library Week activities were also available for all ages.



Mary Lou Johnson, local Tahlequah Library Board Chair; and Virginia Collier, ODL Construction Consultant; monitored the 1977 construction progress. (Library Photo)

In a letter written by Gladney in 1932 to be opened in the year 2,000, she wrote, *"My work here I love. The Carnegie Library founded in 1905...is city-supported and now has about 3,000 volumes. We average about 1,700 a month circulation and the attendance runs in proportion. I work alone.... My hours are from 12:30 to 5:30 in the afternoon and from 7-9 in the evening. Also three hours on a Sunday*

afternoon.

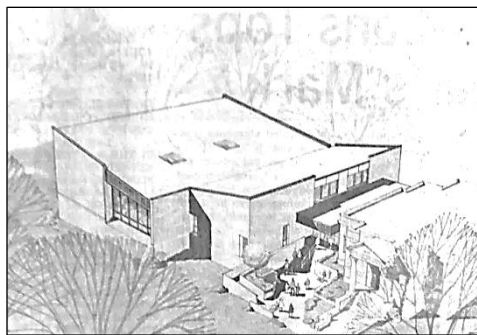
After years of continued population growth in Tahlequah and the surrounding area, the original Carnegie Library was bursting at the seams by the 1970s. In 1907, two years after the construction of the Carnegie Building and in the year of Oklahoma's Statehood, Tahlequah's population was 1,916. The City's population over the decades had grown by the 1980 census to 9,708. By the mid-1970s it was obvious to all that the Library had out-grown its beloved Carnegie Building.

The decision was made to build an addition onto the original building which would, in turn, become the Library itself and would give the Carnegie Building a second career as a space for special occasions, events, programs and meetings. On April 5, 1976 the Tahlequah City Council approved a motion to study the feasibility of a new Library for the community. Mary Beth Watkins, EOLS Associate Director; Mary Lou Johnson, chair of the local Tahlequah Library Board; and Virginia Collier, the Oklahoma Department of Libraries Construction Consultant presented a general building plan to the Town Council for consideration. The women told the City Council that since August 1971, when the local Library officially joined EOLS, that there had been a 74 percent increase in circulation figures from 1972 to 1975. They also reported that the current 2,515 square footage of the Carnegie Building was well below the recommended standards for library space for a community with the population the size of Tahlequah's and for all the then current requirements of a public library – book and materials shelves, meetings and programming spaces, and the cultural and educational activities required for libraries in the 1970s. The

motion opened up the Library's funding under the Library Construction Act. EOLS assisted Board and the City with the

In late 1976 the funds for renovation of the Tahlequah amount of \$470,000 were received Works Act of 1976. Structural

approximately 12,000 square feet would be added to the existing Library. The planned changes and additions attempted to blend the old with the new. The new Library was a split-level



The Architect's conception of proposed new Library addition. The Building included 12,000 square feet and could hold 50,000 volumes (Pictorial Press)

Council's approval ability to request Services and the local Library application process. the expansion and Library in the under the Public changes and

structure. The lower level was planned for children and teens, and the upper level for adults. The past was honored by the preservation of the historic 1905 Carnegie Building and its wooded surroundings. The new, modern section was designed as a multi-use, multi-purpose space to meet the ever-changing needs of modern society.



Groundbreaking Ceremonies for the new addition to the Carnegie Library was held on April 17, 1977. From L-R: Architect Harold Ammerman; Cleo R. Morgan, whose mother was one of the originators of the Carnegie Library; Mayor-elect Tony Stockton; Local Library Board Chair, Mary Lou Johnson; EOLS Director, James R. Wilkerson; and the Oklahoma Department of Libraries Director, Robert Clark. (Cherokee County Chronicle)

The Oklahoma City architectural firm of Ammerman, Butler and Thomas were the architects. On March 21, 1977 a construction bid of \$457,416 from Spiro Builders Incorporated was approved by the City Council for the renovation and expansion of the new Library.

Groundbreaking for the new Tahlequah Public Library was held on April 17, 1977 as the main event of the Library's National Library Week activities. City officials, local Library Board members, EOLS staff, OLA and ODL representatives, architects and builders attended.

While construction was underway, the Tahlequah Library Board conducted a fund drive to provide furnishings for the new addition. The sought-after furnishings include such items as adult and children's chairs and tables, specialized tables for various library-related needs, meeting podiums, tables and chairs, and upholstered furniture for seated areas.

Several individuals, organizations and businesses answered the call immediately raising approximately \$5,000. Then the City Council voted to budget \$20,000 in revenue-sharing money for the cause in the early months of 1977. EOLS funds were then used to provide all the shelving for the library materials.

In early August 1977 the Library began its move to the new building only to have the move stalled because the new shelving order had to be exchanged by the vendor. On October 22, 1977 the new Library was dedicated with lots of fanfare and with numerous local groups taking part in the program.

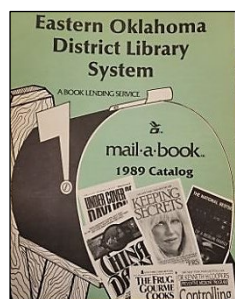


Oil painting of Essa N. Gladney, presented to the Library upon her retirement in 1975. (Cherokee County Chronicle)



A full house in the Carnegie Room during a 2011 Summer Reading Program. (Library photo)

One of the highlights of the dedication was the unveiling of an original oil painting of Essa Gladney, Tahlequah's Librarian for fifty-two years, painted by Eloise Schellstede and presented by the Soroptimists International of Tahlequah. The local Soroptimists Club had supported the Library annually since the group's inception in Tahlequah in 1958. In 1987 the local Library board dedicated the Essa Gladney Room in the old Carnegie Building to be used as both a reading room and



Mail-A-Book was a popular book-lending service in the late 1980s. The service originated in Muskogee, but was later moved to Tahlequah. (Library photo)

small meeting room. The Tahlequah Friends of the Library hosted the reception.

The Carnegie Building itself became the Carnegie Room, a large meeting and activities area capable of seating 175. The new Library sat across the glassed in foyer, with areas set aside for materials of local and historical interest, computer room and audio-visual rooms, reference, adult listening, an upstairs adult fiction and non-fiction bookshelves, a first floor children's and youth area, circulation desk, office and staff, workroom spaces, an 100-seat meeting room named after local author, Wilson Rawls. Also, there were new handicapped-accessible restrooms and an elevator to reach the second level.



Robert Finch served as Tahlequah's branch manager from 1991 to 1995.

The late 1970s was also a time of discussion about the System's Bookmobiles vs. a possible change to a Mail-A-Book service. While the discussion impacted all the libraries, Tahlequah would later play a bigger role in both those services. By the late 1970s, the System's two Bookmobiles were nine years old, had 250,000 plus miles on each of them. They were frequently in the shop, and would cost \$15,000 to \$20,000 to refurbish and much more money needed to buy new. The Mail-A-

**TAHLEQUAH PUBLIC LIBRARY
CUTBACK MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The Tahlequah Public Library will have to be restructured in order to have the library operate effectively with the current budget. Limitations on the Tahlequah Public Library will require moving the Juvenile Collection back to the downstairs area of the new addition of the library. This will allow the library to lay off one of the EOLSL staff members. It will also enable the library to operate without using 800 word study students. This single act will lead to savings of \$11,000.00. This amount will involve moving the summer bookmobile service in Cherokee County. This act will lead to savings of \$1795.00 per year. The third cut will involve replacing the current librarian with an entry level employee resulting in savings of \$1,000.00. These cuts will eliminate \$20,000 from the current budget. This will allow the Tahlequah Public Library to consent to Ocala and increase the materials budget to an acceptable level. Consenting to Ocala will eliminate some of the expenses and allow for better service to the public. After the Ocala installation changes have been made, there should be approximately \$18,000 to \$9,000 available in the 92-93 fiscal year. The materials budget for the 94-95 fiscal year will be affected by the costs of installing Ocala, moving the bookmobile and juvenile collections, and preparing the downstairs area for public use.

These changes will give the Tahlequah Public Library five more years of effective service at minimum service levels. This will give the library and the EOLSL time to affect positive change in the political climate in Cherokee County.

The time table for these revisions can be carried out before the beginning of the 94-95 fiscal year. The bookmobile collection should be moved by March 15, 1995. The juvenile collection needs to be moved by April 15, 1995 so that it will not interrupt the summer reading program. The billing process for a new librarian can begin May 1, 1995 so that orientation can begin June 15, 1995. This should give the new librarian two weeks to adjust to a new job before taking charge.

PROPOSED CUTS	
Check Position	\$9,000.00
Hourly Position	\$1,000.00
Bookmobile	\$1,795.00
Savings	\$18,000.00
New Librarian	\$1,000.00
Total	\$19,800.00

\$13,000

TIME LINE

March 1	Finish moving the bookmobile collection.
April 15	Finish restoration of the children's library.
April 15	Finish moving juvenile collection.
June 15	Begin orientation of new librarian.

A copy of Tahlequah's Cutback Management Plan in 1995. (EOLS Board Minutes)



Book service, then used by the neighboring System to the south headquartered out of McAlester, was being considered as a viable alternative in providing library service to their remote rural communities.

Ultimately, after much investigation of the pros and cons of both options, Mail-A-Book was chosen and the Bookmobiles sold. MAB was operated out of Muskogee for many years but a few years before the service ended, it was transferred to Tahlequah, a more centralized mailing location and moved it out of the crowded basement of the Muskogee Public Library. Later, a used Bookmobile was purchased in 1994, and located in Tahlequah. It was placed there to serve the rural, isolated communities of the far



In 2004, the Carnegie Building was registered as a National Historic Landmark. (Library photo)

eastern counties in the System who felt they were not being adequately served by their community libraries.

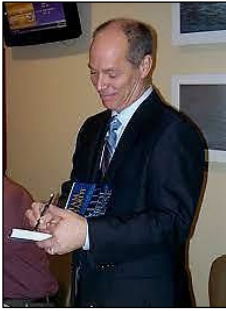


Georgie Drees followed Finch as branch manager from 1995 to 2007.

In 1989 the Cherokee County millage vote in hopes of raising the millage from the original two mills to four mills was put on the March 14 ballot. The vote did not pass. In 1995, the mill levy once again did not pass. Rising costs of materials, operations, supplies and personnel had begun impacting all the System's Libraries, especially those still gathering the original two mill tax levy that existed when the System began in the early 1970s. In

Cherokee County, County and City officials were contacted to help with Bookmobile and staff expenses. Library staff was enlisted to prepare a Cutback Management Plan in an effort to give the Library five more years of effective service at minimum service levels. The hope was that the Plan would give the both Library and the System time to effect positive changes in the political climate of the County. Eventually, the four-mill levy vote passed in Cherokee County in August, 27, 1996.

It didn't take Tahlequah staff members long to establish priorities for the use of the anticipated fund increases. Number one on the list was obtaining more books and other materials when the tax increase went into effect during the 1997-1998 fiscal year. Improvements in the



William Bernhardt (1960 -) is the author of over sixty books in several genres. (Google Images)

children's and youth departments were also an identified priority. Community members were encouraged to provide input into the types of library materials they wanted as well.

In 2002 in a combined effort of the local Library Board, library staff, Friends of the Library and support of the Tahlequah City Council, an application was submitted to the State as the first step in the process of obtaining the registration of the Carnegie Library as a National Historic Landmark. After the approval of the State Grants Department, the



Rilla Askew (1951-) is the author of five novels, short stories, plays, articles and essays. (Google Images)

application was passed on to the National Registry. Approval was granted and the Carnegie building registered as a National Historic Landmark on April 15, 2004. The approval process opened the door for local officials to apply for grants to clean and maintain the Carnegie Building.

Over the years, the Tahlequah Public Library has hosted not only the town's own author, Wilson Rawls, but also other notable Oklahoma authors, including William Bernhardt and Rilla Askew.



Participating in a Christmas parade is a good way to promote the Library and to get people to "Wiggle over to the Library" with Mr. Bookworm, Christmas 1979. (Friends photo)

Bernhardt has been nominated for the Oklahoma Book Award nineteen times in three different categories and has won the honor twice in Fiction. He is also in the Oklahoma Writers Hall of Fame. Askew also has been a recipient of the couple of Oklahoma Book Awards and the National Cowboy Hall of Fame's Western Heritage Award for fiction. Many local and eastern Oklahoma authors have been hosted at Tahlequah as well as other EOLS branches over the years.

Prior to the arrival of social media, the Library used several methods of keeping in touch with the public. Ms. Gladney wrote weekly articles for the local newspapers during her entire 52-year tenure covering everything from National Library Week activities, Summer Reading Programs, special events, and, of course, new book arrivals. Area newspapers also provided the Library space in their announcement's columns such as the "A&E Calendar," "What's Happening," and "Around the County."



A 2010 Christmas Chorale in the Library. (Library photo)

The local news outlets, and more currently social media, have kept the Library in touch with its publics on the wide variety of programs, classes, clubs, displays, workshops, arts and crafts, music, but also included such unique events such as a visit from real Barnum & Bailey Circus clowns, a display on the history of underwear, original theatre productions from Northeastern including the River City Players, various churches' Christmas choirs and bell ringers. Many programs featuring aspects of Cherokee culture were always popular and covered such topics as making natural dyes, traditional cooking, clothing, storytelling and others.

In 2010 the Tahlequah City Council accepted a contract with the Oklahoma Department of Libraries (ODL) and the Tahlequah Public Library for acceptance of a library redesign/renovation grant of \$70,875. The Library's Friends group provided \$4,000 and the City agreed to provide \$25,000 in matching funds. Funds also came from a national BTOP (Broadband Technology Opportunities Program) grant to upgrade the Library's computer system and to lay the foundation for an eventual computer lab. Tahlequah was one of 45 Oklahoma libraries participating in the BTOP grant.

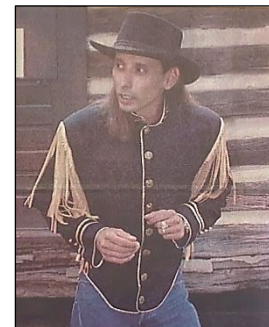


Robin Mooney was Tahlequah's branch manager from 2008 to 2021. (Google Images)

Branch manager Robin Mooney explained that the ODL grant money and the City and Friends matches served as a "makeover grant." She continued, "*Our library is basically the same as when it was completed in 1978.*" Elements of the planned makeover concentrated primarily on the first floor and included updating the entryway, new painting, carpeting and upgraded shelving. Later, as funds allowed, elements on the second floor would be addressed, then the children's area would be the third priority. A library consultant visited the Library and made recommendations on how best to use the available space and how best to spend the renovation funds.

In 2011 Mooney reported that the BTOP funds were only enough to upgrade the Library's computer systems and that she hoped

Branch manager Robin Mooney explained that the ODL grant money and the City and Friends matches served as a "makeover grant." She continued, "*Our library is basically the same as when it was completed in 1978.*" Elements of the planned makeover concentrated primarily on the first floor and included updating the entryway, new painting, carpeting and upgraded shelving. Later, as funds allowed, elements on the second floor would be addressed, then the children's area would be



Monty Weaver was a popular story-teller at the Tahlequah Library. (Library photo)

community members would be able to provide the funds needed to make the Computer Tech Center a reality. The Library spearheaded a project to acquire funds for the proposed Computer Center by having the public collect labels from corporations that participate in the collection of certain of their products' labels in return for cash or redeem them for various library programs.



The Tech Center became a reality in 2012. (Library photo)

In 2012 there was a push to continue to bring the Library up to twenty-first century standards. Friends of the Library began searching for additional grants and donations to finish the work begun with the grant money obtained in 2010-11. The earlier grants provided a new community room



The Library and Carnegie Room on a cold winter day in 2012. (Library photo)

named later as the Wilson Rawls Meeting Room and an adjoining Tech Center, complete with new computer equipment. These were the first steps taken to modernize the Library.

The Library's Friends wanted to see more community people help contribute to the Library to continue the modernization work begun earlier. The group had originally paid for the consulting fee to begin the overall renovation project and agreed to pay up to \$15,000 to finance future projects. The money provided by the Library's Friends came from the annual book sale, the ongoing book sales, cookbooks and book bag sales and membership fees. The needs of the Library as identified were aimed at the overall goal of opening up the existing space by changing the original floor plan.

The renovation work began around November 19, 2013. Scheduled meetings and programs were canceled for the remainder of the year. The Library entrance became the only way to gain access to the building. Computers and Wi-Fi remained available but were subject to down times. New flooring, carpet, paint, stair railings and shelving were part of the renovation. Ramps both inside and outside the building were removed and rebuilt according to ADA compliance and the restrooms improved and modernized.

Most of the renovation, besides the money from the Friends



The Cherokee County Chronicle called the 2014 renovations, "light and airy".

group and individual donations, was financed through the Tahlequah City Capital Improvements Bond. The City awarded the construction contract for a total of \$376,000 with the Zenith Construction Company. Later, during the renovation process, issues with the roof and windows became apparent and an additional \$3,678.70 was set aside by the City.

After the renovation was mostly completed in mid-2014, the community was welcomed into the Library with a more open airy space. Wall shelving allowed for more open floor space. Short walls between the main area and the children's area gave the children more of a "my space" feel. The Circulation Desk was moved across the room. Flat screen monitors hung throughout the space promoted library and local programming. The teens now had their own area on the west side behind a glass wall. The office area was completely reconstructed and a small book sale room added. For the first time, the staff had their own break room and dedicated restrooms. ADA issues were addressed with new railings on the staircase and second floor. Handicapped access automatic front and back doors were added as well as a wheelchair ramp into the Carnegie Room. The totally new public restrooms included infant changing stations.

The ribbon-cutting and grand opening of the renovated Tahlequah Public Library occurred on Saturday, October 4, 2014. The Library's renovation was part of a \$21 million-plus bond issue approved by voters in 2013.

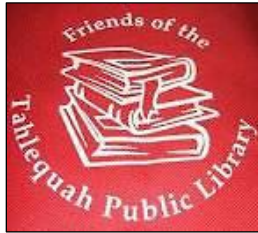
In January 2015 the Tahlequah Public Library was one of twelve Oklahoma programs awarded a \$4,000 health literacy grants from the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. The goal for awarded projects was to provide resources and training opportunities to enhance the community's awareness of health and wellness issues. Tahlequah's program consisted of seven workshops and one health fair. Workshop topics included reading labels, learning about the services and programs of the local hospital, stretching for health, nutritional snacks, walking and



The Carnegie Library has required its share of repair and maintenance since 1905. (Library photo)

other health-related topics. Grant partners included the Cherokee County Health Department, OSU Extension Office, Five Alarm Athletics and the Northeastern Health System.

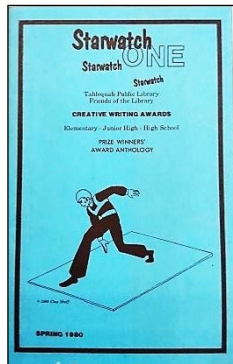
In the summer of 2015 the historic Carnegie Room had developed a severe mold problem. Library staff was ultimately forced to close the Room to the public. The area of the Room's ceiling that surrounded a former skylight was covered in gray and black mold. The mold was first visible in



Friends T-Shirt and logo (Friends photo)

2011 but by 2015 it was too thick to ignore. The ceiling in a side room off the main floor also had water damage, plus the mold.

In December 2015 City officials signed off on a \$69,000 bid to build a new roof on the Carnegie Building. The winning bid was provided by Aduddell & Son Roofing. The plan was to install the new roof before tackling the mold within the building. The new roofing stopped the spread of the mold but the water damage in the side room has not been fully addressed to date.



The popular Friends Starwatch Creative Writing Contest started in 1980 and was held annually until 2020. (Friends photo)

The value that the Tahlequah Friends of the Library have played in the history of the Library can't be overstated. Since its beginning in the 1970s it has played a key role in the history of the Library as a "non-profit, tax exempt, but unstructured" organization since their inception. By their own description, the Friends were from the beginning, "a loosely-knit organization of people who met regularly.... There were no dues. They were always looking for members... (who) were welcome to work in whatever function they might like."



The Friends provided the Library with both the exterior marquee sign in the 1900s and the updated electronic signage in the 2000s. (Library photo)

Over the years, the Friends have sponsored a variety of programs and events to support Tahlequah's Library and to encourage its use. Some programs were singular events or of a short-term nature, but there were some programs that ran for many years. Among the singular or short-termed events included: story hours for young children conducted by Friends' members; the Wilson Rawls autograph party in 1973; various plays, films and contests; art exhibits; holiday decorations for



Local garden clubs have kept the Library's landscape and planters in good condition in cooperation with the Friends. (Friends photo)

the Library; outreach to area hospitals; garage sales; parade participation with Barney Bookworm, built by a Friends' member, to name only some of the many outstanding events sponsored by the Friends.

The Friends have also supported long-term events and project to support the Library and its

needs. They included: Books Sandwiched In which also began in the early 1970s. The Friends have also sponsored annual Santa visits in December; helped sponsor the annual Summer Reading Programs; bought needed furniture, audio-visual and other specialized library equipment; purchased a large outdoor marquee sign in the 1990s and an electronic sign in the mid-2000s to announce special events and library activities; and purchased outdoor book drops. The Friends have also worked with local clubs and groups to help with landscaping and flower beds around the Library and its entrances.

Among the long-term sponsorships included the *Harvest Moon Storytelling Festivals* that ran for several years. The *Starwatch Creative Writing Contest* began in 1980 and ran annually until the arrival of the pandemic in 2020. The *Starwatch* contest was for students in grades, 1-12, as well as for adults and college students. Participants could submit two works per category of poetry, short story, or essay in their respective age groups. The Library provided entry forms and a \$1 fee was charged for each entry. First, second and third place winners in each category were selected by a panel of judges chose by the Friends.



One of the most popular Friends-sponsored events was and continues to be book sales. (Library photo)



The 2014 Library renovations provided a "Last Chance Books" area. This area allowed book sales to be continuous with less work and hassle for the Friends members. (Library photo)

The Friends of the Tahlequah Public Library had also held annual and special book sales for many years as one of their largest fund-raising projects. The annual sales were referred to as "ginormous" ultimately using that name as the title of the annual and special book sales.

One result of the Library's 2014 renovation was an addition of a small area in which the Friends could provide book sale opportunities during the Library's daily open hours. Friends' members kept the "Last Chance Books" area stocked weekly or as needed. Doris Grigsby, 2014 Friends' president, was quoted as saying since the Bookstore had opened after the renovation, "*the group has made more money than with the annual book sale.*"

The Friends still had, as occasions warranted, book sales on specialized topics, or series, or "coffee table"

volumes of special interest. For example, in November 2014, the Friends decided to host a Christmas sale for books of higher value. Larger sales such as the former annual "ginormous"

sales of the past were getting more difficult for the Friends to manage, not to mention for the Library to store for a year.

In January 2020 just months before the all EOLS libraries were closed for the pandemic, the EOLS Board of Trustees voted to eliminate overdue fines for late returns of library materials and equipment. The change was scheduled to begin March 1, which happened to be a few weeks before System libraries were closed due to the Covid-19 outbreak. With the new system, texts were sent to borrowers to let them know that items were due soon.

Text and emails were then sent if the item too long past the due date but no overdue fines were charged. After an item was kept more than a month, it was considered lost and a replacement cost was charged. However, the charge was waived if the item is returned in good, usable condition. All borrowers were given a “clean slate” as all their previous lost fees and overdue charges were also waived.

Then came mid-March 2020 when all the EOLS libraries were closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. New ways to serve the public were quickly put into operation. Digital resources remained available as before. The Tahlequah Public Library and the EOLS survived to continue to serve their respective communities.

To be continued...

Epilogue

In the late 1950's Oklahoma's library professionals and lawmakers held numerous meetings and discussions in an effort to address the ways and means that less-populated counties and rural communities in the State could afford and maintain library access and services. There was no doubt that the need was there and that the need was great.

As previously outlined in the *Brief History* section, the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, with an infusion of federal dollars in 1957, tackled the task of establishing new public libraries and public library systems in Oklahoma. The passage of State Question 392 in 1960 which permitted recurring ad valorem tax levies of "...less than one nor more than two mills on assessed valuation...for public libraries and library services," was the initial tool of rural public library system establishment. A few years later, coupled with the passage of the Oklahoma Library Code in 1967, it set in motion the creation of seven additional Public Library Systems between the years 1960-1972.

"Libraries are adapting to the world as it is now. Libraries are information and knowledge centers rather than storehouses of material. Libraries will remain essential to their communities."

Eva Mitnick, Director, Engagement & Learning Division of the Los Angeles Public Library

"In the library, time is dammed up – not just stopped but saved. The library is a gathering pool of narratives and of the people who come to find them.... In a library, we can live forever."

Susan Orlean
The Library Book

There are generations of residents in the EOLS service area that have known nothing but exceptional public library service because of the vision and hard work of the initial EOLS staff who spent untold hours on the road, countless hours in meetings with local City and County officials and library supporters, hauled books, shelving, library furniture and supplies over six counties with the singular goal of providing the best possible library service to all.

Also, the current support staff and branch managers stand on the shoulders of all who came before them. Some had long tenures, others were shorter, but all brought something positive to EOLS's history and to the communities it served.

Each community within the EOLS service area is unique. Their respective stories are proof of that. As a whole, EOLS libraries have played a major role in the growth and development of eastern Oklahoma and the communities served. On that score EOL libraries are a united whole.

The epilogue of the System's first fifty years serves simply as the prologue to its future.



Author's Biography

Margaret Rigney was the Eufaula Memorial Library's first EOLS branch manager in 1971. She also served as the System's Children's Coordinator from 1972 to 1974. From 1974 to 1976 Rigney was the Regional Coordinator and Community Librarian in the Southeast Oklahoma Library System in Leflore County and Poteau, Oklahoma.

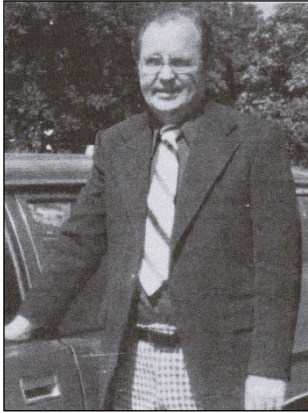


Author Margaret Rigney

After working at the two Eastern Oklahoma Library Systems, Rigney began working at Connors State College in Warner/Muskogee from 1977 until her retirement in 2013. While there she worked in the Federal Grants Office from 1977 to 1987, was an Admissions Advisor from 1987 to 1994 and Director of the Library Learning Center from 1994 until her retirement in 2013.

EOLS EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

James R. Wilkerson: (1969-1978)



James Wilkerson began his library career as Director of the Moore Public Library. In 1969 he was recruited to be Muskogee Public Library's Head Librarian and ultimately the first Executive Director of EOLS (officially founded in 1970 as the Eastern Oklahoma District Library System). Prior to his library career, Jim attended Oklahoma City University and received a Bachelor's

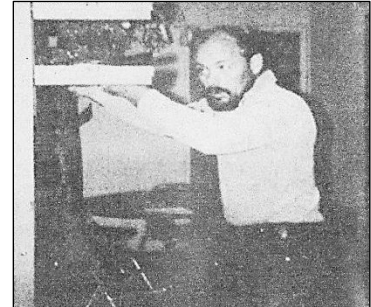
Degree in Religious Education. He continued his education at the University of Oklahoma where he earned a Master's Degree in Library Science.

In 1969 a Muskogee Library System consisted of Muskogee Public Library and its African-American branch named after poet Phillis A. Wheatley and the City's Bookmobile. By the end of Wilkerson's tenure in 1978 EOLS consisted of eleven new or updated libraries in six eastern Oklahoma counties plus two rural Bookmobiles serving the System's rural communities.

In 1978 Jim and his family moved to Colorado where he was a Colorado State Library Consultant. In 1981 the family moved back to Oklahoma where he served in a variety of library jobs including as librarian of the Carnegie Public Schools and as an adjunct professor at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford. In 1987 he took a full-time job as a Serials Librarian at SWOSU. Jim retired in 2000 and moved back to Muskogee with his wife, Jan. Jim passed away in 2007. Jan passed away in 2023. Their son Mark and his family continue to live in Muskogee. Their daughter Beth and her family reside in Tucson, Arizona.

Monty M. Maxwell: (1978-1981)

Monty Maxwell came to EOLS from Indiana University where he was Acting Head of the Undergraduate Library. Maxwell received both his Bachelor of Science in Education with a major in English and a minor in Russian in 1971 and Master of Library Science degree from Indiana University in 1973. A self-proclaimed “city kid” he was reared in both Oklahoma and Florida. He returned to Oklahoma



with his wife and three children to join his wife’s family in the Sallisaw area and to head EOLS. After he resigned from EOLS, his wife and family remained in the Sallisaw area. His wife worked with the *Sequoyah County Times* newspaper until her death at the end of 2020.

Marilyn L. Hinshaw: (1982-2008)

Marilyn Hinshaw came to EOLS from Columbia, Missouri where she was Assistant Director of the Daniel Boone Regional Library System. She began her library career at age 16, shelving books in her hometown at the El Dorado Public Library in Kansas. Hinshaw received her Associate’s Degree from Butler County Community College, a Bachelor’s Degree from Emporia State College, both in Kansas, and a Master’s in Public Administration from the University of Missouri at Columbia. At both Butler and Emporia State her student jobs were in



the respective colleges’ libraries.

After taking time out to rear two children, Hinshaw returned to Emporia State College to get a Master’s Degree in Library Science. From Emporia Marilyn went to the Kansas State Library starting at the reference desk but was promoted to Public Library Consultant then training director for Kansas Libraries. After her tenure with the Kansas State Library, she moved

to El Paso as a branch administrator and became Director to start up the nine-county Trans-Pecos Library System.

Returning to Columbia from Texas, Hinshaw was the Assistant Director of the Daniel Boone Regional Library System prior to accepting the EOLS Executive Director's position. Marilyn served at the System for 26 years, retiring in 2008. Marilyn, and her husband Bud, live in Muskogee as does their daughter Beth. Son Art lives with his wife and family in Phoenix, Arizona.

Along the way, Marilyn held several regional and national offices and has received numerous awards beginning in Texas where received the Outstanding New Librarian Award in 1976. In the 1980's she was national president of the small/medium size library unit of the Public Library Division of the American Library Association. She also served on the Board of Directors of AMIGOS, a regional cooperative library organization headquartered in Dallas. Marilyn also served as Chair of the Library Development Committee of the Oklahoma Library Association (OLA).

In 2003 Marilyn received the Distinguished Service Award from the Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA) at their annual meeting. In 2007 Marilyn was named one of the 100 Library Legends by the Oklahoma Library Association, honoring persons and support groups with their service to Oklahoma's Libraries. Marilyn also received OLA's Distinguished Service Award in 2008.

Mary J. S. Moroney (2009 -2023)

Mary Sander Moroney came to Oklahoma from Iowa in December 1983 as a Tech Services Specialist. In 1987 Mary received her MLIS degree from the University of Oklahoma. In 1988 she became the System's Coordinator of Automation & Technical Services. In 1995 she

became the System's Assistant Director. And, in 2009, she became the Executive Director upon the retirement of Marilyn Hinshaw the preceding year.

During her tenure at EOLS the circulation and cataloging functions were automated. A Personnel Manual was created with updated job descriptions and a Performance Evaluation System was implemented. The System's Support Services Office moved twice during her tenure. Three branches - Hulbert, Kansas, Warner - were added to the System requiring the moving and cataloging of three additional collections to the existing System catalog.



The System's logo and name change occurred in March 2020, fifty years after the System's creation as the Eastern Oklahoma District Library System in 1970. The System went fine free in 2020 and even more importantly, quickly initiated a response to the Covid pandemic



a few weeks later that protected the staff and public alike as well as continuing service to the EOLS communities.

During her tenure, the Board formalized the Hinshaw Honorarium for employees pursuing education goals. Also, Mary's tenure with EOLS began during the early years of computer automation which ultimately morphed into the technologies of the Internet age and all the issues inherent with emerging technologies across the board – paperwork, grants, costs, equipment, policies, procedures, CIPA compliance, etc.

Mary's professional memberships included the following: the American Library Association (ALA), Public Library Association (PLA), and Oklahoma Library Association (OLA). She has also served on several subcommittees within these organizations such as: the ALA Scholarship Sub-Committee; the PLA Membership Recruitment Committee. She chaired OLA's Membership and Intellectual Freedom Committees as well as serving on its Membership,

Ethics, Interlibrary Cooperation, Intellectual Freedom, Legislative, Program, Awards and Budget committees.

Other relevant experiences included: serving on the ODL/OLA Certification Board and OLTN; Leadership Muskogee Class III; Soroptimist International of Muskogee, serving as its President in 2000-02; 1991 graduate of Miami University's, "Management Development Program for Library Administrators"; 2008 graduate of University of Michigan's, "Positive Leadership: Creating Spectacular Organizational Success;" and Oklahoma University's SLIS Alumni Board.

In retirement, Mary planned to remain in Muskogee working on writing projects with her husband, Jim.

EOLS Branch Managers, 1970 - 2020

COUNTY/TOWN	BRANCH MANAGER	FROM	TO
ADAIR COUNTY			
Stilwell	Fanny Lewis	1971	1972
	Josie Harris	1972	1975
	Jan Gallaway	1975	1979
	Patricia Neale	1980	1990
	Vicki Irwin	1990	1992
	Patricia Neale Gordon	1992	2004
	Karen George	2004	2014
	Arlene Burton	2014	2016
	Kathleen Connelly-Brown	2016	2021
Westville	Helen Bynum	1970	1985
	SueAnn Ghormley	1985	2016
	Stephanie Freedle	2016	2022
CHEROKEE COUNTY			
Hulbert	Andrea Sizemore	1996	2000
	Sandy Willems	2000	2001
	Shirley Jackson	2003	2004
	Susan Engelman	2008	2010
	Kathleen Ryan	2010	2012
	Shelly Cook	2012	2013
	Cherokee Lowe	2013	2021
Tahlequah	Essa Gladney	1923	1975
	Lyle Bowman	1972	1991
	Robert Finch	1991	1995
	Georgie Drees	1995	2007
	Robin Mooney	2008	2021
DELAWARE COUNTY			
Grove	Carol Wise	1972	1981

Jessie Zumwalt	1981	1991
Marcia Austin	1991	2007
Brenda Newnam	2008	-

Jay	Judy Anderson	1970	1975
	Deanna Smith	1975	2006
	Viola Wofford	2006	2008
	Dee Buffalo	2009	2012
	Karen Alexander	2012	2020

Kansas	Susan Engelman	2008	2010
	Kathleen Ryan	2010	2012
	Shelly Cook	2012	2013
	Cherokee Lowe	2013	2021

**McINTOSH
COUNTY**

Checotah	Kathy Mitchell	1971	1972
	Fern Creekmore	1973	1974
	Nina Stewart	1974	1997
	Carol Albin	1993	1994
	Cathy Collins	1994	1997
	Sharmell Martin	1996	1998
	Katherine Smith	1998	2022

Eufaula	Margaret Whinnen	1971	1973
	Doris Bivin	1973	1979
	Marguerite Schmitt	1980	1993
	Carol Albin	1993	1994
	Shirley Thomas	1994	2000
	Margaret Collins	2000	2014
	Peggy Black	2014	2018
	Brittany Moore	2018	2023

**MUSKOGEE
COUNTY**

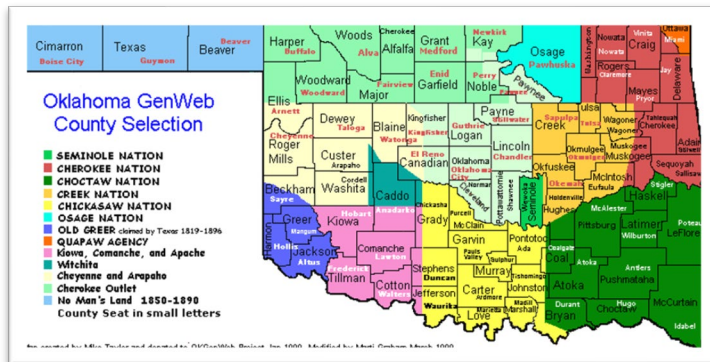
Fort Gibson	Rhoda Austin	1978	1979
	Gayle Ledford	1979	2012
	Rhonda Lee	2012	2022

Haskell	Marie Lechner	1972	1981
	Tena Kirk	1981	2004
	Angela Thornton	2004	2008
	Kathleen Ryan	2010	2012

	Peggy Matthews	2012	2014
	Holly Hughes	2014	2022
Muskogee	Jim Wilkerson	1969	1978
	Jeanette McQuitty	1978	1980
	Sonia Bigus	1980	1982
	Carol Kochman Brey	1982	1987
	Marion Bryant	1988	1994
	Marilyn Hinshaw	1995	1998
	Jan Bryant	1998	2015
	Rene Myers	2016	2018
	Jessica Conley	2019	2021
Warner	Shirley Thomas	1990	1994
	Shirley Noisey	1994	1998
	Peggy Matthews	1998	2014
	Holly Hughes	2014	2022
SEQUOYAH COUNTY			
Muldrow	Nancy Morgan	1979	1981
	Sondra Gail Bethel	1981	1983
	Bethia Owens	1983	-
Sallisaw	Patricia Taylor	1970	1972
	O.J. Grosclaude	1972	2000
	Susanna Roth	2000	2001
	Bethia Owens	2002	-

Eastern Oklahoma Library System Demographics

The Eastern Oklahoma Library System (EOLS) encompasses Adair, Cherokee, Delaware, McIntosh, Muskogee and Sequoyah Counties in east central and northeastern Oklahoma. The System covers 4,412 square miles. Using *Data USA* figures the total population of the service area in 2021 was 233,308. At the System's beginning in 1970 the area's total population was 151,448.



The Indian Nations of Oklahoma Map includes the EOLS Service Area within the Muskogee (Creek) and Cherokee Indian Nations. The Muskogee Nation area occupies the Prairie Plains geographic area. The Cherokee Nation occupies the foothills of the Ozark Plateau.

The ethnic composition of the System's Service Area has changed significantly in the fifty plus years of its existence. The ethnic background of the System's six counties in 1970 was approximately 80 percent White, 13 percent Black and 7 percent Native American. Using 2021 *Data USA* figures, the ethnic background of the System's service area was 55 percent White, 4 percent Black, 24 percent Native American, 4 percent Hispanic and 13 percent Other. Adair, Cherokee, Delaware and Sequoyah Counties have the largest percentages



*The Great Seal of the Muskogee Nation.
(Google Images)*

of Native Americans within their respective populations in both the 1970 and 2020 censuses. Muskogee County has the largest Black population. The racial composition of the EOLS Service Area varies from county to county. In the 1970s, the Hispanic and Other racial categories were negligible while in the 2020s the two categories combined now make up approximately 13 percent of

the entire Service Area's population.

Geographically, the System covers the areas of Oklahoma referred to as the Prairie Plains and the foothills of the Ozark Plateau. EOLS's Service Area is in what was known as Indian Territory prior to Oklahoma Statehood. Today, EOLS covers a significant part of both the Muscogee (Creek) and Cherokee Indian Nations formed as a result of the Civilized Tribes removal from their homeland in the southeastern United States.



*The Great Seal of the Cherokee Nation.
(Google Images)*

The settlements within the six counties were founded generally by the middle to late nineteenth century. The federal government had no authority in Indian Territory so most of the settlements and communities remained unincorporated until the late nineteenth century and beyond when the Curtis Act of 1898 helped to weaken and dissolve Indian Territory tribal governments. The towns could then be surveyed, incorporated and residents allowed to vote.

Town	Year of Incorporation	Town	Year of Incorporation
Adair County		McIntosh County	
Westville	1895	Eufaula	1898
Stilwell	1897	Checotah	1898
Cherokee County		Muskogee County	
Hulbert	1965	Haskell	1904*
Tahlequah	1852	Muskogee	1898
Delaware County		Ft Gibson	
Grove	1895	Warner	1908
Jay	1939	Sequoyah County	
Kansas	1902*	Muldrow	1887
		Sallisaw	1898

*Incorporation Dates Unknown. Date refers to establishment of town's Post Office.

ALL KNOWN BRANCH MANAGERS_OTHER HISTORICALLY RELEVANT STAFF, 1894-2024						
	BRANCH MANAGER				NOTES &	
	NAME	FROM	TO		EDITS	
ADAIR COUNTY						
Stilwell	Fanny Lewis	1971	1972			
	Josie Harris	1972	1975			
	Jan Gallaway	1975	1979			
	Patricia Neale	1980	1990			
	Vicki Irwin	1990	1992			
	Patricia (Neale) Gordon	1992	2004	Retired 2006		
	Karen George	2004	2014			
	Arlene Burton	2014	2016			
	Kathleen Connelly-Brown	2016	2021			
	Rachele Horney	2021				
Westville	Helen Bynum	1968	1985	City-funded until EOLS		
	SueAnn Ghormley	1985	2016			
	Stephanie Freedle	2016	2022			
	Joseph Weissman	2022	2023			
	Tessa DuBois	2023				
CHEROKEE COUNTY						
Tahlequah	Mary A. Lawrence	1908	1909			
	Rev. Joseph F. Thompson	1909	1922			
	Essa Gladney	1923	1975	City funded until EOLS		
	Lyle Bowman	1972	1991	MAB mngr until retirement, 1993		
	Robert Finch	1991	1995			
	Georgie Drees	1995	2007			
	Robin Mooney	2008	2021			
	Cherokee Lowe	2021	2023			
	Jeremy Jones	2023				
Hulbert	Andrea Sizemore	1996	2000			
	Sandy Willems	2000	2001			
	Shirley Jackson	2003	2004			
Small Branch Coord	Susan Engelman	2008	2010			
Small Branch Coord	Kathleen Ryan	2010	2012			
	Shelly Cook	2012	2013			
	Cherokee Lowe	2013	2021			
	Rhonda Lee	2021	2022			
	Julie Poor	2022	2023			
	Ashley Rouse	2023				
DELAWARE COUNTY						
Grove	Elfie Richards	1965	1971	City-funded until EOLS		
	Carol Wise	1972	1981			

	Jessie Zumwalt	1981	1991		
	Marcia Austin	1991	2007		
	Brenda Newnam	2008			
Jay	Judy Anderson	1970	1975		
	Deanna Smith	1975	2006		
	Viola Wofford	2006	2008		
	Dee Buffalo	2009	2012		
	Karen Alexander	2012	2020		
	Shelly Cook	2020			
Kansas	Susan Engelman	2008	2010		
	Kathleen Ryan	2010	2012		
	Shelly Cook	2012	2013		
	Cherokee Lowe	2013	2021		
	Stephanie Freedle	2021	2022		
	Joseph Weissman	2022	2023		
	Tessa DuBois	2023			
MCINTOSH COUNTY					
Checotah	Kathy Mitchell	1971	1972		
	Fern Creekmore	1973	1974		
	Nina (Guthrie) Stewart	1974	1997		
	Carol Albin	1993	1994		
	Cathy Collins	1994	1996		
	Sharmell Martin Garcia	1996	1998		
	Katherine Smith	1998	2022		
	Kenneth Matthews	2022			
Eufaula	Margaret (Whinnen) Rigney	1971	1973		
	Doris Bivin	1973	1979		
	Marguerite (Bridges) Schmidt	1980	1993		
	Carol Albin	1993	1994		
	Shirley Thomas	1994	2000		
	Margaret Collins	2000	2014		
	Peggy (Black) Jordan	2014	2018		
	Brittany Moore	2018	2023		
	Amanda Grantham	2024			
MUSKOGEE COUNTY					
Fort Gibson	Rhoda Austin	1978	1979		
	Gayle Ledford	1979	2012		
	Rhonda Lee	2012	2022		
	Julie Poor	2022	2023		
	Ashley Rouse	2023			

Haskell	Marie Lechner	1972	1981		
	Helen (Tena) Kirk	1981	2004		
	Angela Thornton	2004	2008		
	Susan Engleman	2008	2010		
	Kathleen Ryan	2010	2012		
	Peggy Matthews	2012	2014		
	Holly Hughes	2014	2022		
	Jeremy Jones	2022	2023		
	Courtney Helm	2024			
Muskogee	Ora Eddleman	1894		Age 13, Volunteer	
	Jessie Croom	1908	1912	1st City-funded employee	
	Mary Radford	1912	1918		
	Sarah Noble	1918	1920		
	Ruth Hammond	1921	1925		
	Cora Case Porter	1925	1945		
	Gertrude Bryan Davis	1945	1952		
	Joe H. Templeton	1952	1954		
	Richard J. Covey	1954	1956		
	Marguerite Bass	1956	1958	Interim, Children's Libr	1947-1971
	William H. Stewart	1958	1969		
	Jim Wilkerson ExD&Libn	1969	1978	1st System-paid Director/Libn	
	Jeanette McQuitty	1978	1980	Adult Services, 1977	
	Sonia (Bigus) Long	1980	1982		
	Carol Kochman Brey*	1982	1987		
	Marion Bryant*	1988	1994		
	Marilyn Hinshaw	1995	1998		
	Loyetta Jan Bryant	1998	2015		
	Rene Myers	2016	2018		
	Jessica Conley	2019	2021		
	Jane Holt	2022	2023		
	Julie Poor	2023			
Phyllis Wheatley	Della Blanton	1913	1918		
Branch	Leontine Scott	1918	1921		
	Belzera Malvin	1921	1921		
	Ethel Tucker	1921	1943		
	Edna Baucom	1943	1948		
	Emmerine Moore	1948	1981		
Warner	Shirley Thomas	1990	1994		
	Shirley (Shackleford) Noisey	1994	1998		
	Margaret (Peggy) Matthews	1998	2014		
	Holly Hughes	2014	2022		
	Jeremy Jones	2022	2023		
	Courtney Helm	2024			

SEQUOYAH COUNTY						
Muldrow	Nancy Morgan	1979	1981			
	Sondra Gail Bethel	1981	1983			
	Bethia Owens	1983				
Sallisaw	Patricia Taylor	1969	1972			
	O.J. Grosclaude	1972	2000			
	Susanna Roth	2000	2001			
	Bethia Owens	2002		Became County Branch Mgr.		
ROGERS COUNTY	Demonstration Only					
Catoosa	Bonnie Aston	1971				
Claremore	Geraldine Womack	1972				
Inola	Sara Clay					
Chelsea	N/A					
SMALL BRANCH	Susan Engelman	2008	2010			
COORDINATORS	Kathleen Ryan	2010	2012			
HA-HU-KS						
EOLS DIRECTORS						
	James R. Wilkerson	1969	1978			
	Monty M. Maxwell	1978	1981			
	Marilyn L. Hinshaw	1982	2008			
	Mary J. Moroney	2009	2023	Hired as TechSrvs, 12/1/83		
	Kathy Seibold	2024				
ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS						
	Carol Kochman Brey*	1982	1987			
	Judy Kuykendall	1988	1991			
	Marion Bryant*	1988	1994	Became Assoc Director, 1992		
	Kathy Seibold	2018	2019			
	Christina Linz	2020	Current			
	*Were Also MPL Librarians					
EARLY EOLS STAFF						
	Una Mae Jennings	1970	1977	Assistant Director/Tech Srvs		
	Mary Beth Ozmun Webb	1972	1977	Assoc. Director/Branch Coord		
	Jerry Walker	1972	1974	MPL Assoc. Director/Adult Srvs		
	Barbara Proctor	1972	1987	Tech Srvs Supervisor/Adm Ass't		
	James R. Wilkerson	1969	1978	Director/MPL Libn		
*Includes only those EOLS branch managers who have served a minimum of 1 year+.						

	BRANCH MANAGERS						
	BRANCH MANAGER					NOTES &	
	NAME	FROM	TO			EDITS	
ADAIR COUNTY							
Stilwell	Fanny Lewis	1971	1972				
	Josie Harris	1972	1975				
	Jan Gallaway	1975	1979				
	Mary Rose	1979	1980				
	Patricia Neale	1980	1990				
	Vicki Irwin	1990	1992				
	Patricia (Neale) Gordon	1992	2004	Ret. 2006			
	Karen George	2004	2014				
	Arlene Burton	2014	2016				
	Kathleen Connelly-Brown	2016	2021				
	Rachele Horney	2021	Current	2016 MPL Children's Libn			
Westville	Helen Bynum	1970	1985	1968 - WE Community Library			
	SueAnn Ghormley	1985	2016				
	Stephanie Freedle	2016	2022				
	Joseph Weissman	2022	2023				
	Tessa DuBois	2023					
CHEROKEE COUNTY							
Tahlequah	Mary A. Lawrence	1908	1909				
	Rev. Joseph F. Thompson	1909	1922				
	Essa Gladney	1923	1975				
	Lyle Bowman	1972	1991	Ret 1993			
	Robert Finch	1991	1995				
	Georgie Drees	1995	2007				
	Robin Mooney	2008	2021				
	Cherokee Lowe	2021	2023				
	Jeremy Jones	2023					
Hulbert	Andrea Sizemore	1996	2000				
	Sandy Willems	2000	2001				
	Shirley Jackson	2003	2004				
Small Branch Coord	Susan Engelman	2008	2010				
Small Branch Coord	Kathleen Ryan	2010	2012				
	Shelly Cook	2012	2013				
	Cherokee Lowe	2013	2021				
	Rhonda Lee	2021	2022				
	Julie Poor	2022	2023				
	Ashley Rouse	2023					
DELAWARE COUNTY							
Grove	Elfie Richards	1965	1971				

	Carol Wise	1972	1981			
	Jessie Zumwalt	1981	1991			
	Marcia Austin	1991	2007			
	Brenda Newnam	2008				
Jay	Judy Anderson	1970	1975			
	Deanna Smith	1975	2006			
	Viola Wofford	2006	2008			
	Dee Buffalo	2009	2012			
	Karen Alexander	2012	2020			
	Shelly Cook	2020				
Kansas	Susan Engelman	2008	2010			
	Kathleen Ryan	2010	2012			
	Shelly Cook	2012	2013			
	Cherokee Lowe	2013	2021			
	Stephanie Freedle	2021	2022			
	Joseph Weissman	2022	2023			
	Tessa DuBois	2023				
MCINTOSH COUNTY						
Checotah	Kathy Mitchell	1971	1972			
	Kimberly Miller	1973	1973			
	Fern Creekmore	1973	1974			
	Nina (Guthrie) Stewart	1974	1997			
	Carol Albin	1993	1994			
	Cathy Collins	1994	1996			
	Sharmell Martin Garcia	1996	1998			
	Katherine Smith	1998	2022			
	Kenneth Matthews	2022				
Eufaula	Margaret (Whinnen) Rigney	1971	1973			
	Doris Bivin	1973	1979			
	Marguerite (Bridges) Schmitt	1980	1993			
	Carol Albin	1993	1994			
	Shirley Thomas	1994	2000			
	Margaret Collins	2000	2014			
	Peggy (Black) Jordan	2014	2018			
	Brittany Moore	2018	2023			
	Shymekia Adams	2023	2023			
	Amanda Grantham	2024				
MUSKOGEE COUNTY						
Ft. Gibson	Rhoda Austin	1978	1979			
	Gayle Ledford	1979	2012			
	Rhonda Lee	2012	2022			
	Julie Poor	2022	2023			

	Ashley Rouse	2023				
Haskell	LaRae Polk	1972	1972			
	Marie Lechner	1972	1981			
	Helen (Tena) Kirk	1981	2004			
	Mandy Lemons	2004	2004			
	Angela Thornton	2004	2008			
	Susan Engleman	2008	2010			
	Kathleen Ryan	2010	2012			
	Margaret (Peggy) Matthews	2012	2014			
	Holly Hughes	2014	2022			
	Jeremy Jones	2022	2023			
	Deidra Grzymala	2023	2023			
	Courtney Helm	2024				
Muskogee	Ora Eddleman	1894		Age 13, Volunteer		
	Jessie Croom	1908	1912			
	Emily Turner	1912	1912			
	Mary Radford	1912	1918			
	Sarah Noble	1918	1920			
	Ruth Hammond	1921	1925			
	Cora Case Porter	1925	1945			
	Gertrude Bryan Davis	1945	1952			
	Joe H. Templeton	1952	1954			
	Richard J. Covey	1954	1956	M.Bass, Interim		
	William H. Stewart	1958	1969			
	Marguerite Bass	1947	1971	Children's Libn, Acting Libn		
	Jim Wilkerson ExD&Libn	1969	1978			
	Jeanette McQuitty	1978	1980	Adult Coord 1977/Libn 1978		
	Sonia (Bigus) Long	1980	1982			
	Carol Kochman Brey	1982	1987	EOLS Assoc Director/MPL		
	Marion Bryant	1988	1994	MPL/Assoc Director 1992		
	Loyetta Jan Bryant	1995	2015			
	Rene Myers	2016	2018			
	Jessica Conley	2019	2021			
	Jane Holt	2022	2023			
	Julie Poor	2023				
Phyllis Wheatley	Della Blanton	1913	1918			
Branch	Leontine Scott	1918	1921			
	Belzera Malvin	1921	1921			
	Ethel Tucker	1921	1943			
	Edna Baucom	1943	1948			
	Emmerine Moore	1948	1981			
Warner	Shirley Thomas	1990	1994			
	Shirley (Shackleford) Noisey	1994	1998			

	Margaret (Peggy) Matthews	1998	2014			
	Holly Hughes	2014	2022			
	Jeremy Jones	2022	2023			
	Deidra Grzymala	2023	2023			
	Courtney Helm	2024				
SEQUOYAH COUNTY						
Muldrow	Nancy Morgan	1979	1981			
	Sondra Gail Bethel	1981	1983			
	Bethia Owens	1983				
Sallisaw	Patricia Taylor	1969	1972			
	O.J. Grosclaude	1972	2000			
	Susanna Roth	2000	2001			
	Bethia Owens	2002		Became County Branch Mgr.		
ROGERS COUNTY						
	Demonstration Only					
Catoosa	Bonnie Aston	1971				
Claremore	Geraldine Womack	1972				
Inola	Sara Clay					
Chelsea	N/A					
SMALL BRANCH COORDINATORS - HA, HB, KS						
	Susan Engelman	2008	2010			
	Kathleen Ryan	2010	2012			
EOLS EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS						
	James R. Wilkerson	1969	1978			
	Monty M. Maxwell	1978	1981			
	Marilyn L. Hinshaw	1982	2008			
	Mary J. Moroney	2009	2023	Hired TS 12/1/83		
	Kathy Seibold	2024				
ASSISTANT OR ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS						
	Carol Kochman Brey*	1982	1987			
	Judy Kuykendall	1988	1991			
	Marion Bryant*	1988	1994	Assoc Director 1992		
	Jessica Reed	2017	2017			
	Kathy Seibold	2018	2019			
	Christina Linz	2020	Current			
	*Also MPL Librarians					
EARLY EOLS STAFF						
	Una Mae Jennings	1970	1977	Assistant Director/Tech Srvs		
	Mary Beth Ozmun Webb	1972	1977	Assoc. Director/Branch Coord		
	Jerry Walker	1972	1974	MPL Assoc. Director/Adult Srvs		
	Barbara Proctor	1972	1987	Tech Srvs Supervisor/Adm Ass't		
	James R. Wilkerson	1969	1978	Executive Director		

Brief History of Oklahoma's Public Libraries

Bibliography

1. Anderson, Florence, et al. "List of Carnegie Libraries in Oklahoma," Wikipedia Foundation, July 16, 2018, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Carnegie_Libraries_in_Oklahoma.
2. Everett, Dianna, "Carnegie Libraries." The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture, [https://, https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=CA058](https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=CA058).
3. "Has 130 Public Libraries." *Muldrow Sun* (OK), September 16, 1921, 2.
4. "Oklahoma City's Carnegie Library." Courtesy of Metropolitan Library System of Oklahoma County.
5. Oklahoma Department of Libraries, Oklahoma Public Libraries and Library Systems Map, <https://libraries.ok.gov/we-content/uploads/OK-Public-Libraries-Systems-1.pdf>
6. Oklahoma Statutes, Title 65. Public Libraries, 65-1-103 Purpose.
7. Orlean, Susan, *Library Book* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2018), 299.
8. Wilson, Linda D. "Public Libraries," The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture, <https://okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=PU008>.
9. William R. Young. "Oklahoma Department of Libraries," The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture," <https://okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=OK040>.

Captions

1. Guthrie's Carnegie Library built in 1901. (Google Images)
2. Oklahoma City's Carnegie Library also built in 1901. (Google Images)
3. Tahlequah's Carnegie Library built in 1905. (Library photos)
4. Muskogee's Carnegie Library built in 1914. (Library photos)

5. The Allen Wright Memorial Library, current home of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. (Google Images)
6. An Oklahoma Library Extension Division Bookmobile. These red vehicles toured the State in the 1950s-60s. Many EOLS communities received visits from these Bookmobiles prior to the arrival of the Library System. (The boy and steer were optional) (ODL photo)

Chapter 1 - In the Beginning, 1970-1979

Bibliography

1. EOLS Board Minutes, 1970-79.
2. "Grants for Library Systems Awarded 6 State Counties." *The Daily Oklahoman* (OK), June 25, 1970, 22.
3. "Library System for Area Urged." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix* (OK), June 25, 1958, 1.
4. "Mail-A-Book Provides Latest Paperbacks." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix* (OK), September 1, 1978.
5. Oklahoma Library Title 65: Public Libraries, Oklahoma Statutes 1969 Supplement.
6. Orlean, Susan. *The Library Book*, 60.
7. "System Board Holds First Meeting, Aug. 8." *Eufaula Indian Journal* (OK), September 17, 1970, 1.

Captions

1. Muskogee Head Librarian William Stewart discusses the possibilities of establishing a multi-county library system with Esther Mae Henke, ODL Extension Librarian, Leta Dover, Bacone Librarian, and Virginia Owens, ODL Field Librarian. (*Muskogee Daily Phoenix*)
2. James R. Wilkerson, EOLS Executive Director, 1969-1978. (Library photo)
3. In spite of the pressures of his job, Director Wilkerson usually could be seen with a smile. (Library photo)
4. Langston Elementary School, built in 1912, was the first location of the EOLS Service Center. (Manual Training High School, 1965)
5. First location of the Delaware County Library. (Library photo)
6. First location of the Eufaula Public Library. (Library photo)

7. First location of the Stilwell Public Library. (Library photo)
8. First location of the Grove Public Library in the City Complex. (Library photo)
9. First location of the Jim Lucas Checotah Public Library. (Library photo)
10. First location of the Sallisaw City Library inside the Sallisaw City Complex. (Library photo)
11. Record albums, 16mm films and newspapers were welcome additions to the recently established branch libraries. (Library photos)
12. OTIS was the “mascot” of the Oklahoma Teletype Interlibrary System. (ODL)
13. Mary Ann Wentworth, Oklahoma Department of Libraries Children’s Coordinator. (ODL photo)
14. Groundbreaking of the new Muskogee Public Library in February 1971. Left to right: EOLS Director, James Wilkerson; Muskogee Mayor, Elmo Madewell; and Frank Borovetz, Muskogee City Council Member. (*Muskogee Daily Phoenix*)
15. Original Circulation Desk area of the old Tahlequah Carnegie Library. (Library photo)
16. First location of the Haskell Public Library. (Library photo)
17. The incorporation of the Wheatley Branch’s materials and staff into the new Muskogee Public Library in 1972 marked the end of library segregation begun in 1913. (Library photo)
18. Bookmobile Story Hour under a tree in the summer of 1976. (Library photo)
19. Monty Maxwell, EOLS Director, 1978-1981. (Source unknown)
20. The value of the Mail-A-Book service can be seen in the boys’ smiles. (Library photo)
21. Esther Mae Henke was the powerhouse behind the development of multi-county library systems in Oklahoma, EOLS included. (Library photo)
22. The first location of the Muldrow Public Library was also in the City’s Town Hall. (Library photo).

Bookmobile Bibliography & Captions

Bibliography

1. EOLS Board Minutes, 1970-2020.

Captions

1. The first U.S Bookmobile, 1905. (Google Images)
2. Muskogee's first Bookmobile in 1953. Children's Librarian, Marguerite Bass, was the supervisor. Here she talks with the High School shop students who built the Traveling Branch's bookshelves inside the trailer. (Library photo)
3. Muskogee's first commercially-built Bookmobile obtained in the mid-1960s. Here it participated in a local parade decorated with the theme of the 1972 Summer Reading Program, *Fiesta de Libros*. (Library photo)
4. System Bookmobiles A&B covered the rural communities. (Library photo)
5. Children's and Young Adult books with a Bookmobile theme are not as well- known today as they were in the past. (Google Images)
6. The System's last known Bookmobile served the far eastern System counties and communities. (Library photo)

Checotah Bibliography & Captions

Bibliography

Introduction to Checotah

1. Checotah Landmark Preservation Society, "Checotah," The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture, <https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=CH011>.
2. Gamblen, Yvonne, *Checotah Historical Highlights*. (Heritage House Publishing.1990).

Checotah's Early Library History

1. "508 Readers Listed at Checotah Library." *McIntosh County Democrat* (Checotah, OK), October 23, 1941, 1.
2. Buford, Rubye. "Town Topics." *McIntosh County Democrat* (Checotah, OK), March 24, 1966. 1.
3. "Checotah Builds City Hall." *Eufaula Indian Journal* (OK), October 29, 1915. 1.
4. "Checotah Ten Thousand Club Meets and Transacts Important Business." *Checotah Times*, (IT), February 1, 1907, 2. Also *Checotah Enquirer* (IT), February 1, 1907.
5. "The City Library." *Checotah Times* (OK), June 13, 1924. 1.
6. "Doings of the Week in and About Town." *Checotah Enquirer* (OK), February 21, 1908. 3.
7. "Girl Scouts Open Checotah Library." *McIntosh County Democrat* (Checotah, OK), April 6, 1944. 1.
8. "In Society." *Checotah Times* (OK), October 25, 1907. 6.
9. "In Society." *Checotah Times* (OK), February 26, 1909. 7.
10. "Jaycees Thankful for Bookmobile." *McIntosh County Democrat* (Checotah, OK), July 16, 1965. 1.
11. "Jaynes Have Children's Hour." *McIntosh County Democrat* (Checotah, OK). May 18, 1967. 7.

12. "Jaynes Sponsoring Local Book Mobile." *McIntosh County Democrat* (Checotah, OK), May 28, 1965. 1.
13. "Letters to Santa." *McIntosh County Democrat* (Checotah, OK), December 20, 1956. 20.
14. "Library Books." *Checotah Times* (OK), April 22, 1910. 5.
15. "Library Books." *Checotah Times* (OK), February 18, 1910. 3.
16. "Library to be Established." *Checotah Enquirer*, (IT), October 25, 1907. 1.
17. "Library is Moved Back to City Hall." *McIntosh County Democrat* (Checotah, OK), November 19, 1936. 1.
18. "Library is moved to City Court Room." *McIntosh County Democrat* (Checotah, OK), April 16, 1936. 1.
19. "Library to Open for City Readers." *McIntosh County Democrat* (Checotah, OK), August 5, 1943. 1.
20. "Library to Open Starting June 6." *McIntosh County Democrat* (Checotah, OK), June 1, 1967. May 30, 1968, June 12, 1969, and June 11, 1970. 1.
21. "Library to Organize Children's Story Hour." *McIntosh County Democrat* (Checotah, OK), June 26, 1941. 1.
22. "Library to Re-Open." *Checotah Times* (OK), November 14, 1919. 1.
23. "Library Proposed in Local Talks." *McIntosh County Democrat* (Checotah, OK), March 17, 1960. 1.
24. "Library Vote Ahead." *McIntosh County Democrat* (Checotah OK), December 24, 1959. 18.
25. "Local Library to Be Operated by WPA Force." *McIntosh County Democrat* (Checotah, OK), October 10, 1940. 1.
26. "McIntosh Building Fire." *McIntosh County Democrat* (Checotah, OK), March 25, 1921. 8.
27. "The New State Club." *Checotah Enquirer* (OK), February 26, 1909.
28. "News Briefs." *Checotah Times* (OK), November 22, 1907. 4.
29. "News Briefs." *Checotah Enquirer* (OK), January 3, 1908. 2.

30. "News Briefs." *Checotah Enquirer* (OK), January 10, 1908. 5.
31. "News Briefs." *Checotah Times* (OK), February 21, 1908.
32. "News Briefs." *Checotah Times* (OK), July 17, 1908. 3
33. "News Briefs." *New State Tribune*, (Muskogee, IT), October 17, 1907. 12.
34. "Odum Proposes Library System." *McIntosh County Democrat* (Checotah, OK), March 17, 1966. 1.
35. "Ordinance No. 382." *McIntosh County Democrat* (Checotah, OK), July 9, 1970. 2.
36. "Proceedings of the City Board of Trustees." *Checotah Times* (OK), February 24, 1911. 1.
37. "Public Library." *McIntosh County Democrat* (Checotah, OK), January 28, 1926. 1.
38. "State Affairs by Johnston Murray." *McIntosh County Democrat* (Checotah, OK), March 6, 1952. 7.
39. "State Industrial Question Passes." *McIntosh County Democrat* (Checotah, OK), July 28, 1960. 1.
40. "Vacation Reading Club Is Organized." *McIntosh County Democrat* (Checotah, OK), April 17, 1941. 1.
41. "Wiser Repairing McIntosh Building." *McIntosh County Democrat* (Checotah, OK), June 17, 1937. 1.
42. "Year's Doings." *McIntosh County Democrat* (Checotah, OK), December 15, 1910. 19.

Jim Lucas Checotah Public Library

1. "Checotah Library Shows Fast Growth." *McIntosh County Democrat* (Checotah, OK), November 11, 1971. 1.
2. "Checotah Literacy Council Sets Meeting." *McIntosh County Democrat* (Checotah, OK), 1985.
3. "City Council Settles Library Name Dispute at Meeting Monday Night." *McIntosh County Democrat* (Checotah, OK), May 10, 1990. 2.

4. "City Public Library Site Gets Approval." *McIntosh County Democrat* (Checotah, OK), November 12, 1970, 1.
5. "County Approved For Library Service." *McIntosh County Democrat* (Checotah, OK), March 19, 1970, 1.
6. "County Women on Library Board." *McIntosh County Democrat* (Checotah, OK), September 10, 1970, 1.
7. EOLS Board Minutes, 1970-2020.
8. "Friends of Library to Organize." *McIntosh County Democrat* (Checotah, OK), March 17, 1988.
9. "Jim Lucas Library Named for Checotah Graduate." *McIntosh County Democrat* (Checotah, OK), March 1, 2001, 19.
10. "Jim Lucas was...." *Eufaula Indian Journal* (OK), February 24, 2000, 51.
11. "Library News." *McIntosh County Democrat* (Checotah, OK), December 12, 1974, 1.
12. "Looking Back by C.W. "Dub" West." *Eufaula Indian Journal* (OK), December 12, 1991. 7.
13. "Older Drivers, Medical Issues and Safety Concerns Class Coming to Area." *McIntosh County Democrat* (Checotah, OK), August 16, 2018, 13.
14. Ott, Leilani Roberts. "Bench Lets Others Know Legacy Left in Honor of Eli Wallace." *McIntosh County Democrat* (Checotah, OK), July 14, 2016, 1.
15. Ott, Leilani Roberts. "Flooding, Lightning Strike Keep City Busy." *McIntosh County Democrat* (Checotah, OK), May 4, 2017, 1.
16. Ott, Leilani Roberts. "Summer Program Feeding Hundreds Free." *McIntosh County Democrat* (Checotah, OK), June 29, 2017, 1.
17. "Public Library Comes To Town." *McIntosh County Democrat* (Checotah, OK), February 11, 1971, 4.
18. Swoboda, Dick. "Checotah Library Dedication Successful Community Feat." *McIntosh County Democrat* (Checotah, OK), December 19, 1991. 1.
19. Swoboda, Dick. "New Librarian Keeps Hopping Across County." *McIntosh County Democrat* (Checotah, OK), December 9, 1993, 3.

20. “Thank You, Thank You.” *McIntosh County Democrat* (Checotah, OK), March 21, 1996, 6.
21. “Throng Attends City Dedication.” *McIntosh County Democrat* (Checotah, OK), May 6, 1971. 1.

Captions

Introduction to Checotah

1. Creek Chief Samuel Checote, 1819-1884. (*Checotah Historical Highlights*)
2. The Duvall family was among rodeo royalty in steer wrestling, Left: Roy Duvall 1942, and right, Bill Duvall, 1941-. (Google Images)
3. Mel McDaniel, 1942-2011. (Google Images)
4. Carrie Underwood, 1983-. (Google Images)
5. Detroit Lions linebacker and defensive end from 1992-2001, Tracy Scroggins 1969-. (Google Images)
6. Paul Henry Carr, 1924-1944. (*Checotah Historical Highlights*)
7. Jim Griffing Lucas, 1914-1970. (*Checotah Historical Highlights*)
8. Honey Springs Battlefield & Museum. (Google Images)

Checotah’s Early Library History

1. Checotah City Hall, circa 1916-17. (*Checotah Historical Highlights*)
2. Muskogee Public Library’s pre-1960s Bookmobile under the direction of librarian, Marguerite Bass. (*Muskogee Daily Phoenix*)

Checotah Public Library

1. Current Jim Lucas Checotah Public Library. (Library photo)
2. Checotah’s first EOLS library building has had many reincarnations over time serving as a wholesale grocery, bus station, post office, café, various offices, the American Legion Hall, etc. (Library photo)

3. EOLS Director Jim Wilkerson officiated at the new Library's Dedication Ceremonies. Dignitaries included Congressman Ed Edmonson, a long-time friend of Jim Lucas; Mayor Dr. Charles Mitchell; another long-time Lucas friend, Britton Tabor; and siblings, Bob Lucas and Mary Lucas Moore. (Library photo)
4. Checotah citizens get their first look at the Library's remodeled interior, 1971. (*McIntosh County Democrat*)
5. James Griffing Lucas, 1914-1970. (Library photo)
6. Checotah's first branch manager, Kathy Mitchell (1971-72), photographed helping a patron. (*McIntosh County Democrat*)
7. Branch manager Nina Stewart (1974-1997) attempts to shelve just one more book on already cramped book shelves. It's time to move on! (Library photo)
8. Dr. Maurice Payne, Chair of the Library's Building Committee, 1988. (Library photo)
9. Library groundbreaking, January 1991. EOLS Director Marilyn Hinshaw, center in black coat; Dr. Payne next on the right; local and EOLS library board members and Checotah dignitaries make up the rest. (Library photo)
10. The following 6 pictures were of various stages of construction and the moving of materials from the old Library to the new. City workers did the heavy lifting as volunteers and library staff shelved materials at the new location. (Library photos)
11. EOLS Director Marilyn Hinshaw delivered the Dedication address to a standing room only audience. (Library photo)
12. Carol Albin, shared branch manager of Checotah and Eufaula from 1993-1994. (*McIntosh County Democrat*)
13. Muscogee Nation Head Start kids enjoyed their regular story hour visits in 1999. (*McIntosh County Democrat*)
14. Kathy Mitchell shares her experiences as Checotah's first EOLS branch manager at the Library's 30th Anniversary. (Library photo)
15. The first and current Checotah branch managers share more than experiences. They also shared the same first name. Left: Kathe Smith and right: Kathy Mitchell. (Library photo)
16. Eufaula's first branch manager Margaret Rigney and Checotah's first branch manager Kathy Mitchell share memories and laughs at the 30th Anniversary.

17. Local library board members Dr. Maurice Payne, Margaret Rigney, Priscilla Thomas, and Dr. Kay Kindt look over the newly-acquired Spanish language materials purchased with grant funds. (Library photo)
18. DeLois McGee, a former Checotah Public School teacher, served twenty years as the Checotah Literacy Council Coordinator. (Library photo)
19. McIntosh County branch managers, Kathe Smith, left, and Margaret Collins, right, prepare for the *McIntosh County Read Thing* based on Elie Wiesel's book, *Night*. (Library photo)
20. Dr. Jacob Howland. (Library photo)
21. Eva Uterman. (Library photo)
22. Miss America 2007, Lauren Nelson. (Google Images)
23. Frosty made frequent appearances at Checotah's annual Christmas parades. (Library photo)
24. Dr. Maurice Payne, 1934-2012. (Family photo)
25. The family of Eli Wallace surrounded the bench dedicated in his honor on June 2016. (*McIntosh County Democrat*)
26. Mayor Daniel Tarkington presented Eli Wallace's daughters with a proclamation declaring Eli Wallace Day in Checotah, June 30, 2016. (*McIntosh County Democrat*)
27. Family Fun Night poster. (Library photo)
28. Local Blues legend D.C. Minner (1935-2008), his wife Selby and band, *Blues on the Move*, performed at the Library's Christmas Open House in 1999. Since then, Selby has taught guitar lessons at both the Checotah and Eufaula Libraries. (Library photo)
29. Checotah City Maintenance Department employee uses a ShopVac to rid the Library of the rain water that seeped in through a wall and a window. (*McIntosh County Democrat*)
30. Checotah 4-H Clover Bud members plant flowers at the Library's entrance, 2016. (*McIntosh County Democrat*)
31. Animals are always a hit at Summer Reading Programs. This young boy met his first fennec fox up close at the Library, 2016. (*McIntosh County Democrat*)

Chapter 1 - In the Beginning, 1970-1979

Bibliography

1. EOLS Board Minutes, 1970-79.
2. "Grants for Library Systems Awarded 6 State Counties." *The Daily Oklahoman* (OK), June 25, 1970, 22.
3. "Library System for Area Urged." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix* (OK), June 25, 1958, 1.
4. "Mail-A-Book Provides Latest Paperbacks." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix* (OK), September 1, 1978.
5. Oklahoma Library Title 65: Public Libraries, Oklahoma Statutes 1969 Supplement.
6. Orlean, Susan. *The Library Book*, 60.
7. "System Board Holds First Meeting, Aug. 8." *Eufaula Indian Journal* (OK), September 17, 1970, 1.

Captions

1. Muskogee Head Librarian William Stewart discusses the possibilities of establishing a multi-county library system with Esther Mae Henke, ODL Extension Librarian, Leta Dover, Bacone Librarian, and Virginia Owens, ODL Field Librarian. (*Muskogee Daily Phoenix*)
2. James R. Wilkerson, EOLS Executive Director, 1969-1978. (Library photo)
3. In spite of the pressures of his job, Director Wilkerson usually could be seen with a smile. (Library photo)
4. Langston Elementary School, built in 1912, was the first location of the EOLS Service Center. (Manual Training High School, 1965)
5. First location of the Delaware County Library. (Library photo)
6. First location of the Eufaula Public Library. (Library photo)

7. First location of the Stilwell Public Library. (Library photo)
8. First location of the Grove Public Library in the City Complex. (Library photo)
9. First location of the Jim Lucas Checotah Public Library. (Library photo)
10. First location of the Sallisaw City Library inside the Sallisaw City Complex. (Library photo)
11. Record albums, 16mm films and newspapers were welcome additions to the recently established branch libraries. (Library photos)
12. OTIS was the “mascot” of the Oklahoma Teletype Interlibrary System. (ODL)
13. Mary Ann Wentworth, Oklahoma Department of Libraries Children’s Coordinator. (ODL photo)
14. Groundbreaking of the new Muskogee Public Library in February 1971. Left to right: EOLS Director, James Wilkerson; Muskogee Mayor, Elmo Madewell; and Frank Borovetz, Muskogee City Council Member. (*Muskogee Daily Phoenix*)
15. Original Circulation Desk area of the old Tahlequah Carnegie Library. (Library photo)
16. First location of the Haskell Public Library. (Library photo)
17. The incorporation of the Wheatley Branch’s materials and staff into the new Muskogee Public Library in 1972 marked the end of library segregation begun in 1913. (Library photo)
18. Bookmobile Story Hour under a tree in the summer of 1976. (Library photo)
19. Monty Maxwell, EOLS Director, 1978-1981. (Source unknown)
20. The value of the Mail-A-Book service can be seen in the boys’ smiles. (Library photo)
21. Esther Mae Henke was the powerhouse behind the development of multi-county library systems in Oklahoma, EOLS included. (Library photo)
22. The first location of the Muldrow Public Library was also in the City’s Town Hall. (Library photo).

Chapter 2 – Budget Woes as Buildings Grow, 1980-1989

Bibliography

1. Board Minutes, 1970-2020.

Captions

1. EOLS' second Executive Director, Monty Maxwell, 1978-1981. (Library photo)
2. John Hinkle was on the ODL consultant staff. Prior to his appointment to ODL, John was the Choctaw Nation Multi-County Library System's first Executive Director. (Google)
3. Barbara Proctor was acting Director during the months between the resignation of Director Maxwell and the hiring of Director Hinshaw. (Library photo)
4. Marilyn Hinshaw, EOLS Executive Director, 1982-2008. (Library photo)
5. An early picture of the new Stilwell Public Library, circa 1983. (Library photo)
6. The Rieger Memorial Library in Haskell under construction, 1984.(Library photo)
7. The Eufaula Memorial Library in the final stages of construction, circa 1985. (Library photo)
8. Architect's reimagining of the former train depot as the new Sallisaw Public Library later renamed the Stanley Tubbs Memorial Library, circa 1983. (Library photo)
9. The Library System's Newsletter, *Library Link-ups*, was created in June 1985. (Library photo)
10. The original Warner Public Library ready to open in 1990. (Library photo)
11. The John F. Henderson's remodeled handicapped accessible entry, circa 1988-89. (Library photo)
12. The original Reciprocal Borrowing Privileges Agreement with the Choctaw Nation Multi-County Library System, 1979. (Library document)

13. Letter from the Southeast Public Library System Director noting their Board's rescinding of not only EOLS' 1990 Reciprocal Borrowing proposal, but also of the 1979 proposal as well. (Library document)

Chapter 3 – Automation, Education & New Libraries, 1990-1999

Bibliography

1. Gorman, Michael. *Our Singular Strengths*.
2. EOLS Board Minutes, 1970-2020.

Captions

1. The Mail-A-Book postage meter in the processing room. (Library photo)
2. Tahlequah Public Library's Cut-Back Plan proposal prepared by then branch manager, Robert Finch, was an example of the planning and work put in by the branches to meet budget deficits at this point in the System's history. (Library photo)
3. The 1990s Bookmobile headquartered at the Tahlequah Public Library. (Library photo)
4. The expansion of the Warner Public Library in 1994 (Library photo)
5. Muldrow's branch manager, Bethia Owens, standing in the new Muldrow Library's construction debris. (Library photo)
6. The System's third Service Center location in the Hensley-Nichols Building across the street from the Muskogee Public Library. (Library photo)
7. A page from the Branch Establishment Measurement Scale, approved by the Board in 1998. (Library document)
8. Construction on the much-needed expansion of the Warner Public Library in 2001. (Library photo)

Chapter 4 - Expanding Technology & Recognitions, 2000-2009

Bibliography

1. Gorman, Michael. *Our Singular Strengths*.
2. EOLS Board Minutes, 1970-2020.

Captions

1. Dr. Barbara Staggs, 1940-2014. Long time Muskogee educator and Oklahoma State Representative from 1994-2006.
2. Carrie Underwood, American Idol winner 2005 and an Academy of Country Music, Grammy, and Country Music Association award winner graced the *Read Y'all* poster sponsored by EOLS in 2006.
3. EOLS Executive Director Mary Moroney, 2009-2023.

Chapter 5 - A New Home & A New Name, 2010-2020

Bibliography

1. EOLS Board Minutes, 1970-2020.
2. Gorman, Michael, *Our Singular Strengths*.
3. Orlean, Susan. *The Library Book*.

Captions

1. The EOLS Service Center since 2015 located at 14 East Shawnee. (Library Photo)
2. The original logo and name created and voted on at the first System Board meeting in 1970. (Board Minutes)
3. The current logo and name debuted in 2020. (Board Minutes)
4. Even the New York City Public Library Lions wore masks during the Pandemic! (Google Images)

Eufaula Bibliography & Captions

Bibliography

Introduction to Eufaula

1. "Eufaula, Oklahoma".
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eufaula,_Oklahoma#Eufaula_Business_District.
2. Harkey, John C. and Mary C. Harkey, "Eufaula," The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture, <https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=EU001>.
3. Harkey, John C., editor. "*Lake Eufaula Reflections.*" Friends of the Eufaula Memorial Library (Eufaula, OK), 1992.
4. May, Jon D. "North Fork Town."
<https://okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry?entry=NO011>.
5. Wilson, Linda D., "*Indian Journal,*" The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture, <https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=IN001>.

Eufaula's Early Library History

1. "19-Year-Old Scout Takes Initiative to Get Public Library at Eufaula." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix and Times-Democrat* (OK), March 3, 1940, 12.
2. "August 22 Last Day for Books to be Checked-In at Library." *Indian Journal* (Eufaula, OK), August 15, 1946, 1.
3. "Bookmobile Here Saturday, March 12." *Indian Journal* (Eufaula, OK), March 3, 1966, 1.
4. "Bookmobile Service to Cease Temporarily After August 27." *Indian Journal* (Eufaula, OK), August 11, 1966, 1.
5. "Card of Thanks and Report of Library Dinner." *Eufaula Democrat* (OK), February 5, 1915, 1.
6. "Carnegie Library for Eufaula." *Eufaula Republican* (OK), November 1, 1912, 3.
7. "Charity Union Meets." *Eufaula Democrat* (OK), June 27, 1913, 1.

8. "City Library One Year Old." *Eufaula Democrat* (OK), January 16, 1914, 1.
9. "Eufaula May Get Library Building by NYA Proposal." *Indian Journal* (Eufaula, OK), March 25, 1937, 1.
10. "Jaycees Agree to Help Raise Building Funds." *Indian Journal* (Eufaula, OK), February 22, 1940, 1.
11. "Library for Eufaula." *Eufaula Indian Journal* (OK), January 17, 1913, 1.
12. "Library Notes." *Eufaula Indian Journal* (OK), October 31, 1913, 2.
13. "Library Notes." *Eufaula Indian Journal* (OK), February 21, 1913, 1.
14. "Library Notes." *Eufaula Republican* (OK), November 21, 1913, 1.
15. "Library Notes." *Eufaula Indian Journal* (OK), August 8, 1913, 1.
16. "Library Notes." *Eufaula Indian Journal* (OK), June 6, 1913, 8.
17. "Library Story Hour to Begin June 11." *Indian Journal* (Eufaula, OK), May 12, 1966, 1.
18. "Local Notes." *Indian Journal* (Eufaula, OK), March 28, 1902, 5.
19. "New Books Received in the Library." *Eufaula Democrat* (OK), May 8, 1914, 3.
20. "News Briefs." *Eufaula Indian Journal* (OK), November 17, 1911, 6.
21. "Notice." *Indian Journal* (Eufaula, OK), March 30, 1922, 6.
22. "Penny Day for Library." *Eufaula Democrat* (OK), December 12, 1913, 1.
23. "Public Library Moved." *Eufaula Indian Journal* (OK), January 28, 1916, 8.
24. "Summer Lending Library Opened Here Thursday." *Indian Journal* (OK), June 13, 1946, 1.
25. "Woman's Club Met at the Public Library." *Eufaula Democrat* (OK), November 6, 1914, 3.

Eufaula Memorial Library

1. "Area Residents May Use Library." *Indian Journal* (Eufaula, OK), January 7, 1999, 4.
2. Black, Peggy. "@ the Library." *Indian Journal* (Eufaula, OK), February 26, 2015, 7.

3. "Building Sold." *Indian Journal* (Eufaula, OK), January 31, 1980.
4. "Checking Out on Broadway." *Indian Journal* (Eufaula, OK), July 4, 1985, 3.
5. "City Council Meets in Regular Session." *Indian Journal* (Eufaula, OK), June 4, 1970, 1.
6. "City Council Meets in Regular Session." *Indian Journal* (Eufaula, OK), December 10, 1970, 1.
7. "The Clay Tablet." *Indian Journal* (Eufaula, OK), March 11, 1971, 1.
8. "The Clay Tablet – Library Celebrates Second Anniversary." *Indian Journal* (Eufaula, OK), February 15, 1973, 13.
9. "The Clay Tablet Reflections – Millage Vote." *Indian Journal* (Eufaula, OK), December 2, 1971, 1.
10. "Council Decides to Hang Up on Current Phone Service." *Indian Journal* (Eufaula, OK), January 7, 2016, 3.
11. "County Voters Pass Library Levy, Reject 669, Go For Dole, President." *Indian Journal* (Eufaula, OK), March 21, 1996.
12. "District Library Board Approves Cuts for McIntosh County Libraries." *Indian Journal* (Eufaula, OK), July 16, 1992, 11.
13. EOLS Board Minutes, 1970-2020.
14. "Eufaula Friends' Expect \$80,000 for Telecommunications Hook-Up." *Indian Journal* (Eufaula, OK), October 17, 1996, 1.
15. "Eufaula Memorial Library." *Indian Journal* (Eufaula, OK), February 6, 1992, 7.
16. "Eufaula Memorial Library." *Indian Journal* (Eufaula, OK), September 3, 1992, 10.
17. "Eufaula Memorial Library." *Indian Journal* (Eufaula, OK), March 9, 2006, 13.
18. "Eufaula Memorial Library Receives Awards." *Indian Journal* (Eufaula, OK), December 31, 1987, 5.
19. "Eufaula Named State 'Hub Site' as Board Expands One-Net Plan." *Indian Journal* (Eufaula, OK), June 6, 1996, 1.
20. "Eufaula Public Library Reports Record Opening." *Indian Journal* (Eufaula, OK), February 11, 1971, 1.

21. "Experiment Ends for McIntosh County Libraries." *Indian Journal* (Eufaula, OK), August 18, 1994, 1.
22. "FEML Receives State Honor." *Indian Journal* (Eufaula, OK), January 10, 2019, 3.
23. "Fund Raising Plans Increasing for New Library Building." *Indian Journal* (Eufaula, OK), September 15, 1983, 1.
24. "Guest Editorial." *Indian Journal* (Eufaula, OK), September 15, 1983, 1.
25. Harkey, John C. editor. "Lake Eufaula Reflections." *Friends of the Eufaula Memorial Library*, (OK), 1992.
26. "High Speed Internet Coming to the Eufaula Memorial Library." *Indian Journal* (Eufaula, OK), December 30, 2010.
27. "Library Automation Eufaula First." *Indian Journal* (Eufaula, OK), November 14, 1974, 1.
28. "Library Awarded Grant for Telecommunications Upgrades and Capabilities." *Indian Journal* (Eufaula, OK), July 29, 2010.
29. "Library Dedication." *Indian Journal* (Eufaula, OK), January 22, 1981, 1.
30. "Library Fundraising Deadline Nears." *Indian Journal* (Eufaula, OK), September 29, 1983, 1.
31. "Library Moved to Armory." *Indian Journal* (Eufaula, OK), October 9, 1980, 1.
32. "Library Opens: Formal Dedication by Governor Nigh Set for August 23rd." *Indian Journal* (Eufaula, OK), July 25, 1985, 1.
33. "National Friends of Libraries Week Celebration Planned at Eufaula Library." *Indian Journal* (Eufaula, OK), October 18, 2018, 7.
34. "Present This Card for..." *Indian Journal* (Eufaula, OK), March 7, 1996, 18.
35. "Telecommunications Center Sets Up Three Tower Bases." *Indian Journal* (Eufaula, OK), June 19, 1997, 5.
36. "Two County Women Named to Library Board." *Indian Journal* (Eufaula, OK), September 10, 1970, 1.
37. "Two Mill Tax Levy March 12." *Indian Journal* (Eufaula, OK), February 15, 1996, 1

38. "Value of Our Library? Just Ask the Kids." *Indian Journal* (Eufaula, OK), April 24, 1975, 12.

Captions

Introduction to Eufaula

1. North Fork Town Historical Marker. (Google Images)
2. Current picture of downtown Eufaula. (Google Images)
3. A masthead from the *Indian Journal* newspaper. (*Indian Journal*)
4. Alexander Posey, 1873-1908. (Google Images)
5. Lake Eufaula Dam. (Google Images)
6. "Spear Dance" by Fred Beaver, 1911-1980. (Google Images)
7. "Two Girls Seated by Water with Baskets" by Jackson Narcomey, 1942-2012. (Google Images)
8. Selmon Brothers, left to right: Dewey, 1953-; Lucious, 1951- ; Lee Roy, 1954-2011. Dewey and Lee Roy played for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Dewey played for the Buccaneers and the San Diego Chargers. (Google Images)
9. J.C. Watts, Jr., 1957- , University of Oklahoma quarterback and Oklahoma's 4th District Congressman from 1995-2003. (Google Images)
10. John C. Nichols, 1896-1945; Oklahoma's 2nd District Congressman from 1935-1943. (Google Images)
11. Dr. Donna J. Nelson, 1954- ; University of Oklahoma Professor of Chemistry. (Google Images)

Eufaula's Early Library History

1. The Foley Building as pictured in 1907. It was built in 1899. Eufaula's first Library was established on the Building's 2nd floor in 1913. (*Indian Journal*)
2. The Tully Building was also built in 1899. It was located directly across the street from the Foley Building. It burned to the ground in 1970 as a result of a suspected arsonist. (*Indian Journal*)

Eufaula Memorial Library

1. Today's Eufaula Memorial Library, 2020. (Library photo)
2. Eufaula's 2nd branch manager, Doris Bivins, stands by the new book drop in front of the first Eufaula Public Library. The Library was sandwiched between the McIntosh County Abstract Office and a Beauty Shop. (*Indian Journal*)
3. Eufaula's first branch manager, Margaret (Whinnen) Rigney, 1971-1973. (*Indian Journal*)
4. Eufaula Mayor Joe Johnson signs a proclamation celebrating the Library. Standing, left to right are local Library Board members: Mary Alice Pinney, Irene VanZandt and branch manager, Doris Bivin. (*Indian Journal*)
5. The first of the Library's temporary locations was in the National Guard Armory. The two garage doors mark the Library's entrance, 1980. (Library photo)
6. A patron using the "drive-in" Library. (Library photo)
7. Eufaula's 2nd temporary location was in a double-wide mobile home on a residential street a block from Lake Eufaula Cove. (Library photo)
8. You know you are cramped for space when the break room refrigerator was visible next to all the Library's guest speakers! (Library photo)
9. Summer Reading Programs had to be held outside during the time the Library was in the mobile home location. (Library photo)
10. Dorothy Follansbee Day was proclaimed in Eufaula on December 6 by Mayor Joe Johnson for her \$100,000 donation to the building of the Eufaula Memorial Library, 1983. (*Indian Journal*)
11. Dr. W.E. and Mrs. Mary Lauhon Wendell provided the land for the new Library. (*Indian Journal*)
12. The \$100,000 Club Members List held by left to right: Nadine George, EOLS Board Member, Bank President, R. L. Simpson, Jr., and Dorothy Follansbee. (*Indian Journal*)
13. Every fund-raising possibility was utilized by the Library and staff to raise money for a new Library building. (Library photo)
14. Left to right: Dorothy Follansbee, Mary Alice Pinney and branch manager, Marguerite Schmitt, were in attendance at the American Library Association in Dallas, Texas, as Leo Weins, President of the H.W. Wilson Company, presented the John Cotton Dana Award. (Library photo)

15. The crew responsible for preparing and submitting the documentation for the John Cotton Dana Award included, from left to right: Barbara Proctor, EOLS Tech Services; Marguerite Schmitt, Branch Manager; Bonnie Berry, Library Assistant; and Marilyn Hinshaw, EOLS Director. (Library photo)
16. The Library's groundbreaking ceremonies held in 1984. Mayor Johnson, center, with his back toward the camera, addresses the group.
17. The construction of the new Library's front entrance, 1984. (Library photo)
18. The construction of the atrium off the children's wing of the new Library, 1984. (Library photo)
19. Bank President, R. L. Simpson III, cuts the ribbon for the new Eufaula Memorial Library, July 18, 1985. (Library photo)
20. The new Eufaula Public Library renamed Eufaula Memorial Library in 1985.
21. EOLS Director, Marilyn Hinshaw, introducing Governor George Nigh, the keynote speaker at the Library's Dedication ceremony on August 23, 1985. (*Indian Journal*)
22. Oklahoma Governor George Nigh, 1979-1987. (*Indian Journal*)
23. Carol Albin, McIntosh County's shared branch manager, 1993-1994. (*Indian Journal*)
24. Eufaula's branch manager from 1994 to 2000 was Shirley Thomas. Here she showed library staff, Vivian Knight and Kay Drabeck, how to use the new *Dynix* automated library management system. (*Indian Journal*).
25. The "Vote Yes" poster for the 1996 millage levy vote.
26. After Eufaula became a master OneNet site and received a Department of Commerce Grant, a tower was erected on the Library's south side. (*Indian Journal*)
27. The Library sign donated by the Hudson family in honor of their parents in 1998 made a popular picture-taking site. Just ask Spiderman and the Library's Teen Advisory Group members. (Library photos)
28. Margaret Collins, Eufaula's branch manager from 2000-2014. (Library photo)
29. Summer Reading Programs were always popular at the Library. Pictured is Muscogee Creek Storyteller, Will Hill and friend, during a 1999 Summer Reading Program. (Library photo)
30. A Eufaula sixth-grader asked Eva Uterman a question about her experiences during the Holocaust. (*Muskogee Phoenix*).

31. Tom Kiester, left, EOLS Board Member representing Eufaula, accepts the Blue Ribbon Award for Health Information Services for the Eufaula Library from Amy Berg, field representative from the District 2 Congressional Office. Also attending were Kathe Smith, Checotah's branch manager; Susan McVey, State Librarian; and Dr. Maurice Payne, EOLS Chair, accepting on behalf of the Checotah Library. (*Indian Journal*)
32. Expansion plans for the Eufaula Memorial Library created in 2005. The "greyed-in" area represented the current floor plan. (*Indian Journal*)
33. Eufaula branch manager Peggy Jordan, 2014-2018. (*Indian Journal*)
34. The Eufaula Friends initiated the "Eufaula's Got Talent" competition in 2012, a popular event in town for several years. . (*Indian Journal*).
35. Brittany Moore was Eufaula's branch manager from 2018 to 2023. (Library photo)
36. Branch manager Moore followed the System's Covid health protocols when the Library reopened to the public. (Library photo)

Fort Gibson Bibliography & Captions

Bibliography

Introduction to Fort Gibson

1. Fort Gibson Genealogical and Historical Society, “*Fort Gibson (Town)*,” The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture. <https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=FO034>.
2. Fort Gibson National Cemetery. <https://nps.gov>.
3. Frank Linzy. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Linzy.
4. Lee Wiley. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lee_Wiley.
5. Teddy Lehman. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teddy_Lehman.
6. Sara Sheffield Forhetz. *Fort Gibson Times* (OK), October 6, 2014.

Fort Gibson’s Early Library History

1. “10 WPA Libraries.” *Muskogee Times-Democrat* (OK), November 11, 1940, 3.
2. C.F.W. “Swearing Off and Taking On.” *Fort Gibson Times* (OK), December 31, 1931, 2.
3. “Library News.” *Fort Gibson Independent* (OK), September 9, 1937, 1.
4. “Library News.” *Fort Gibson Independent* (OK), January 4, 1940, 1.
5. “Library Service Open Here Soon.” *Fort Gibson Independent* (OK), November 4, 1937, 1.
6. “Local News.” *The Muldrow Press* (OK), December 4, 1908, 6.
7. “More Local.” *The Fort Gibson Post* (OK), September 3, 1903, 1.
8. “News Briefs.” *Fort Gibson Times* (OK), June 23, 1922, 1.
9. “News Briefs.” *Fort Gibson Independent* (OK), March 24, 1938, 1.
10. “The Public Library.” *The Fort Gibson Post* (OK), December 20, 1906, 1.

11. "WPA Offices Move Back to Muskogee." *Tahlequah Citizen* (OK), April 10, 1941, 3.

Q.B. Boydston Public Library

1. Burton, Wendy. "Sculpture Rooted in Reading." *Fort Gibson Times* (Muskogee, OK), September, 2013.
2. Campbell, Christina. "Librarian Set to Retire After 45 Years of Service." *Fort Gibson Times* (Muskogee, OK), January 2, 2012, 1.
3. Coleman, Travina. "Story Hour New at Library." *Fort Gibson Times* (Muskogee, OK), September 20, 2006.
4. Cordell, Sherri. "Bid Accepted For New Library." *Fort Gibson Times* (Muskogee, OK), January 1, 2003, 1.
5. Cordell, Sherri. "Let the Construction Begin!" *Fort Gibson Times* (Muskogee, OK), January 22, 2003, 1.
6. Cordell, Sherri. "Library Almost Ready to Check Out." *Fort Gibson Times*, (Muskogee, OK), July 4, 2004, 1.
7. Cordell, Sherri. "Library Construction Meets Several Obstacles." *Fort Gibson Times* (Muskogee, OK), February 12, 2003.
8. Cordell, Sherri. "Library Project Faces Stumbling Blocks." *Fort Gibson Times* (Muskogee, OK), December 10, 2003, 1.
9. Cordell, Sherri. "Moving Day Has Finally Arrived." *Fort Gibson Times* (Muskogee, OK), 2004, Date Unknown, 1.
10. Cordell, Sherri. "Volunteers Help Move in Books." *Fort Gibson Times* (Muskogee, OK), 2004, Date Unknown.
11. EOLS Board Minutes, 1970-2020.
12. "Emmy Award Winner, 2000 FTG Grad, Speaks To Students." *FTG Yearbook Staff* (Fort Gibson, OK), April 14, 2016.
13. Fite, Renee. "Library Expansion Noisy!" *Fort Gibson Times* (Muskogee, OK), September 6, 2006.
14. Fite, Renee. "Library Speeds Net." *Fort Gibson Times* (Muskogee, OK), April 5, 2007.
15. Gayle Ledford, e-mail messages to Margaret Rigney, April 27, 2023 and October 11, 2023.

16. "Going Up." *Fort Gibson Times* (Muskogee, OK), Date Unknown, 2003.
17. Ledford, Gayle. "History of the Q. B. Boydston Public Library." Estimated date, 2002.
18. "Library Nears Completion, Faces Last Obstacle." *Fort Gibson Times* (Muskogee, OK), January 21, 2004, 1.
19. "Library Receives Grant to Purchase Computers, Software." *Fort Gibson Times* (Muskogee, OK), June 27, 2007.
20. Nilsson, Julianne. "Friends Make a Difference." *Fort Gibson Times* (Muskogee, OK), August 23, 2000, 1.
21. Ordinance No. 1984-10-1. "An Ordinance Authorizing the Establishment of the Q. B. Boydston as a Branch of the Multi-County Library System Providing Library Quarters, Utility Services and Maintenance; and Declaring an Emergency." October 9, 1984.
22. Perkins, Gary. "Library Seeks Entries for New Chili Cook-Off." *Fort Gibson Times* (Muskogee, OK), January 13, 2014, 1.
23. "Q. B. Boydston." Source: Muskogee and Northeastern Oklahoma, Volume 3; S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1922; transcribed by Susan Geist.
24. "Q. B. Boydston Library Receives Award." *Fort Gibson Times* (Muskogee, OK), estimated date, 1917-18, 1.
25. "Q. B. Boydston Public Library Opens in FG." *Fort Gibson Times* (Muskogee, OK), December 8, 2004, 2.
26. Rhonda Lee, email message to Ashley Rouse, October 1, 2023.
27. Spaulding, Cathy. "Sara Sheffield Forhetz." *Fort Gibson Times* (Muskogee, OK), October 6, 2014.

Captions

Introduction to Fort Gibson

1. The Fort Gibson Historical Site located on the north edge of the town. (Goggle Images)
2. The construction of Lake Fort Gibson began in 1942. Construction was suspended during WWII, restarted in 1946 and completed in 1953. Its main purpose was for flood control/ hydroelectric power but also provided drinking water and recreational opportunities. (Google Images)

3. The Fort Gibson National Cemetery Entrance. In 1868, the U.S. government established the Cemetery on a 7-acre section of the Military Reservation outside of the Fort. (Google Images)
4. Jazz Singer, Lee Wiley, 1908-1975. (Google Images)
5. MLB pitcher, Frank Linzy, 1940- . (Google Images)
6. NFL Lineman, Teddy Lehman, 1981- . (Google Images)
7. Television Reporter/Emmy winner, Sara Sheffield Forhertz, 1982- . (Google Images)

Early Library History

1. WPA-era Library poster. (Google Images)

Q. B. Boydston Public Library

1. The current Q. B. Boydston Public Library, 201 East South Avenue. (Library photo)
2. Fort Gibson Community Center, the first location of the Q. B. Boydston Public Library, 1978. (Google Images)
3. Q.B. Boydston (center) cuts the ribbon on the new Community Center that included the Library that would bear his name. He is surrounded by Mayor Cooper, far left; and to the far right, U.S Representative, Ted Risenhoover. (Library photo)
4. Boydston, his wife Floy to the left, surrounded by his adult daughters, Mary Lou to the far left and Betty, to the right. (Library photo)
5. Children's area at the original Q.B. Boydston Library. (Library photo)
6. Behind the circulation desk at the original Library location. (Library photo)
7. Bill and Melinda Gates of the Gates Foundation. (Goggle Images)
8. Original Boydston sign from the Library's first Community Center location. (Library photo)
9. The architect's rendition of the proposed Library building's exterior. (*Fort Gibson Times*)
10. Library's groundbreaking ceremony, 2003. (Library photo)
11. The Library's walls were up and so was the excessive moisture at the building site. (Library photo)

12. Early in the Library's construction, 2003. (Library photo)
13. Library walls were up ready for the roof, 2004. (Library photo)
14. Packing up and moving out of the Community Center. (Library photo)
15. Just one of the many loads of library books and equipment moved from the Community Center. (Library photo)
16. The empty shelves at the new Boydston library ready to be filled. (Library photo)
17. One of the still-smiling moving-day volunteers. (Library photo)
18. Dedication Day dignitaries included, from left to right: Cathy Van Hoy, Oklahoma Department of Libraries representative; Theda Rowan, Fort Gibson Vice Mayor; Gayle Ledford, branch manager; and Marilyn Hinshaw, EOLS Director. (*Fort Gibson Times*)
19. It's a busy time at the new Library's Circulation Desk. (Library photo)
20. Part of the children's area after the expansion in 2006. (Library photo)
21. The teen's area occupied the south end of the 2006 expansion. (Library photo)
22. The Library's new extra space in the children's area allowed room for a new Story-Time hour for preschoolers. (*Fort Gibson Times*)
23. Native Story Tellers Megan Kelley and Will Hill share stories and the customs of their respective tribes. (Library photos)
24. Popular, but short-lived wood sculpture on the Library's front lawn. (*Fort Gibson Times*)
25. The message here is don't mess with branch manager Rhonda Lee as she handled an albino boa constrictor as part of the 2019 Extreme Animals Program. (Library photo)
26. In 2016, arts and crafts were popular with all ages. (Library photo)
27. Who else but a man named Hugo Kringle should present a Christmas program? (Library photo)
28. Beginning around 2017 an emphasis on health-related programming for adults became popular. Here a yoga class learned about the importance of stretching. (Library photo)
29. By 2019, adult painting classes were popular at the Library. Florence Smith followed the examples artist Nancy Edscorn presented to the class. (*Fort Gibson Times*)

30. The kids were excited to meet and have their picture taken with the albino boa constrictor in 2019. (Library photo)
31. A “Mad Scientist” intrigued the audience during a 2010 Summer Reading Program performance. (Library photo)

Grove Bibliography & Captions

Bibliography

Introduction to Grove

1. "City of Grove History." Taken from the *Grove-Discovering Spirits Past*, (Grove Area Chamber of Commerce), July 1, 1992. <https://www.cityofgroveok.gov/community/page/city-grove-history>.
2. "History of Grand Lake." (Grove, Oklahoma). <https://www.cityofgroveok.gov/community/page/history-grand-lake>.
3. Stauber, Rose. "Grove," *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, <https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=GRO034>.

Grove's Early Library History

1. Austin, Marcia. "Grove Library History."
2. "Bookmobile Draws Considerable Interest During Stop Here." *Delaware County Journal* (Jay, OK), June 25, 1959, 1.
3. "Bookmobile to Be Here Saturday for Inspection." *Delaware County Journal* (Jay, OK). June 18, 1959. 1.
4. "Grove Must Have." *Grove Sun* (OK). April 20, 1906, 2.
5. "Grove Public Library." *The Book Report: EOLS Newsletter* (Muskogee, OK).
6. "Library Gets Large Contribution." *Grove Sun* (OK), February 20, 1969, 1.
7. "To Readers and Book Lovers." *Delaware County News* (Grove, OK). September 25, 1914, 4.

Grove Public Library

1. "County Voters Approve Library Measure." *Delaware County Journal* (Jay, OK). (From Grove Public Library files, date unknown).

2. EOLS Board Minutes, 1970-2020.
3. "Grove Library Celebrates 10th Anniversary." *Grove Sun* (OK), October 24, 1974.
4. "Grove Library Fund Gets \$50,000 Boost." *Tulsa World* (OK). December 21, 2001, 19.
5. "Grove Library Shortfall Forces Cap on Spending For Other Budgeted Projects." *Tulsa World* (OK). April 29, 2003, A9.
6. "Leap Day Grand Opening for Grove Public Library." *Grove Sun* (OK), March 1, 2004, 1.
7. "Library Facilities Lag in Light of Growth." *Joplin Globe* (MO), October 21, 1998.
8. Reports, Staff. "State Briefs: New State NAACP Leaders Begin Terms." *Tulsa World*, (OK). January 21, 2004, A10.

Captions

Introduction to Grove

1. *The Grove Sun*, January 19, 1922.
2. Jack Chrisman (1928-1989), was the 1961 American Drag Racing Champion. He was instrumental in the development of the Funny Car Class of racing vehicles. Chrisman's 1964-65 Mercury Comet car was considered to be one of the first Funny Cars. (*Wikipedia*)
3. Pensacola Dam, built by the WPA in the late 1930s is the longest multiple-arch dam in the world. It is one mile long and ten stories high. (*City of Grove History*)
4. Two main bridges provide access to Grove after the arrival of Grand Lake. Sailboat Bridge, built in 1938-39 and rebuilt in the 1990s, was considered to be the most picturesque. (*City of Grove History*)
5. Sam Pittman, (1961-) attended Grove High School. He became the head coach of the University of Arkansas Razorbacks football team in 2019. (Google Images)
6. Grove resident Robert M. Weaver (1979-) is a consultant specializing in Native American Healthcare. He is a member of the Quapaw Tribe. (Google Images)

Early Library History

1. *The Grove Sun*, April 20, 1906.

2. *Delaware County News*, September 25, 1914.
3. The Library created by the Grand Lake Business & Professional Women's Club was located in a small room in the northwest corner of the town's Community Center. (Library photo)
4. By mid-June 1965, the Library had outgrown its original location in the Community Center, and was moved to a larger room previously used as an Auditorium. This second location was the first location of the Grove branch of EOLS. (Library photo)

Grove Public Library

1. The current Grove Public Library, 2020. (Library Photo)
2. Har-Ber Village Museum is an early frontier town re-creation, pioneer-era village located on the shores of Grand Lake. (<https://har-bervillage.com>)
3. Construction underway in 1984 on the building that doubled the Library's original square footage from 2,500 square feet in the Community Center location to 5,000 square feet. (Library photo)
4. The finished Grove Public Library in 1988. (Library photo)
5. Ground-breaking for the current Grove Public Library, December 2002. (Library photo)
6. Current Library under construction, 2003. (Library photo)
7. Marcia Austin, Grove branch manager (1991-2007) at microphone, spearheaded the construction of the current Library. Library staff recognized at Open House (left to right) Peggy Cook, Barbara Cross and Glendia White. (Library Photo)
8. Monk, a White Pelican, keeps watch at the Grove Public Library from a safe perch. Monk was donated to the Library by Sharon Michel who has a collection and passion for white pelicans. (Library photo)
9. Kids' Cove Children's area. (Library photo)
10. Public Access Computers. (Library photo)
11. Teen Area. (Library photo)
12. Adult and general seating area. (Library photo)
13. Main Circulation and Information Desk. (Library photo)
14. General Seating Area. (Library photo)

15. Branch manager Brenda Newnam (2008-), demonstrating how to use the Wi-Fi hotspots available for checkout. (Library photo)
16. Children can make their own videos at the Library. (Library photo)
17. The Library's Wall of Honor saluted all those who made the current Library possible. (Library photo)
18. Teen Art Contest in 2018. (Library photo)
19. Touch-A-Truck is a popular event at Grove Public Library, 2019. (Library photo)

Haskell Bibliography & Captions

Bibliography

Introduction to Haskell

1. 1907 to 1911. Charles N. Haskell.
2. “Haskell, Oklahoma.” https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Haskell,_Oklahoma&oldid=1121117047.
3. “Haskell’s 2020 Population.” <https://ballotpedia.org>.
4. Johnson, Ellen Collins. “Haskell.” The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture, <https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=HA046>.
5. “Notable People.” https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haskell,_Oklahoma.
6. “The Town of Haskell.” <https://townofhaskell.org>.
7. “William Benedict.” https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Benedict.

Haskell’s Early Library History

1. “Books in Public Library.” *Haskell News* (OK), August 20, 1914, 5.
2. “Muskogee Public Library.” *Haskell News*, (OK), April 4, 1912, 1.
3. “Personal and Local News.” *Haskell News* (OK), November 26, 1914, 5.
4. “Personal and Local News.” *Haskell News*, (OK), December 17, 1914, 7.
5. “Personal and Local News.” *Haskell News* (OK), March 18, 1915, 5.
6. “Personal and Local News.” *Haskell News* (OK), May 27, 1915, 5.
7. “Personal and Local News.” *Haskell News* (OK), July 1, 1915, 3.
8. “Personal and Local News.” *Haskell News* (OK), January 20, 1916, 5.
9. “Personal and Local News.” *Haskell News* (OK), November 2, 1916, 5.

10. "Public Library Opened Here in Christian Church." *Haskell News* (OK), June 19, 1958, 1.
11. "Rieger Memorial Library – Libraries on Waymarking.com."
https://waymarking.com/waymarks/wm5CK_Rieger_Memorial_Library.
12. "School Notes." *Haskell News* (OK), December 5, 1918, 8.
13. "School Notes." *Haskell News* (OK), January 16, 1919, 1.
14. "Way to Get a Public Library." *Haskell News* (OK), March 19, 1914, 1.

Rieger Memorial Library

1. "10 WPA Libraries." *Muskogee Times-Democrat* (OK), November 11, 1940, 3.
2. "Award-Winning Rieger Memorial Library." *Haskell News* (OK), Date estimated circa 1989-1990, 1.
3. EOLS Board Minutes, 1970-2020.
4. Francis, Mark. "Manager Settling in at Haskell Library." *Muskogee Phoenix and Times-Democrat* (OK), August 15, 2004, 1.
5. "Friends of the Library to Organize Here." *Haskell News* (OK), October 29, 2000).
6. "H.A. French, former Resident-Banker Dies." *Haskell News* (OK), November 19, 1990.
7. "Program to Help Haskell Residents to Eat Better." *Muskogee Phoenix and Times-Democrat* (OK), March 14, 2017, 1.
8. "Rieger Memorial Library – Libraries on Waymarking.com."
https://waymarking.com/waymarks/wm5CK_Rieger_Memorial_Library.
9. Spaulding, Cathy. "Traveling Exhibit Highlights Tulsa Race Massacre." *Muskogee Phoenix and Times-Democrat* (OK), February 21, 2020, 1.

Captions

Introduction to Haskell

1. Aerial view of current day Haskell. (Wikipedia)

2. Charles N. Haskell, namesake of Haskell and Oklahoma's first Governor, 1860-1933. (Oklahoma Historical Society)
3. The Midland Valley Railroad Line merged into the Texas & Pacific RR in 1967 and was absorbed into the Missouri Pacific Railroad in 1983. (Wikipedia)
4. Land and Loan Company brochure touting the benefits of life in Haskell, Indian Territory in the early 1900s. (Library photo)
5. What was left of the Nancy Taylor #1 oil rig. (Oklahoma Historical Society)
6. Actor William Benedict, 1917-1999. (Google Images)
7. Mayor Charles B. White, 1905-1977. (Google Images)

Early Library History

1. An early day parade in downtown Haskell. (Library photo)
2. An early issue of the *Haskell News* circa the second decade of the 1900s. (*Newspapers.com*)

Rieger Memorial Library

1. Current picture of the Rieger Memorial Library. (Library photo)
2. Originally built as a 1930s bank building, Haskell's first Library location from 1971 to 1984. (*Haskell News*)
3. Haskell's first long-term branch manager, Marie Lechner, assists a new library patron in filling out a registration card in 1972. (*Haskell News*)
4. Neva D. Rieger, 1901-1981. (Library photo)
5. Theodore A. Rieger, 1894-1978. (Library photo)
6. Harold A. French, 1918-1990. (Library photo)
7. Verna Marie French, 1915-2003. (Library photo)
8. Under construction, 1984. (Library photo)
9. Library's Dedication flyer, 1984, (Library photo)
10. A new circulation desk was installed in the summer of 2010. (Library photo)

11. The Library's public access computers were a hit from day one, 2011. (Library photo)
12. Full house for a June 2010, "Make a Splash" Summer Reading Program. (Library photo)
13. Community collaboration in the form of a display in the Library's foyer in support of the 2015 school bond election. (Library photo)
14. The Library hosted some eager gardeners on Earth Day, 2018. (Library photo)
15. A VIP was in attendance for a "*On Your Mark, Get Set...Read!*" in June, 2016. (Library photo)
16. Adult programming also included crafts of all kinds. Wreath-making was a popular event during the 2017 Christmas Season. (Library photo)
17. A Monarch Butterfly display was part of Teen Program called, "*Monarchs, Milkweed and Mystery,*" held in the fall of 2019. (Library photo)
18. Holly Hughes, Haskell's branch manager from 2014-2022, made friends with one of the stars of the 2019, "*A Universe of Stories*" Summer Reading Program. (Library photo)
19. The children's area of the Library is always a popular place, 2018. (Library photo)
20. Left: Branch manager, Holly Hughes with 2020 Black History Month program presenter, Jimmie White. (Library photo)

Hulbert Bibliography & Captions

Bibliography

Introduction to Hulbert

1. "Hulbert, Oklahoma." <https://townofhulbertok.gov>
2. Carol L. Kirkland, "Hulbert," The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture, <https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=HU003>.
3. "Hulbert, Oklahoma." https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Hulbert,_Oklahoma&oldid=1111398723.

Hulbert Community Public Library

1. "AmeriCorps VISTA." https://n.wikipedia.org/wiki/AmeriCorps_VISTA.
2. Anderson, Rob W. "Clowns Laugh It Up at Hulbert Library." *Tahlequah Daily Press* (OK), May 18, 2012. *NewsBank: Access World News*. <https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AWNB&docref=news/13EDFCEA8961360>.
3. "Concerns Over Snow, Ice on Roof Prompt Hulbert Library Closure." *Tahlequah Daily Press* (OK), February 9, 2011. *NewsBank: Access World News*. <https://infoweb.newsbandk.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AWNB&docref=news/1354FDE1C34E38D0>.
4. Davis, Pam. "Hulbert History and Questions." February 20, 2023.
5. EOLS Board Minutes, 1970-2020.
6. Fite, Renee. "Hulbert Library Keeps Community Active." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix and Times Democrat* (OK), January 10, 2018. *NewsBank*. <https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=NewsBank&docref=news/16963AA3BA99B198>.
7. "Hulbert Library Received \$3,000 From Dollar General Literacy." *Tahlequah Daily Press* (OK), June 22, 2015. *NewsBank: Access World News*. <https://infoweb.newsbanck.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AWNB&docref=news/15625C251576BC58>.

8. Newton, Josh. "It's Time to Check it Out." *Tahlequah Daily Press* (OK), September 10, 2008, 1.
9. "Old Hulbert School Building Becomes Community Center." *Muskogee Phoenix* (OK). June 8, 2014.
10. "Stilwell Student Help Set Up Library." *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* (OK), March 5, 1970, 6.

Captions

Introduction to Hulbert

1. Benjamin H. Hulbert, 1861-1950, considered to be the founder of Hulbert. (<https://findagrave.com/memorial/122570334/benjamin-h-hulbert>)
2. The Hulbert Community today. (Google Images).
3. Our Lady of Clear Creek Abbey. (Google Images).
4. Dr. Barbara Staggs, 1940-2014. (Google Images)
5. Ryan Dirteater, 1989- . (Google Images)

Hulbert Community Public Library

1. Hulbert Library is haunted by a ghost Library staff refer to as Mr. T. Mr. T's unfinished house once stood where the Library now stands. Mr. T has been known to push books off shelves, lock doors and otherwise cause mischief. (EOLS Video)
2. Friends and Guests of the Hulbert Library in 2017 included (L-R): Front Row: Ryan Dirteater, Mamie Hall, and Hulbert Mayor Shirley Teague. Back Row: Lillian Gambill, Lisa Schluns and Terry, Reta Meyers, Jill Haynes, Donna Shade Brown, Jan Stauss, Pam Davis, and Blaise Glory. (Library Photo)
3. The 2018 Incredible Hulbert Library staff included (L-R): Kayla Rooster, Cherokee Lowe and Pam Davis. (Library photo)
4. The Friends of the Library were also responsible for the creation of Memorial Park across the street from the Library. (Library photo)
5. Hulbert's City Park is a great place to hold Summer Reading Programs and other Library-sponsored activities or to celebrate holidays and special Community events. (Library photo)

6. The City Park is also a great place for the Library's Halloween Trunk or Treats and costume contests. (Library photo)
7. Basic car maintenance and tire care was just one of many programs offered in 2019. (Library photo)
8. Library staffer, Pam Davis, manned the Library's table at the Hulbert Public Schools' 2016 annual Open House. (Library photo)
9. Library patrons enjoyed the chili offerings at the Library's 2017 Chili Cook-Off. (Library photo).
10. The Library's STEM and STEAM classes in 2017 were very popular. (Library photo)
11. One never knew when or where spooky old Shelly and Bruce would show up at the Library. (Library photo)
12. Mr. Finn was especially popular during the pandemic months at the Library when parking lot drop-offs and pick-ups were the norm. (Library photo)
13. Fred the Shark pointed out the Library's new books on the Library's social media pages. (Library photo)
14. Doesn't everyone in 2019 have a Christmas tree that included a T-Rex tree topper? (Library photo)
15. (L-R) Library Friends Blaise Glory, Mamie Hall and Ruth Womack; along with School Board member, Matt Meredith; Friends' member, Charles Lile; Cherokee Nation Tribal Councilors David Walkingstick and Tina Glory-Jordan; and Hulbert School Superintendent, Dr. Marilyn Dewoody, stand in the kitchen of the newly renovated Community Center. (Library photo).

Jay Bibliography & Captions

Bibliography

Introduction to Jay

1. “Buzz Wetzel.” (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buzz-Wetzel>).
2. “Commissioners Accept Lease,” *Delaware County News* (Grove, OK), August 11, 1911, 1.
3. Denney, Dale. “Jay,” *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, (<https://okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=JA014>).
4. Delaware County Historical Society. *Heritage of the Hills*, 454.
5. “Jay, Oklahoma.” https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jay,_Oklahoma.
6. “Tommy Morrison.” https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tommy_Morrison.

Delaware County Library, Jay

1. “Applications Underway for Building Grant,” *Delaware County Journal* (Jay, OK), October 21, 1976.
2. Barber, Janet “Alexander Honored, Candidates Speak at Friends Meeting.” *Grove Sun* (OK), April 30, 2016, Civic News.
3. “Bookmobile Draws Considerable Interest During Stay Here.” *Delaware County Journal* (Jay, Ok), June 25, 1959, 1.
4. “Cherokee’s Building Program Begins in Three-County Area.” *Stilwell Democrat Journal* (OK), December 22, 1977, 22.
5. “Commissioners Give Meeting Room Back to Library.” (*Grove Sun*, OK), January 7, 2013, Section: News
6. “County Voters Approve Library Measure,” *Delaware County Journal* (Jay, OK), December 9, 1971.
7. “Delaware County Library Moves to a New Home,” *Delaware County Journal* (Jay, OK), January 4, 1979, 1.

8. *Delaware County Journal* (Jay, OK), January 14, 1971, 1.
9. EOLS Board Minutes, 1970-2020.
10. "First Six County Library Opens in Jay," *Tahlequah Star Citizen* (OK), January 9, 1971.
11. "Friends of the Library Begins Fresh Start," *Grove Sun* (OK), December 28, 2012, Section: News.
12. "Jay Officials Break Ground for Library Improvements," *Grove Sun*, (OK), July 11, 2003.
13. "Jay Library Quarters Commended," *Delaware County Journal* (Jay, OK), November 19, 1970.
14. "Jay Library to Open Doors Sunday," *Delaware County Journal* (Jay, OK), January 7, 1971, 1.
15. "Jay Officials Break Ground for Library Improvements," *Delaware County Journal* (Jay, OK), July 11, 2003.
16. "Library Notes by Judy Anderson," *Delaware County Journal* (Jay, OK), November 18, 1971.
17. "Let's Do Something Nice," *Delaware County Journal* (Jay, OK), December 2, 1971.
18. "Millage Election in Delaware County," *Delaware County Journal*, (Jay, OK), December 2, 1971.
19. "New Sign Is Installed At Jay's Delaware County Library." *Delaware County Journal* (Jay, OK), July 22, 1971.
20. "Six-County Library District Unit Stages Grand Opening," *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), January 14, 1971, 6.

Captions

Introduction to Jay

1. Grave of Claude L. (Jay) Washbourne, nephew of Stand Watie and namesake of Jay, Oklahoma, 1859-1917.
2. *Delaware County News* (Grove, Oklahoma), August 11, 1911.

3. Delaware County Court House. *Lewis A. Danner Collection*, Oklahoma Historical Society.
4. Welcome to the Huckleberry Capital of the World! (Google Images)
5. Buzz Wetzel, 1894-1941. (Google Images)
6. Tommy Morrison, Born in Arkansas, Morrison spent his teen years in Jay, 1969-2013. (Google Images)

Delaware County Library, Jay

1. The *Delaware County Journal* in the November 19, 1970 edition, noted these individuals as the “Leaders in The Drive for Library”. Standing third from left is Vivian Wheat, the Delaware County EOLS representative. Others included board members and branch managers from other EOLS libraries. Also included was District Librarian, James Wilkerson (fourth from left) and ODL Consultant, Esther Mae Henke (fifth from left)
2. Jay’s first Library location was in the City Hall Building. The signage was installed on July 13, 1971. (*Delaware County Journal*)
3. Sam Hilder holds a Cherokee language sign in support of the December 7, Delaware County millage election. (*Delaware County Journal*)
4. Library staff moving out of Jay’s City Hall to their new location in the Community Center, December, 1978. (*Delaware County Journal*)
5. Volunteers and library staff, including EOLS Director Monty Maxwell, center, spent two days during the Christmas Holidays moving and reassembling shelving and restocking the shelves in the new Library. (*Delaware County Journal*)
6. Deanna Smith became Jay’s branch manager in 1975 and served in that capacity for 31 years, retiring in 2006. Here she showcases a local artist’s work on display in the Library. (*Delaware County Journal*)
7. The 2003 expansion allowed for more room to display new book arrivals in the Library. (Library photo)
8. In 2015, a new sign was installed on the Community Center’s grounds. (Library photo)
9. One method used to keep the public notified about the Library’s programs and events was the new Community Center sign. (Library photo)
10. Make-a-Car contest winners got to ride in the Library’s float during the July 2014 Red, White and Boom parade. (Library photo)

11. In 2018, storyteller and author Sequoyah Guess provided an evening of scary stories in preparation for Halloween. (Library photo)
12. Louie Lightning Bug, a friend of the Delaware County Library, gave books to Head Start kids celebrating “Week of the Young Child” in 2014. Louie was a frequent and popular Library visitor. (Library photo)
13. Native dress display in March 2015. (Library photo)
14. Snakes, even plush ones, always draw big crowds at Jay’s Summer Reading Programs. There were some real snakes in the tanks, too! May 2013. (Library photo)
15. Branch manager Karen Alexander (2012-2020), center, surrounded by Library staff in 2018. (Library photo)
16. Ahoy, Book Pirates! It’s amazing what a creative staff and a pumpkin display box from the grocery store can become for Halloween 2018. (Library photo)
17. Library Clerk Clara Proctor received the “Traditions Keepers Award” from the Keetoowah Tribe in November 2018. (Library Photo)

Kansas Bibliography & Captions

Bibliography

Introduction to Kansas

1. “The History of Kansas, Oklahoma. <https://kansasok.net/history>.
2. “Kansas, Oklahoma.” https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kansas,_Oklahoma.
3. “News Brief.” *The Delaware Tribune* (Kansas, OK), January 27, 1911, 2.
4. Weger, Alice T., “Kansas,” *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, <https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=KA002>.

Kansas Public Library

1. EOLS Board Minutes, 1970-2020.
2. Hutson news@delcojournal.com, Kaylea M. “Truck vs. Library: DelCo Man Drives Truck into Kansas Library.” *Grove Sun* (OK), July 22, 2014. *NewsBank: Access World News*. <https://infoweb.newsbank.com>.
3. news@grovesun.com, Staff Reports. “Zine Entries Sought for ‘Haunting’ Competition.” *Grove Sun* (OK), September 10, 2015. *NewsBank: Access World News*. <https://infoweb.newsband.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AWNB&docref=news/157C67762FD331D0>.
4. Hutson-Miller news@delcojournal.com, Kaylea M., “Friends to Honor Long-Time Kansas Educator Sunday.” *Grove Sun* (OK), October 26, 2017. *NewsBank: Access World News*: <https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AWNB&docref=news/16C7B089D9BFC90>.

Captions

Introduction to Kansas

1. Darrell Winfield, 1929-2015.

Kansas Public Library

1. Kansas' Native American heritage was often on display at the Library. (Library photo)
2. All families were welcome to visit at the 2018 Dinosaur Tea Party! (Library photo)
3. The parking lot sign was one effective way to let the community know about the Library's birthday party plus other important happenings and events. (Library photo)
4. Happy 15th Birthday to the Kansas Public Library in 2019! (Library photo)
5. You never knew who was going to greet you at a Summer Reading Program. (Library photo)
6. External damage to Library caused by 2014 truck accident. (Library photo)
7. Artists of all ages attend a standing room only art session in 2018. (Library photo)
8. Branch manager Cherokee Lowe (right) reads to the children at Story Time. (Library photo)
9. The Library's Circulation Desk was the focal point of the 2019 Christmas celebration. (Library photo)
10. Kansas and Hulbert Library's combined staff development session held in 2019. (Library photo)
11. The county-wide Zine competition based on the Grove Community Players 2015 production, *The Haunting*. (Community Players Facebook page)

Muldrow Bibliography & Captions

Bibliography

Introduction to Muldrow

1. "Muldrow." Wikipedia Foundation. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muldrow,_Oklahoma.
2. O'Dell, Larry. "Muldrow." The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture. <https://okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry?entry=MU004>.

Early Library History

1. "10 WPA Libraries." *Muskogee Times-Democrat* (OK), November 11, 1940, 3.
2. "County W.P.A. Libraries Have Many Patrons." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), April 4, 1941, 3.
3. "Library Project Approved for Sequoyah County." *Democrat-American* (Sallisaw, OK), August 18, 1938, 4.
4. "Society". *Muldrow Press* (OK), July 28, 1905.
5. "WPA Library Service Project Operating in Sequoyah County." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), September 16, 1938, 1.

Muldrow Public Library

1. "Alderson Named to Tulsa Library Commission." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), February 1, 2009, 4.
2. "Bookmobile Well Received." *Muldrow Herald* (OK), January 21, 1971, 13.
3. "Bookmobile Needs Help." *Big Basin Herald* (Muldrow, OK), June 10, 1971, 3.
4. Cherokee Nation Bingo Outpost Employees Donation, *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), December 21, 1995, 2.
5. "Council Talks Stipends & Policies; Chamber Makes Donation." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), November 27, 2015, a14.

6. EOLS Board Minutes, 1970-2020.
7. "Future Hazy for Library." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), September 23, 1993, 1.
8. "Libraries Receive Mid-America Arts Alliance Performing Arts Grant." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), June 18, 2009, 13.
9. "Libraries Now Offer eBooks." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), October 3, 2012, b7.
10. "Library Adds Access to Overdrive Downloadable Audio Books." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), December 19, 2012, c2.
11. "Library Celebration Planned for Sunday." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), February 13, 1992, 12.
12. "Library Cutbacks Announced." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), June 30, 1991, 6.
13. "Library to Host Student and Adult Book Club." *Sequoyah County Times (Sallisaw, Oklahoma)*, August 24, 2006, 6.
14. "Library Hosts Ready Player One Events." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), February 1, 2019, 4.
15. "Library Millage Small, Results Big." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), March 1, 1992, 3.
16. "Library Needs \$14,000 More." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), November 23, 1995, 1.
17. "Library Offers New Fitness Class." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), January 27, 2012, b2.
18. "Library Open House and Reception March 5." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), March 1, 2017, 4.
19. "Library Tales." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), October 25, 2007, 18.
20. "Library Tales." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), April 8, 2007, 18.
21. "Log Abolished at Town Meeting." *Big Basin Herald* (Muldrow, OK), May 12, 1977, 1.
22. "Many Hands, Hearts Make Library Possible." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), November 9, 1997, 1.

23. "Meeting Slated to Discuss Future of Muldrow Library." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), September 12, 1993. 1.
24. "Muldrow Fire Department to see Big Increase from City Council." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), September 14, 2016, 1 & a3.
25. "Muldrow Gets \$100,000 Grant for New Library." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), December 31, 1995, 10.
26. "Muldrow Group Plots Support for City Library." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), October 14, 1993, 16.
27. "Muldrow Library Expands Schedule." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), October 3, 1996, 8.
28. "Muldrow Library Hosts Oklahoma Reading Starts." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), April 27, 2006, 19.
29. "Muldrow Library Prepares To Match \$100,000 Grant." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), February 2, 1995, 1
30. "Muldrow Library Seeks Members." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), October 1, 1995, 12.
31. "Muldrow's New Library Ready for All to Enjoy." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), March 22, 1998, 1.
32. "Muldrow Public Library to Show 'Paper Clips'." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), March 27, 2008, a6.
33. "Muldrow Public Library has Six New Computers." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), March 8, 2009, b4 and September 17, 2009, b9.
34. "Muldrow Public Library Receives Grant." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), June 5, 2015, a8.
35. "News Brief". *Muldrow Press* (OK). February 26, 1909, 1.
36. "Petition to Circulate Muldrow to be a City." *Big Basin Herald* (Muldrow, OK), January 6, 1977, 1.
37. "Photos from the Past to be Displayed at Library." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), January 11, 2017, 6.

38. "READ Applications Available." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), October 16, 2008, 6.
39. "READ Kicks-off Seventh Year of Service Oct. 28." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), October 12, 2006, 9.
40. *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), July 21, 1996, 2.
41. "Sequoyah's Cabin Named Landmark." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), October 12, 2006, 1-3.
42. Sims, Nancy. "Library Tales: Eastern Sequoyah County Friends of the Library." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), March 31, 1996, 7.
43. Sims, Nancy. "Library Tales...." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), September 12, 1996, 2.
44. Sims, Nancy. "Library Tales...." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), October 8, 1996, 2.
45. Sims, Nancy. "Library Tales...." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), January 9, 1997, January 16, 1997, February 6, 1997, February 7, 1997, March 6, 1997, March 30, 1997, May 11, 1997, July 6, 1997, August 3, 1997, September 11, 1997.
46. "Town of Muldrow." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), October 17, 1996, 16.
47. "Two County Libraries Lose 91-92 Book Budgets." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), June 20, 1991, 1.
48. "Two Sequoyah County Residents Attend Board of Directors Meeting". *Big Basin Herald* (Muldrow, OK), September 10, 1970, 8.
49. "Your TIMES Helps Muldrow Library Toward \$100,000 Goal." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), December 7, 1995, 12.

Captions

Introduction to Muldrow

1. Henry L. Muldrow, 1837-1905.
2. An Early Muldrow Town Scene, 1901.
3. Shawntel Smith Williams, 1971- . Miss America 1996.

4. Glen Condren, 1942-
5. Jim Mundy, 1934-
6. Joe Bryd, 1954-

Muldrow's Early Library History

1. A WPA era library poster. (Google Images)
2. An example of a WPA Library Services sign. This sign comes from the Berkshires area of the northeastern United States. (Google Images)

Muldrow Public Library

1. Today's Muldrow Public Library. (Library photo)
2. Entrance to the first home of the Muldrow Public Library in the City Hall Complex. (Library photo)
3. The Bookmobile toured the System during the summer months stocked with children's books and activities. It also carried light fiction for the adult's summer reading pleasure, 1993. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
4. The children's reading area in the original Muldrow Public Library consisted of only one table for all of the children's activities and Summer Reading Programs. (Library photo).
5. Cherokee Nation's Bingo Outpost employees donated \$7,500 to the MPL construction fund. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
6. Former Miss America Shawntel Smith Williams, donated \$1,000 plus Miss America memorabilia to sell for the Library's construction fund, 1995. (*Sequoyah County Times*).
7. While fund-raising was on-going in 1996, Summer Reading Programs continued. Participants show their editions of their *Panda Press* newspapers with the help of Becky Mayo, Educational Services Director for the *Sequoyah County Times*. (*Sequoyah County Times*).
8. The new Library neared completion in the fall of 1997. Bethia Owens stands in the midst of the interior construction debris. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
9. The new Muldrow Public Library opened to the public on March 3, 1998. (Library photo)
10. The new Library, spacious and bright, was a welcomed addition to the community. (Library photo)

11. Genealogy fans learn about a new online genealogy tool available at the Library. (Library photo)
12. Muldrow Library patron Leah Gregory, accompanied by her children Caleb and Layna, was the Adult Winter Blast winner in 2008. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
13. Twins Tristian (left) and Taylor (right) received READ participation awards in May 2006. Erin Martin, center, presented awards to all the elementary students who participated during the 2005-06 school year. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
14. Kyle Alderson was the founder of the READ program in 2000. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
15. Potential READ mentors in training, 2002. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
16. Young reader-to-be Wyatt Price celebrated getting his first Library card. (Library photo)
17. Clare Delaney, State President of the Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma, unveiled the National Literary Landmark plaque at Sequoyah's home place in 2006. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
18. Gideon Moore, dressed as Sequoyah, won in the Kindergarten through 4th grade division in the Famous Oklahoman Costume Contest as part of the Library's 2007 Summer Reading Program. (Library photo)
19. Megan Mooneyham conducted the first Teen Read program in June 2006 by presenting a hands-on Manga Cartoon Art class. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
20. Landen Allen and his mother concentrate on the new Early Literacy Station at the Library. (*Sequoyah County Times*,)
21. An example of the Muldrow Library newspaper announcements in 2006. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
22. In October 2015 the Library's Story Time topic was "Learning to Count." This picture represents the hundreds of weekly pictures of children's activities published by the *Times* newspaper over the years. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
23. Holocaust survivor, Nick Wintory, stands in front of the World War II display with County branch manager Bethia Owens. Wintory was the special guest of the *Paper Clips* presentation at the Muldrow Library in April 2008. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
24. New public access computers in the Teens' Corner, 2009. (Library photo)
25. The "Glue and Go" program was just one of the creative activities of the 2009 Summer Reading Program. Participants were encouraged to create inexpensive, original and

imaginative costumes with everyday items such as paper bags, newspapers, CDs, video tapes. (*Sequoyah County Times*)

26. Young library users interested in STEM helped staff unpack the first delivery of STEM equipment and supplies purchased with grant funds in 2015. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
28. Science Fair participants stood ready to answer any questions that the interested on-lookers had about their projects. (Library photo)
29. The theme of this *Bed Time Story Time* in 2017 was “A Day at the Beach”. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
30. *Our Vietnam Scrapbook* exhibit in 2017 caught the attention of this teen. (*Sequoyah County Times*)

Muskogee Bibliography & Captions

Bibliography

Introduction to Muskogee

1. Bell, Roger. *Images of America: Muskogee*.
2. Bell, Roger and Jerry Hoffman. *Postcard History Series: Muskogee*.
3. Blackburn, Bob L. "Grant Foreman." The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture, <https://okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry?entry=FO020>.
4. Burke, Bob. "Alice Mary Robertson." The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture, <https://okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry?entry=RO004>.
5. Davis, Billy Joe. "Edmondson, James Howard." The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture, <https://okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry?entry=ED005>.
6. Edmondson, Drew. https://ballotpedia.org/Drew_Edmondson.
7. Everett, Dianna. "Joan Hill." The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture, <https://okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry?entry=HI022>.
8. Everett, Dianna. "USS Batfish." The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture, <https://okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry?entry=US006>.
9. Faulk, Odie B. *Muskogee: City and County*.
10. Garrett, Sandy. https://wn.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sandy_Garrett.
11. Kosmerick, Todd J. "Edmondson, Edmond A." The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture, <https://okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry?entry=ED004>.
12. Waits, Wallace F. Jr. "Muskogee." The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture, <https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=MU018>.
13. Wilson, Linda D. "Carolyn Thomas Foreman." The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture, <https://okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry?entry=FO019>.
14. Winget, Larry. https://en.wikiedia.org/wiki/Larry_Winget.

Muskogee's Early Library History

1. "\$7,500 for Library Site." *Guilick's Weekly Review* (Muskogee, OK), July 1, 1911, 1.
2. "A \$60,000 Carnegie Library Building." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix and Times-Democrat* (OK), April 7, 1912, 8.
3. "Acee Blue Eagle." <https://thehistoryexchange.com/index.php/wpa-in-oklahoma/acee-blue-eagle-artist>.
4. "After a Library in Dead Earnest." *Muskogee County Democrat* (OK), November 25, 1909, 3.
5. "Almost a Riot at Park While Giving Prizes." *Muskogee Times Democrat* (OK), July 31, 1926.
6. "Attention Architects." *Muskogee Times Democrat* (OK), September 13, 1911, 2.
7. Bell, Roger and Jerry Hoffman. *Postcard History Series: Muskogee*.
8. "Books Go Begging On Library Week." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix and Times-Democrat* (OK), March 21, 1958, 19.
9. "Carnegie Library Talk is Revived." *Muskogee Democrat* (OK), July 10, 1905, 5.
10. "City Circulation Shows Large Increase from Past Year." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix* (OK), July 1, 1928.
11. "City Library to Mark 40th Birthday Quietly." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix and Times-Democrat* (OK), December 9, 1948, 7.
12. "Council Approves Purchase of Lot next to Library." *Muskogee Times Democrat* (OK), February 13, 1945, 8.
13. "Council Officially Sets Library Election Date." (*Newspaper Source Unknown*).1969. (Library Files).
14. "Council Starts Fund." *Muskogee County Democrat* (OK), February 23, 1910, 8.
15. "County Library Plan Decision Due Tuesday." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix and Times-Democrat* (OK), July 24, 1960, 8.
16. "Editor's Notes." *Muskogee Times Democrat* (OK), August 17, 1908, 4.

17. Fugate, Tally D. "Woman's Christian Temperance Union," *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*,
<https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=WO006>.
18. "Good Report from Library." *The Muskogee Evening News* (OK), March 3, 1909, 4.
19. "Half Population Library Patrons." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix and Times-Democrat* (OK), July 29, 1934, 1.
20. "Independent Oklahoma Town." *The Muskogee Comet* (OK), July 14, 1904, 4
21. "Indian Territory News." *The Muldrow Press* (OK), November 16, 1906, 2.
22. "Joe Templeton Said Librarian Here Tuesday." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix and Times-Democrat* (OK), October 15, 1952, 9.
23. "Librarians Expected at Camp Gruber Soon." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix and Times-Democrat* (OK), July 7, 1942, 3.
24. "Library Arranges Permanent Room of State Histories, Relics to Honor Grant Foreman." *Muskogee Times Democrat* (OK), March 11, 1946, 5.
25. "Library Houses 21,000 Volumes." *Muskogee Times Democrat* (OK), June 14, 22, 28.
26. "Library Improvement Templeton Record." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix and Times-Democrat* (OK), March 14, 1954, 27.
27. "Library Installs Machine System of Checking Books." *Muskogee Times Democrat* (OK), July 8, 1946, 7.
28. "Library is in New Quarters." *Muskogee Times Democrat* (OK), April 14, 1910, 1.
29. "Library On Wheels Makes Daily Rounds." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix and Times-Democrat* (OK), June 21, 1953, 18.
30. "Library Releases Its Annual Report." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix and Times-Democrat* (OK), August 15, 1943, 2.
31. "Library Site Bought." *Guilick's Weekly Review* (Muskogee, OK), September 2, 1911, 3.
32. "Library System For Area Urged." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix and Times-Democrat* (OK), June 25, 1958, 1.
33. "More Money Goal of Public Library." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix and Times-Democrat* (OK), July 7, 1940, 13.

34. "Multi-County Library Plan for Area Talked." *Muskogee Times Democrat (OK)*, June 25, 1958, 18.
35. "Mrs. Cora Case Porter Quits as Librarian after Twenty Years." *Muskogee Times Democrat (OK)*, August 14, 1945, 8.
36. "Muskogee Gets a Carnegie Library." *Muskogee Times Democrat (OK)*, September 12, 1910, 1.
37. "Muskogee Library Association." *Muskogee Phoenix (OK)*, November 1, 1900, 7.
38. "Muskogeeans Cannot Get Proper Site for City Library." *Muskogee County Republican and Fort Gibson Post (OK)*, May 18, 1911, 7.
39. "Needs of New Library Listed." (*Newspaper Source Unknown*), October 6, 1966. (Library Files).
40. "New Children's Room in Operation at Library." *Muskogee Times Democrat (OK)*, October 22, 1945, 2.
41. "New Library Recommended For Muskogee." (*Newspaper Source Unknown*), February 21, 1968. (Library Files).
42. "A Nice Present." *Muskogee Phoenix (OK)*, February 28, 1901, 8.
43. "No Dust on Books in Local Library; Use 115,000 a Year." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix and Times-Democrat (OK)*, April 16, 1922, 13.
44. "No Excuse for Late Books Now." *Muskogee Phoenix (OK)*, July 19, 1931.
45. "Notice." *Muskogee Phoenix (OK)*, September 11, 1890, 5.
46. "Notice." *Muskogee Phoenix (OK)*, July 12, 1894, 5.
47. "Oklahoma Library Figures." *New State Tribune (Muskogee, OK)*, June 3, 1909, 3.
48. "Proposed New Library Suggestions Received." (*Newspaper Source Unknown*), August 14, 1968.
49. "Public Library." *Muskogee Democrat (OK)*, July 18, 1904, 6.
50. "Public Library." *Muskogee Democrat (OK)*, August 4, 1905, 1.
51. "The Public Library Movement." *The Muskogee Evening Times (OK)*, August 29, 1903, 1.

52. "Public Library Notes Its 50th Anniversary." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix and Times-Democrat* (OK), February 21, 1960, 22.
53. Reed, Ora V. Eddleman (1880-1968). The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture, <https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry?entry=RE019>.
54. "Report of Woman's (sic) History Club." *Muskogee Times-Democrat* (OK), June 12, 1909, 5.
55. "Report of Woman's (sic) History Club." *New State Tribune* (Muskogee, OK), June 17, 1909, 3.
56. "Rulison Donates Land." *Muskogee Phoenix* (OK), December 14, 1905, 6.
57. "Should Be Centrally Located." *Muskogee County Republican and Fort Gibson Post* (OK), April 6, 1911, 8.
58. "Sidewalk Repair Program Started." *Muskogee Times Democrat* (OK), July 24, 1945, 8.
59. Spaulding, Cathy. "Native Artist Dana Tiger Restoring historic murals." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix* (OK), June 6, 2023.
60. "They Want a Library Site." *Muskogee Times Democrat* (OK), September 17, 1910, 2.
61. "Today's Society." *Muskogee Times Democrat* (OK), May 4, 1911, 5.
62. Vaughn, John. "Over-Crowded City Building Is Past Age for Retirement." *Muskogee Phoenix* (OK), April, 1968.
63. "War Information Center." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix and Times-Democrat* (OK), March 27, 1942, 2.
64. "Weekly Schedule Set Up for Library Traveling Branch." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix and Times-Democrat* (OK), February 10, 1954, 4.
65. "Will Ask for More." *Guilick's Weekly Review* (Muskogee, OK), February 24, 1912, 1.
66. "William Stewart Is New City Librarian." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix and Times-Democrat* (OK), February 19, 1958, 6.
67. "Woman's (sic) History Club." *Guilick's Weekly Review* (Muskogee, OK), December 5, 1908, 4.
68. "Women's History Club." *Muskogee Times Democrat* (OK), November 18, 1922.

69. "Would Move Library Site." *Guilick's Weekly Review* (Muskogee, OK), February 3, 1912, 1.
70. "WPA Gives County \$20,700 to Assist in Library Project." *Muskogee Times Democrat* (OK), September 29, 1938, 1.

Early Library History – Phillis Wheatley Branch

1. "City Library Circulation Shows Large Increase for Past Year." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix and Times-Democrat* (OK), July 15, 1928, 19.
2. "City to Support Negro Library." *Muskogee Times Democrat* (OK), May 24, 1917, 6.
3. "Colored Want Library." *Muskogee Times Democrat* (OK), June 2, 1914, 1.
4. "Coming Soon." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix and Times-Democrat* (OK), February 5, 1915, 9.
5. "J. E. Wyand for Mayor." *The Tattler* (Muskogee, OK), March 25, 1916, 1.
6. "Jim Crow Laws in Oklahoma." *Daily Oklahoman, The (Oklahoma City, OK)*, February 13, 2005: 03. *NewsBank: Access World News – Historical and Current*.
<https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/10842F096C0FC684>.
7. "Jim Crow Libraries Offered to the City." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix and Times-Democrat* (OK), March 6, 1912, 2.
8. "Little Known Black Librarian Facts: Phyllis Wheatley Branch of the Muskogee Public Library (Muskogee, Oklahoma)." January 1, 2013,
<https://littleknownblacklibrarianfacts.blogspot.com/2013/01/phyllis-wheatley-branch-of-muskogee.html>.
9. "Negro Library Popular Place." *Muskogee Times Democrat* (OK), September 16, 1916, 8.
10. "Negroes to Seek Fund for Library." *Muskogee Times Democrat* (OK), September 15, 1920, 7.
11. "Report of Negro Libraries, 1931-32." <https://digitalprairie.ok.gov>.
12. Warde, Mary J, PhD. "Historic Context for African-American History in Muskogee, Oklahoma". Dissertation, 2014, 39.

13. Wheatley Branch Library Opens in New Location." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix and Times-Democrat* (OK), October 29, 1946, 2.

Muskogee Public Library

1. "Adult Literacy Program." <https://eols.org/literacy-programs>.
2. Bryant, Jan. "Exciting Changes Happening at Muskogee Public Library." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix* (OK), December 19, 2009.
3. Bryant, Jan. "Library Looks for Creativity with Printer." Books & More Column. *Muskogee Daily Phoenix* (OK), November 9, 2013.
4. Bryant, Jan. "MPL is a Great Place to 'Geek'." Books & More Column. *Muskogee Daily Phoenix* (OK), January 5, 2013.
5. Burton, Wendy. "Geek the Week at Library." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix* (OK), January 25, 2013.
6. Burton, Wendy. "'Library Cleanup Begins.'" *Muskogee Daily Phoenix* (OK), October 12, 2011.
7. "Bare Bones Film Festival Begins." *Tulsa World* (OK), April 17, 2008, D3.
8. "Betz to Speak Tuesday." *Muskogee Phoenix* (OK), February 23, 2013.
9. "Black History Program @ Library." *Muskogee Phoenix* (OK), August 10, 2014.
10. Cato, Becki. "Library Lunch Series has Something for Everyone." *Muskogee Phoenix & Times Democrat* (OK). October 1, 2000, 2-C.
11. Chastain, Penny. "Checking It Out: Muskogee Library Continues 45-Year Program." *Muskogee Phoenix* (OK), May 16, 2024.
12. "City of Muskogee Foundation Awards Grants for Summer Youth Programs." *Muskogee Phoenix* (OK), December 27, 2015.
13. EOLS Board Minutes, 1970-2020.
14. "EOLS Director Assumes New Responsibilities." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix* (OK), July 14, 1999, 4C.
15. "Farmers, Gardeners Saturdays at the Library." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix* (OK), April 17, 2003, 1-C.

16. "Food Depicts Books at Library." *Muskogee Phoenix* (OK), April 11, 2019.
17. "Great Decisions Starting Soon." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix* (OK), February 8, 1981, 4C.
18. Jones, Jeremy. "Third Thursday Book Club Returns for a Second Season." Books & More Column, *Muskogee Daily Phoenix* (OK), August 28, 2011.
19. Kramer, Kirk. "Home is Where the Start is: Muskogee Public Library has Services to Assist Homeschoolers." *Muskogee Phoenix* (OK), August 7, 2010.
20. "Library Closes to Expedite Moves." *Muskogee Phoenix* (OK), February 13, 2007.
21. "Library, County Settle." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix* (OK), April 19, 1988, 1-A.
22. "Library Gets Tech Upgrade." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix* (OK), August 13, 2002, 3A.
23. "Library Lunch Series has Something for Everyone." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix* (OK), October 1, 2000, 2C.
24. "Library Has Big Plans for New Century." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix* (OK), January 2, 2000, 3-C.
25. "Library Receives Grant to Develop Youth Coding Programs." *Muskogee Phoenix* (OK), November 16, 2017.
26. "Library Reopens after Cleaning A-C System." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix* (OK), June 17, 2003, 3A.
27. "Library's 'Noon Year's Eve' Event Designed for Children." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix* (OK), December 28, 2017.
28. "Library's Tree made up of More than 1,000 Books." *Muskogee Phoenix* (OK), December 5, 2015.
29. "Mail-A-Book Replaces Rural Bookmobile." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix* (OK), May 9, 1978, 13.
30. "Moore, Assistant Librarian to Retire Soon." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix* (OK), January 1, 1981, 2A.
31. "MPL Door Work Nearly completed." *Muskogee Phoenix* (OK), December 4, 2014.
32. "Muskogee Kids Enjoy Up-Close Look at Nearly 50 vehicles at 'Touch a Truck' Event." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix and Times-Democrat* (OK), April 30, 2011. *NewsBank: Access World News*. <https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?=AWNB&docref=news/136F592844BC47CO>.

33. "Muskogee Mini-Com, October 20, 2018." *Muskogee Phoenix* (OK), May 25, 2018.
34. "Muskogee MiniCon brings Comic Convention Experience to Town." *Muskogee Phoenix* (OK), September 25, 2018.
35. "Muskogee Public Library to Host Centennial Author Tour." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix* (OK), October 4, 2006.
36. "Muskogee Public Library Plans Holiday Book Giveaway." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix* (OK), December 1, 2008.
37. "National Library Week Scheduled to Begin." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix* (OK), April, 1973.
38. "New Look for Library." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix* (OK), May 15, 1997, 4.
39. "New Roof Being Installed at Library." *Muskogee Phoenix* (OK), March 28, 2016.
40. Ott, Leilani Roberts. "Making a Killing for MPL – Murder Mystery Benefit dinner set for Saturday." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix and Times-Democrat* (OK), January 30, 2014. *NewsBank: Access World News*. <https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?>
41. Phoenix, The Muskogee. "Turn Page, Lick Lips: MPL Having Cooking Contest." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix and Times-Democrat* (OK), September 10, 2012. *NewsBank: Access World News*. <https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AWNB&docref=news/141D14C6DBB94AO>
42. Purtell, Keith. "Oklahoma Living Magazine." *MuskogeePhoenix.com* (OK), August 10, 2014.
43. Section: NEWS "All About Us." *Oklahoman* (OK), February 26, 1988, 6.
44. Spaulding, Cathy. "Fun Found Indoors." *Muskogee Phoenix* (OK), February 27, 2019.
45. Spaulding, Cathy. "Grants to Give Boost to Libraries." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix and Times-Democrat* (OK), July 29, 2010. *NewsBank: Access World News*. <https://inforweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view:p=AWNB&docref=news/1314AD5F838590C8>.
46. Spaulding, Cathy. "Library Revamps Parking Lot." *Muskogee Phoenix* (OK), November 1, 2014.
47. Spaulding, Cathy. "Library's Murder Mystery Event Set for Saturday." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix and Times-Democrat* (OK), February 16, 2017. *NewsBank: Access World News*. <https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?>

48. Spaulding, Cathy. "Muskogee Library Offers Bilingual Story Time." *Muskogee Phoenix* (OK), February 8, 2017.
49. "System Will Ask for Vote for More Funds." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix* (OK), July 22, 1986, 4A.
50. Walkup, Rebecca. "Farmers Market Attendance Keeps Growing." *Muskogee Phoenix* (OK), August 20, 2016.
51. Walton, Rod. "Art Worth Sitting On." *Tulsa World* (OK), November 3, 2000, 10.
52. Walton, Rod. "Book's Issues Come to Life in Muskogee." *Tulsa World* (OK), November 16, 2001, 22.
53. Walton, Rod. "Farm Fresh – Oklahoma Farmers Return to Selling." *Tulsa World* (OK), June 29, 1998, 1.

Captions

Introduction to Muskogee

1. Postcards were used by many communities as early-day promotional tools. (*Postcard History Series: Muskogee.*)
2. Muskogee's Second Street was the center of Black commerce in Muskogee at the turn of the 20th century. The Jones Block Building was built in 1904. (*Images of America: Muskogee.*)
3. Dawes Commission notice posted in the *Muskogee Phoenix* newspaper.
4. Muskogee's Federal Court in session in 1897. (*Images of America: Muskogee.*)
5. Muskogee's 1899 fire. Many of the early commercial buildings and structures were wooden structures built close together on narrow streets, allowing fires to spread quickly and were harder to extinguish. (*Images of America: Muskogee.*)
6. Oklahoma's first governor, Charles N. Haskell, 1860-1933. (Google Images)
7. Map of the proposed State of Sequoyah. (OETA, *Back in Time: State of Sequoyah*)
8. The Port of Muskogee, east of town on the Arkansas River. (Google Images)
9. Campus of Henry Kendall College, Muskogee. (Oklahoma Historical Society)
10. U.S.S. Batfish, a World War II submarine commissioned in 1943, now resting at the Port of Muskogee. It is a 312' long and 27' wide, Balao Class submarine. (Google Images)

11. Alice Robertson, 1854-1931. (Oklahoma Historical Society)
12. Carolyn Foreman, 1872-1967. (Oklahoma Historical Society)
13. Grant Foreman, 1869-1953. (Oklahoma Historical Society)
14. J. Howard Edmondson, 1925-1971. (Google Images)
15. Ed Edmondson, 1919-1990. (Google Images)
16. Drew Edmondson, 1946- (Google Images)
17. Joan Hill, 1930-2020 (Google Images)
18. Sandy Garrett, 1943- (Google Images)
19. Larry Winget, 1952- (Google Images)

Early Library History

1. Local WCTU members, 1888. Organizer, Laura Harsha, is in the front row, fourth from left. (*Images of America: Muskogee*).
2. Ora Eddleman Reed, age 13, was Muskogee's first volunteer librarian. She later attended Henry Kendall College and became a renowned journalist known for her contributions to American Indian literature and journalism. (*Oklahoma Historical Society*).
3. The Turner Building was built by Charles N. Haskell and named for businessman, Clarence Turner. It sat on the southwest corner of Court and Third Streets. (*Postcard History Series: Muskogee*).
4. One of the original tenants of the new Equity Building in 1910 was the City of Muskogee Library. It occupied rooms on the Building's 4th floor. At the time, the Library claimed to have had 6,900 volumes available. (*Postcard History Series: Muskogee*).
5. Muskogee Street scene, 1910. (*Postcard History Series: Muskogee*).
6. Muskogee Public Library's Carnegie Building, Broadway and D Street, circa 1914. (*Images of America: Muskogee*).
7. Carroll Bucher, visiting the Library in 1952, was one of the original MPLBoard members in 1910 and served as the Board's attorney. (*Muskogee Daily Phoenix & Times Democrat*).

8. Cora Case Porter was MPL's 6th Librarian. She served from 1925 to 1945, making her the longest tenured Librarian to date.
9. One of the Library's "branch libraries" in the 1920s was the downtown Curio shop. While it is unknown if this is the exact Curio Shop in question, it was a popular store, located on Fourth Street. It was discontinued as a branch in early 1925. (*Postcard History Series: Muskogee*).
10. Miss Little Bo-Peep was the first prize winner of the 1926 Masquerade Parade in her age category. Spaulding Park, the closest park to the Library, was a popular site for Library programs for many years.
11. Tom-Tit-Tot, a character from an English fairy tale akin to Rumpleskin, didn't win a major prize in the 1926 Masquerade Parade, but probably deserved an award for originality for portraying a relatively little-known fairy tale character. (*Muskogee Times Democrat*).
12. The Library's first book drop made its appearance in the summer of 1931. (*Muskogee Daily Phoenix & Times-Democrat*).
13. This chart was part of the published Annual Library Report for 1933-34. It showed the number of borrowers, total volumes, circulation and cost for each of the seven branch libraries making up the "Muskogee Library System." (*Muskogee Daily Phoenix & Times-Democrat*).
14. Muskogee Public Library's circulation desk, date unknown. (Library files).
15. Native American artist, Alex McIntosh, aka Acee Blue Eagle, 1907?-1959. (Google Images)
16. One of Blue Eagle's 1937 murals was under restoration in the former Carnegie Library Building in 2023. (*Muskogee Daily Phoenix*)
17. The Library's War Information Center kiosk in the 1940s. (*Muskogee Daily Phoenix*)
18. Gertrude Bryan Davis, was MPL Librarian from 1945 to 1952. (*Muskogee Daily Phoenix*)
19. Children's Room in the Muskogee Public Library circa 1930-1940s. (Library Photo).
20. Dr. Grant Foreman, 1869-1953. (Library photo).
21. A Library staff member tried out the new street-side book-drop in 1959. (*Muskogee Daily Phoenix & Times-Democrat*).
22. Cover of a Library Guide, date unknown. (Library files).

23. Joe Hayes Templeton, was MPL's Librarian from 1952 to 1954. (*Muskogee Daily Phoenix & Times-Democrat*).
24. Muskogee's first Bookmobile in 1953. Marguerite Bass, Children's Librarian and Bookmobile supervisor pictured talking with some of the Central High Shop Class students. (*Muskogee Daily Phoenix & Times-Democrat*).
25. Bookmobile shelving construction underway, 1953. (*Muskogee Daily Phoenix & Times-Democrat*).
26. Some of the first young patrons of the new Traveling Library service, summer 1953. (*Muskogee Daily Phoenix & Times-Democrat*).
27. An outdoor display case graced the front lawn of the Library for several years. (*Muskogee Daily Phoenix & Times-Democrat*).
28. Richard J. Covey was MPL's Librarian from 1954 to 1956. (*Muskogee Daily Phoenix & Times-Democrat*).
29. William H. Stewart was MPL Librarian from 1958 to 1969. (Library Photo).
30. The first night of an experimental night route for the Traveling Library in 1961. Everett Morris staffed the trailer and Helen Carpenter was one of the first to use the new route. (*Muskogee Daily Phoenix*)
31. William Stewart discusses the possibility of a multi-county library system with Esther Henke, OK State Library Extension Librarian; Virginia Owens, Field Librarian; and, Leta Dover, Bacone College Librarian. (*Muskogee Daily Phoenix and Times-Democrat*).
32. A new City of Muskogee Bookmobile appeared on the scene during the mid-to-late 1960s. In its first week of service it served double the amount of people than the previous book trailer. Pictured with Librarian Stewart (back row), were Muskogee Library staff members, (left to right) Betty Mason, Person Unknown, Joyce Montgomery Braggs and Marguerite Bass. (*Newspaper source unknown*).
33. James R. Wilkerson, 1969-1978, was MPL's Librarian and EOLS's first Executive Director.

Early Library History – Phillis Wheatley Branch

1. The Jones Block Building on Muskogee's South Second Street, was believed to have been the first location of the Muskogee Colored Library in 1913. (*Images of America: Muskogee*)

2. The Phillis Wheatley Branch Library, the final location of Muskogee's segregated Black Library. It was built in the mid-1940s by German POWs held at Camp Gruber. It was a one-story, flat-roofed, buff-brick, commercial-style building, first built as a USO for Black soldiers and their families. (Library Photo)
3. Main Room of the Wheatley Branch Library. (Library Photo)
4. Children's Area of the Wheatley Branch Library. (Library Photo)
5. Reading Room of the Wheatley Branch Library. (Library Photo)
6. Engraving of African-American poet, Phillis Wheatley, 1753-1784. (Google Images)
7. The Martin Luther King Community Center today. (Google Images)

Muskogee Public Library

1. Current picture of the Muskogee Public Library on 801 West Okmulgee Street. (Library Photo)
2. Rob Martindale, the *Phoenix's* City Editor in 1972 complimenting on the beauty of the new Muskogee Public Library said of the former Carnegie Library, "*It had become a fading lady on vacation. She, too, was a beauty. But, time gradually threw in the wrinkles. Increased traffic chipped away at her strengths...the air too thin to sustain her breathing as a Library.*" <https://eols.org/mpl-about-us>
3. The groundbreaking of the new Muskogee Public Library in 1971. Left to right: EOLS Director James Wilkerson; Muskogee Mayor Elmo Madewell; and Frank Borovetz, City Councilman and Library Board member. (Library Photo)
4. Library under construction, 1971. (*Muskogee Phoenix* photo)
5. Front cover of MPL's Open House flyer, April 1972. (Library Photo)
6. Frank Kirkpatrick was the first to check out a book from the new Library from former Wheatley and now MPL staff member Frances Murphy. MPL Librarian James Wilkerson, looked on, April 1972. (Library photo)
7. Members of the 1972 Junior Women's History Club presented Librarian James Wilkerson, with a book about Oklahoma's Women's Clubs. The Women's History Club was considered to be the driving force in the creation of the Muskogee Public Library. (*Muskogee Phoenix* photo)
8. Emmerine C. Moore, 1948-1981, served 24 years as the last branch manager of the Wheatley Library prior to its merging with MPL in 1972. She continued to serve another 9 years at MPL prior to retirement in 1981. (*Muskogee Phoenix* photo)

9. National Library Week in April 1973. Chairwoman Mrs. George Scott, Jr., (right); James Wilkerson, (center) and Muskogee Mayor Robert Lomax, (left) view the list of the Week's planned activities. (*Muskogee Phoenix* photo)
10. The last Muskogee City Bookmobile. (Library photo)
11. One of the two identical Bookmobiles that served the EOLS' rural communities. (Library photo)
12. Current picture of Jeanette McQuitty. She was hired in 1977 Adult Services Librarian and served as MPL Librarian from 1978-1980. (Facebook)
13. Sonia Bigus Long served as MPL's Head Librarian from 1980 to 1982. (Library photo)
14. Current picture of Carol Kochman. She served as Librarian and EOLS Associate Director from 1982-1987. In 2004-05, she served as president of the American Library Association. (Las Cruces, NM Quality of Life web page)
15. Marion Bryant served as MPL's Librarian from 1988-1994. The role of Associate Director was added in 1992. (Library photo)
16. Jan Bryant served as MPL Librarian from 1998-2015. To date, she is the second longest tenured MPL Librarian since Cora Case Porter, 1925-1945. During her tenure, Bryant was elected Oklahoma Library Association's President, 2007. (Library photo)
17. Rene Meyers moved from the Reference Department to Head Librarian where she served from 2016-2018. (Library photo)
18. Jessica Conley's tenure as Librarian covered the years from 2019-2021. (Library photo)
19. Dr. Betz leads a Great Decisions discussion at MPL in February 2014. (Library photo)
20. A 1980s era EOLS Library Card. (Library photo)
21. A Farmer's Market vendor at the Civic Center in the mid-2000s. (*Muskogee Phoenix* photo).
22. EOLS Service Center across the street from MPL, late 1990s. (Library photo)
23. A sample of the types of painted furniture found in the Painted Furniture Auctions of the late 1990s, early 2000s. (Google Images)
24. Cover page of the Library's Rehab Plans, 2004. (Library photo)
25. Scene from the movie, *To Kill a Mockingbird*. (Google Images)

26. Among the first of the Christmas and other holiday book giveaways by MPL, 2008. (Google Images)
27. Muskogee Area Quilt Guild Display in MPL's Main Foyer, 2011. (Library photo)
28. MPL also has resources for homeschoolers and their parents, 2010. (*Muskogee Phoenix* photo)
29. Black History Month presentations held in the Grant Foreman Room, 2014. Left: Speaker Shakira Davis. Right: Dancer Larena Robinson. (*Muskogee Phoenix* photo)
30. Library Consultant Jack Poling shows a possible new floor plan for MPL in 2012. (Library photo)
31. A very friendly truck welcomed kids to the Library's first ever "Touch-a-Truck" program at Hatbox Field, April 2011. (*Muskogee Phoenix* photo)
32. A broken water pipe on the Library's second floor resulted in a week's worth of repair in October 2011. (Library photo)
33. "Alice in Wonderland" was one of the "Book Eats" entries in the 2019 contest. (*Muskogee Phoenix* photo)
34. MPL's first 3D Printer for public use. (Library photo)
35. MPL's first Noon Year's Balloon drop, 2013. (Library photo)
36. Chelsey Simpson, Managing Editor of *Oklahoma Living* magazine presented the "Best Library in Oklahoma Award" to Librarian Jan Bryant in 2014. (*Muskogee Phoenix* photo)
37. MPL front door repair, 2014. (*Muskogee Phoenix* photo)
38. Up on the Library roof in 2016 for repairs. (*Muskogee Phoenix* photo)
39. Over 1,000 books were needed to assemble this Christmas Tree in the Library's Main Foyer in 2015. (*Muskogee Phoenix* photo)
40. Capitan America and Wonder Woman returned to MPL for Mini-Con 2022. (*Muskogee Phoenix* photo)
41. FabLab participants, 2016. (Library photo)
42. Cooking class participants, 2017. (Library photo)
43. The Teen Room was a good place for cooperative projects, 2013. (Library photo)

44. MPL Video Camp participants in 2013. (*Muskogee Phoenix* photo)
45. Summer Reading Programs were often standing-room-only in 2016. (Library photo)
46. You've got to have a fireman on hand for Halloween Story Time, October 2019.
(*Muskogee Phoenix* photo)
47. The Legos Builder's Club met on the first Thursday of the month in 2014. (Library photo)
48. Freezing February temperatures brought three brothers into the Library to warm up with a video game, 2019. (Library photo)

Sallisaw Bibliography & Captions

Bibliography

Introduction to Sallisaw

1. Anderson, William L. "Sequoyah," The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture. <https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry?entry=SE020>.
2. "Blue Ribbon Downs." Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_Ribbon_Downs
3. "Derek Fine." Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Derek_Fine.
4. "Jack C. Montgomery." Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack_C._Montgomery
5. Mize, Richard, "Sallisaw," The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture, <https://okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=SA009>.
6. "Pretty Boy Floyd." Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pretty_Boy_Floyd
7. "Sequoyah." Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seqyoyah>.
8. "Steve Davis." Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steve_Davis_\(quarterback\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steve_Davis_(quarterback)).

Sallisaw's Early Library History

1. "An Introduction: Let's Get Acquainted." *The Democrat-American* (Sallisaw, OK). October 27, 1938, 1.
2. "Big Donation Received by Library: Use Up." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), August 7, 1969, 1.
3. "Bookmobile Possible to Sequoyah County." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), December 12, 1958, 9.
4. "City Voters Approve Bond Issues For Civic Center and Landing Strip." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), March 1, 1963, 1.

5. "Committee Finds Wagoner Pays Low Interest Rate – Sallisaw Pays Limit." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), November 14, 1952, 2.
6. "Community Institute." *Sequoyah County Democrat* (Sallisaw, OK). January 13, 1922, 6.
7. "County W.P.A. Libraries Have Many Patrons." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), April 4, 1941, 3.
8. *The Democrat-American* (Sallisaw, OK), December 10, 1903, 4.
9. *The Democrat-American* (Sallisaw, OK), June 25, 1909, 4.
10. *The Democrat-American* (Sallisaw, OK), April 14, 1932, 1.
11. *The Democrat-American* (Sallisaw, OK), August 16, 1934, 2.
12. *The Democrat-American* (Sallisaw, OK), September 30, 1937.
13. "EOLS to Discuss Promotion Plans for City Library." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), June 4, 1965, 2.
14. "Federated Club to Meet Monday Evening, Feb. 11." *The Democrat-American* (Sallisaw, OK). February 7, 1935, 1.
15. "Federated Club to Meet Monday Night." *The Democrat-American* (Sallisaw, OK), February 21, 1935, 3.
16. "Federated Women's Club." *The Democrat-American* (Sallisaw, OK), January 31, 1935.
17. "Garden Clubbing." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, Oklahoma), February 5, 1960, 2.
18. "Garden Clubs Seek Funds From Foundation." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), November 20, 1959, 1.
19. "Jaycees Plan to Open Library." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), March 23, 1967, 2.
20. "Ladies Literary and Reading Club." *The Sallisaw Star* (Sallisaw, OK), November 28, 1902, 5.
21. "Ladies, There Went Your Library." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), March 9, 1962, 1.
22. "Library Club is formed in City." *The Democrat-American* (Sallisaw, OK), November 10, 1938, 3.

23. "Library Levy Passed by Narrow 623 Margin." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), August 5, 1960, 1.
24. "Library Project Approved For Sequoyah County." *The Democrat-American* (Sallisaw, OK), August 18, 1938, 4.
25. "Library to Open Monday." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), July 31, 1942, 3.
26. "Library Sets Open House for March 3." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), February 22, 1968, 1.
27. "Library to Open Monday." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), July 31, 1942, 3.
28. "Library to Open Monday." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), July 31, 1942, 3.
29. "Local Events." *The Star Gazette* (Sallisaw, OK), February 3, 1911, 5.
30. "Local Events." *The Star Gazette* (Sallisaw, OK), March 15, 1912, 5.
31. "Local Events." *The Star Gazette* (Sallisaw, OK), March 17, 1911, 5.
32. "Onawa Study Club Plans Rummage Sale for Saturday." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), February 6, 1969, 3.
33. "Ordinance No. 70-6 An Ordinance Providing For Library Service To the City of Sallisaw, Oklahoma." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), April 23, 1970, 19.
34. "Public Library Open Saturday." *The Sallisaw Star* (Sallisaw, OK), May 29, 1903, 8.
35. "Sallisaw Aids W.P.A. Library." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), August 16, 1940, 6.
36. "Sallisaw Library to Open March 3." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), February 8, 1968, 1.
37. "Sallisaw Public Library." *The Democrat-American* (Sallisaw, OK), June 2, 1904, 3.
38. "Sallisaw Public Library Established." *The Sallisaw Star* (Sallisaw, OK), February 27, 1903, 2.
39. "Sallisaw Will Have Public Library." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), November 27, 1936, 1.
40. *The Star Gazette* (Sallisaw, OK), January 27, 1911.
41. *The Star Gazette* (Sallisaw, OK), November 6, 1914, 2.

42. "To Show Library Films May 27th." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), May 28, 1965, 1.
43. "Traveling Libraries Loaned 1,270 Books to Sequoyah County." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), October 31, 1941, 4.
44. "Vacation Reading Club Begins Next Week." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), May 26, 1939, 1,
45. "WPA Library Service Project Operating in Sequoyah County." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), September 16, 1938, 1.

Stanley Tubbs Memorial Library/Sallisaw Public Library

1. "2007 Festival to Feature Oklahoma Culture." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), June 11, 2006, 1.
2. "\$23,704.03 Collected in Library Fund Drive." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), October 20, 1983, 1.
3. "Additional Millage Asked for County's Libraries." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), March 22, 1990, 1.
4. "Big Basin Briefs." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), August 13, 1970, 2.
5. "Big Basin Foot Notes." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), August 15, 1976, 2.
6. "Boar's Nest." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK).
7. "Centennial Committee Calling for Old Photos." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), March 4, 2007, 3.
8. "Children Invited to Portray 35 Famous Oklahomans." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), April 5, 2007, 4.
9. EOLS Board Minutes, 1970-2020.
10. "Bookmobiles Arrive; To Stop In Many Area Communities." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), January 14, 1971, 1.
11. "Bookmobile Election March 7." *Big Basin Herald* (Muldrow, OK), February 24, 1972, 9.
12. "Chamber of Commerce Board Takes Action." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), November 12, 1970, 2.

13. "City Library Elects New Officers." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), May 7, 1970, 1.
14. "Contract Awarded for Renovation of Depot." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), January 12, 1984, 1.
15. "Demonstration Library System in State Experiencing Rapid Growth." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), July 9, 1970, 1.
16. "District Library System Offers a World Of Books to Area Residents." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), November 28, 1971, 4.
17. "Efforts Underway to Form Building Fund Committee." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), October 2, 1983, 1.
18. "EODLS Bookmobile Plans Visit in Sequoyah County Next Week." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), July 15, 1993, 16.
19. "Extension Homemakers Week Planned." *Sequoyah County Times (Sallisaw, OK)*, May 1, 1983, 6.
20. "Extra Funds Earmarked for Buying Equipment." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), November 6, 1983, 1.
21. "Fund Drive Committee Putting Plans in Gear." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), October 9, 1983, 1.
22. "Grant-Funded Literacy Program is Underway at Sallisaw Library." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), September 3, 1998, 1.
23. "Hamilton Urges New Space for Employment." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), July 23, 1970, 1.
24. "High Speed Internet Coming to Sallisaw Library." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), December 19, 2010, a1.
25. "History." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), January 4, 2013, 7.
26. "Horses are Coming to Sallisaw." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), June 13, 2012, a7.
27. "Human Chain Event Postponed." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), February 7, 1985, 1.
28. "Increasing Costs May Close Libraries, Official Predicts." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), April 23, 1992, 1.

29. "It's All About the Journey." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), October 9, 2013, a1.
30. "Learning Tablets Available for Check Out at Library." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), September 21, 2018, a7
31. "Library at Center of Area Activities." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), February 1, 1987, 21.
32. "Library Board In Favor of New Location." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), February 13, 1983, 1.
33. "Library Board Plans Meeting To Organize 'Friends' Group." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), March 17, 1994, 1.
34. "Library Collecting Labels for Equipment." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), January 5, 1984, 3.
35. "Library Cutbacks Begin July 1." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), June 29, 1992, 1.
36. "Library Leaks Stop Building Expansion." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), August 22, 1991, m1.
37. "Library Equipment Will Be Purchased With Memorial Fund." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), August 10, 1989, 1.
38. "Library Fund Committee Sets Drive Goal of \$45,000." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), October 6, 1983, 1.
39. "Library Fund Drive is Going Well, Official Says." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), October 23, 1983, 1.
40. "Library Fund Drive Kicks Off Monday." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), October 16, 1983, 1.
41. "Library Needing Additional Funds." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), September 4, 1983, 1.
42. "Library Needs Volunteers." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), January 7, 2015, b6.
43. "Library Offers Early Education Literacy Program." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), August 24, 2018, a3.

44. "Library Offers More Than Books." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), January 31, 1988, 19.
45. "Library Receives Centennial Clock." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), October 21, 2007, 1.
46. "Library Receives Grant." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), June 10, 2015, a8.
47. "Library Seeking 'Grapes of Wrath' Tales." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), September 27, 2013, b10.
48. "Library to be Put to a Vote." *Big Basin Herald* (Muldrow, OK), March 2, 1972, 3.
49. "Library to Show Students' Art." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), September 24, 1987, 3.
50. "Library Will Get Spring Spruce-up." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), January 22, 1998, 9.
51. "Lions and City Honor Late Civic Leader Stan Tubbs." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), June 15, 1989, 1.
52. "Literacy Council Prepares for Loss of Grant Funding." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), April 25, 1991, 16.
53. "Lions Club Gives First Library Donation." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), September 22, 1983, 1.
54. "Literacy Workshop in Sallisaw Oct. 17." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), October 2, 1986, 25.
55. "Local Officials to Dedicate Library Building Sunday." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), May 16, 1985, 1.
56. "Looking Over the Past." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), February 29, 1976, 2.
57. "Mazzio's and Library Group Team Up for Library Fundraiser." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), September 23, 2015, a3.
58. "Multi-County Library System Tax Approved in Three Counties." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), December 12, 1971, 1&10.
59. "New Building to Make More Programs Available." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), August 28, 1983, 1.

60. "New Library Lights Hailed in Community Celebration." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), November 30, 1986, 1.
61. "On the Lawn of Stanley Tubbs Memorial Library in Sallisaw." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), February 15, 2012, a3.
62. "Options for New Library Roof will be Considered." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), November 13, 2008, a1.
63. "OTIS Helps Find Books." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), December 17, 1970, 2.
64. "Reading Blitz Starting in Sallisaw." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), January 10, 1980, 1.
65. "Record Number Attend Annual C of C Banquet." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), October 31, 1982, 1.
66. "Renovation is Underway for Library Building." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), February 23, 1984, 1.
67. "Routine Items Occupy City Commission." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), April 12, 1990, 1.
68. "Sallisaw City Library Gets Load of Multi-County Books." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), December 10, 1970, 5
69. "Sallisaw Forms New Port Authority." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), May 14, 1970, 2.
70. "Sallisaw Library Adds Hours and Computerized Catalog." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), February 5, 1995, 1.
71. "Sallisaw Library Helps Every Child Get Ready to Read." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), September 6, 2019, a8.
72. "Sallisaw Library is Best of 1986." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), December 21, 1986, 1.
73. "Sallisaw Library Hosting Virtual Tour." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), March 7, 2014, a1.
74. "Sallisaw Library is Offering Computer Research System." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), April 30, 1995, 1.

75. "Sallisaw Library Gets Librarian." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), October 5, 1972, 1.
76. "Sallisaw Library to Receive Grant Money." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), July 8, 2010, a5.
77. "Sallisaw to Raise City Electric Rates." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), May 12, 1983, 2.
78. "Sequoyah County is Approved for Library Demonstrations." *Sequoyah County Times*, (Sallisaw, OK), March 12, 1970, 6.
79. "Students get Hands-on with Fab Lab Technology." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), June 29, 2016, a1.
80. "Teens Learn About Different Cultures." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), August 30, 2013, 14.
81. "Tubbs Memorial Fund Will Help Expand Library." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), October 15, 1989, 1.
82. "Two County Libraries Lose '91-'92 Book Budgets." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), June 20, 1991, 1.
83. "Volunteers Organize Friends of the Library." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), March 27, 1994, 1.
84. "Voters like Clinton, Bush, but Not Taxes." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), March 12, 1992, 1.
85. "Voters Refuse Millage Increase for Libraries." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), May 24, 1990, 1.
86. "The War to End All Wars." *Sequoyah County Times* (Sallisaw, OK), December 17, 2014, a4.

Captions

Introduction to Sallisaw

1. The book was published in 1939 and the movie appeared in 1940.
2. Charles Arthur Floyd, 1904-1934.
3. Jack C. Montgomery, 1917-2002.
4. Steve Davis, 1952-2013.
5. Derek Fine, 1983-
6. Sequoyah, 1778-1843.

Sallisaw's Early Library History

1. The red Bookmobile from the Oklahoma State Library that toured Sequoyah and other EOLS counties in the late 1958. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
2. Architect Ray James and Associates' rendition of the improvements to be made to Sallisaw's Municipal Building, 1965. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
3. In 1967 the Sallisaw Jaycees committed their support to the proposed Library. At the Library's Open House the Jaycees presented Loris Dickey, Chair of the local Library Board, with a check to buy books. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
4. Patricia Taylor was the first paid employee of the Sallisaw City Library via a Community Action training program. On January 1, 1969 she became the Library's first full-time librarian. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
5. Local Library Board members and Mayor cut the ribbon in 1968 and the Sallisaw City Library was open to the public. Left to right: Cleo Post, Madge Gabbard, Mayor Joe Rigsby, Loris Dickey and Barbara Mayo. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
6. Two young Sallisaw ladies pose on the steps of the City Hall Complex and at the original Library's front door just inside the gates. (Library photo)

Stanley Tubbs Memorial Library/Sallisaw City Library

1. Stanley Tubbs Memorial Library. (Library photo)
2. One of the two Bookmobiles that covered the entire six county Library System beginning in January 1971. (Library photo).
3. Newly-appointed EOLS Board member Barbara Mayo and Librarian Pat Taylor brought the first shipment of new books from the Muskogee Service Center, 1970. (*Sequoyah County Times*).
4. O.J. Grosclaude was Sallisaw's second branch manager, 1972-2000.
5. One of the earliest Summer Reading Program Story Hours held in the City Library, 1973. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
6. The formation of a Literacy Council was the culmination of the "Reading Blitz" sponsored by the Oklahoma Department of Libraries in early 1980. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
7. The Badger Lee Extension Homemakers show O. J. Grosclaude, second from left, the fan quilt they planned to use as a Library fund-raising project, 1983. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
8. The Architect's rendition of the proposed renovation of the old Missouri-Pacific Depot into the new Sallisaw Public Library, 1983. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
9. The shelving at the original Library location in the City Hall Complex. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
10. Businessman Stanley Tubbs chaired the Library Building Fund Drive. He holds one of the posters used to advertise the fund-raising effort. He later became the namesake of the Depot turned Public Library, 1983. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
11. O.J. Grosclaude (center) accepted a check from the president of the Tommie Spear Junior High Student Council for the Library's fund-raising drive, 1983. (*Sequoyah County Times*).
12. Sallisaw Middle School students presented Stanley Tubbs with \$796.62 in cash they earned for the Library fund-raising drive, 1983. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
13. The Depot awaits renovation. The City Commissioners voted to award the contract for the renovation January 9, 1984. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
14. Workers cut lumber for the Depot renovation, 1984. (*Sequoyah County Times*)

15. By September 1984, the Sallisaw Public Library was slowly evolving from a Depot to a Library. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
16. Almost ready! All that remained was some minor interior work and the completion of the parking lot delayed by wet weather, 1985. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
17. On March 4, 1985 a flag-raising ceremony was held at the new Sallisaw Public Library. In the foreground, third from the left, was O.J. Grosclaude, and Sallisaw Mayor George Glenn, fifth from left. The DAV donated the flag. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
18. Siblings attended the Library's Rummage Sale in 1985. Proceeds from the Sale went toward the purchase of E-Z book shelving for beginning readers' books. Over time, book sales became a way to supplement book budgets. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
19. Arnel Walden, owner of Gifford Monument Company, unveiled a Monument to Sequoyah County's war dead on the grounds of the Sallisaw Public Library on May 25, 1986. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
20. In July 1988 a historical marker was placed in front of the Sallisaw Library by the Sequoyah County Historical Society to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the City's founding. Lori Frye, the great-great-granddaughter of Argyle Quesenbury, co-founder of Sallisaw, looked on. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
21. The 16th Annual Arts & Crafts Festival included a Clothesline Art Exhibit of students' art hung on wires strung among trees on the Library's lawn. Preparing for the exhibit were, from left, Stanley Tubbs, assistant manager of the Festival, Billy Sue Taylor, of the Onawa Club, and O.J. Grosclaude, chair of the planned Clothesline Exhibit, 1987. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
22. It became a Christmas tradition for the Library and its grounds to serve as the focal point of Sallisaw's Holiday Season. Preparing for the Christmas tree lighting became a routine job for City employees, 2008. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
23. The interior of the Stanley Tubbs Memorial Library. (Library photo)
24. The Summer Bookmobile made the rounds in Sequoyah, Adair, Cherokee, Delaware and McIntosh Counties during the summer of 1993 and for several years thereafter. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
25. Barbara Mayo, Education Director of the *Sequoyah County Times* newspaper, helped a Summer Reading Program participant with her newspaper, 1992. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
26. Library staff member Chris Loudon and O. J. Grosclaude checked out the new *Dynix* circulation system at the Library, 1995. (*Sequoyah County Times*)

27. Becky Mason was the Literacy instructor for Clients of the Needy Families Program. The program was funded by the Oklahoma Department of Libraries and was conducted in the Library, 1998. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
28. Bethia Owens, Muldrow's branch manager, also became the Stanley Tubbs Memorial Library's branch manager in 2002. (Library photo)
29. An example of a Library announcement for the Stanley Tubbs Library. The notices would change formats over time but would always serve to keep the community abreast of events and programs before the days of social media, 2010. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
30. A City employee checked on the Centennial Clock installed on the Library's lawn as part of the State's Centennial in 2007. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
31. Recently published members of the Just Write Club met regularly at the Library, 2008. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
32. Sallisaw's local heroes – the police, sheriff and fire departments, EMS and Highway Patrol – always answered the Library's call for programs and demonstrations as part of the Summer Reading Program, 2009. (*Sequoyah County Times*).
33. With the NTIA grant, library users experienced an increase in online access speed, 2010. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
34. Main Street members get ready for the first annual Bluegrass and Barbecue Festival to be held in April on the Library's lawn, 2012. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
35. Ben Kiger painted the *14 Flags over Oklahoma* horse commissioned by the Main Street organization in 2012. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
36. Sallisaw Teen Book Club members discuss the book, *Twilight*, over slices of pizza and soft drinks, 2010. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
37. Members of the Teen Read program visited the Cherokee Nation as part of a program series about different cultures. They learned how to play Cherokee marbles and sampled grape dumplings, 2013. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
38. Sallisaw's *Grapes of Wrath* display in 2013. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
39. Fifty+ people attended the meal of beans and cornbread at the kick-off of the Steinbeck Center's retracing of the Joad family's trek to California, 2013. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
40. During a *True Grit* book review and luncheon in 2014 Bethia Owens (right) presented Linda Copeland (left) with a first place award in a related photo contest, 2014. (*Sequoyah County Times*)

41. John Hinkle, former ODL consultant, master puppeteer and reenactor, portrayed a WWI general at a Library program on December 29, 2014, the 100th anniversary of the start of WWI. (Photo courtesy of www.johnhinkle.net)
42. Students try out LEGO EV3 and LitBits Electronics provided by the Institute for Museum and Library Services grant to help increase STEM programs for area youth, 2015. (*Sequoyah County Times*)
43. City employees remodeled the Library's entrance for better handicapped accessibility, 2020. (*Sequoyah County Times*)

Stilwell Bibliography & Captions

Bibliography

Introduction to Stilwell

1. Betty Starr Barker, "Stilwell," The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture, <https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=ST038>
2. Adair County, Oklahoma. Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adair_County,_Oklahoma.
3. Stilwell, Oklahoma. Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stilwell,_Oklahoma.

Stilwell Public Library

1. "10 WPA Libraries." *Muskogee Times Democrat* (OK), November 11, 1940, 3.
2. "Automation is Being Used at Local Library." *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* (OK), January 8, 1976, 9.
3. "Book Award Winners Named." *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* (OK), March 7, 1974, 4.
4. "Bookmobile Plan Due Revisions." *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* (OK), June 27, 1974, 1.
5. "Bookmobile Sets Visits." *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* (OK), July 7, 1960, 1.
6. "Books Total 5,794 at Local Public Library." *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* (OK), September 20, 1973, 10.
7. "C. of C. Plans Civic Program for 1938." *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* (OK), January 21, 1938, 4.
8. "Chamber Endorses Library." *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* (OK), November 18, 1971, 1.
9. "City Librarian Resigns Post." *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* (OK), November 2, 1972, 1.
10. "City Library Given Award." *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* (OK), May 5, 1977, 12.
11. Clark, Jann. "Block Porn or Begone, Town Tells Library System." *Tulsa World*, (OK), February 25, 2004, A13.

12. Clark, Jann. "Stilwell Library Closes Amid Controversy Over Internet." *Tulsa World* (OK), March 1, 2001, 11.
13. "Council May Ask Bids for Waste Disposal Building." *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* (OK), September 11, 1975, 14.
14. "County to Vote on Library Question Dec. 7." *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* (OK), December 2, 1971, 1.
15. "County Voters Reject Six State Bills; Library Levy is Defeated." *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* (OK), December 9, 1971, 1.
16. "Council Votes to Give Property for Library." *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* (OK), September 22, 1977, 1.
17. EOLS Board Minutes, 1970-2020.
18. "Fashion Show Set At Noon at City Library." *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* (OK), September 18, 1975, 4.
19. "Few Details Remain Before Library Opens." *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* (OK), February 4, 1971, 1.
20. "Fund Drive of Stilwell Library to Start Monday." *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* (OK), March 18, 1971, 1.
21. "Funds Offered Library." *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* (OK), December 19, 1974, 1.
22. "Ground is Broken." *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* (OK), December 3, 1987, 1.
23. "Here April 15: Library Meeting." *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* (OK), April 19, 1970, 1.
24. "Hopes for Library Depend on Legislature." *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* (OK), September 25, 1969, 1.
25. "Let's Pretend Players To Appear Here June 1." *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* (OK), May 22, 1975, 1.
26. "Library Asks \$500 Grant." *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* (OK), February 26, 1976, 12.
27. "Library Board Officers Named." *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* (OK), October 10, 1974, 1.
28. "Library Is Due Cutback." *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* (OK), April 19, 1973, 12.
29. "Library Gets Okay For Space." *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* (OK), May 29, 1975, 1.

30. "Library Open House is Sunday." *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* (OK), March 4, 1971, 1.
31. "Library Renovations Completed." *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* (OK), March 28, 2012, 1.
32. "Library Suggested as a Kiwanis Objective." *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* (OK), January 23, 1947, 1.
33. "Library Week Is Observed." *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* (OK), March 13, 1958, 1.
34. McLemore, Regina. "The Dream Becomes A Reality."
35. "Mrs. Catron Buying Library Building." *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* (OK), March 25, 1971, 1.
36. "Mrs. Harris Resigning As Stilwell Librarian." *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* (OK), July 24, 1975, 14.
37. "Nearly News." *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* (OK), October 4, 1973, 1.
38. "Petitions for Public Library Being Circulated in County." *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* (OK), April 13, 1967, 1.
39. "Plans Told for Library Building." *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* (OK), August 28, 1975, 1.
40. "Promotion for Libraries Set." *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* (OK), September 30, 1971, 1.
41. "Property Appraisal Scheduled." *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* (OK), February 6, 1975, 1.
42. "Property for Library Offered at Lower Price." *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* (OK), June 26, 1975, 1.
43. Smith, Ronn. "Stilwell Stays in Library District for Now." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix and Times-Democrat* (OK), March 24, 2004.
44. "Stilwell Needs A Library." *The Standard-Sentinel* (Stilwell, OK), November 12, 1936, 2.
45. "Stilwell Library Opens; It's a Dream Come True." *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* (OK), March 11, 1971, 1.
46. "Stilwell's Library Continues to Grow." *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* (OK), June 3, 1976, 16.
47. "Were Voters Misled? Library Backer Asks." *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* (OK), December 9, 1971, 1.

48. "WESTVILLE: Library Proposed For Westville." *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* (OK), May 19, 1960, 7.
49. Zumwalt, Wade. "Smoke Signals." *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* (OK), July 21, 1960. 1.
50. Zumwalt, Wade. "Smoke Signals," *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* (OK), June 15, 1972, 2.

Captions

Introduction to Stilwell

1. Arthur E. Stilwell, the founder of the Kansas City Southern Railway, was the namesake of Stilwell as well as of Port Arthur, Texas.
2. Samuel Mayes, Principal Cherokee Chief from 1895-1899.
3. University of Oklahoma and NFL football player, Sam Claphan, 1956-2001.

Stilwell Public Library

1. Stilwell Public Library. (Library photo)
2. The first Stilwell Public Library building was located at 16 South First Street. Branch manager Josie Harris stood at the building's entrance. (Library photo)
3. Retired High School Librarian Fannie Lewis, was Stilwell's first branch manager and life-long library supporter, 1971-72. (*Stilwell Democrat-Journal*)
4. Dorothy Worsham was Stilwell's first representative on the EOLS Board. She was instrumental in the Library's establishment as well as in the building of the current Library. (*Stilwell Democrat-Journal*)
5. Josie Harris was Stilwell Library's second branch manager, 1972-75. (*Stilwell Democrat-Journal*).
6. One of the two Bookmobiles serving all EOLS counties in the 1970s. (Library photo)
7. *Circus! Circus!* was the theme of the Library's 1974 Summer Reading Program. Nine-year-old Shawna Hill set the scene as she stood in front of the Circus Carousel made by Library staff. (*Stilwell Democrat-Journal*).
8. The old Kansas City Southern Railway Depot was once considered a possible site for the new Stilwell Public Library. (Adair County Historical Society photo)

9. Jan Gallaway served as Stilwell's third branch manager, 1975-1979. (Library photo)
10. The Library took every opportunity to participate in the annual Strawberry Festival activities. (*Stilwell Democrat-Journal*)
11. Dr. and Mrs. C.W. Mehegan, circa 1981. (*Stilwell Democrat-Journal*)
12. Dr. Mehegan's Clinic, circa the 1980s. (Library photo)
13. Formerly Sharpe's Department Store, the then empty building was chosen as a temporary location for the Library prior to the construction of the new building. (Library photo)
14. The Floor Plan of the Library illustrated the locations of Phase II, the Meeting Room, and Phase III, the proposed Children's Wing, in relation to Phase I, the Main Room. (Library photo).
15. Phase I of the Stilwell Public Library was completed in 1986. Phase I was primarily composed of the Library's Main Room. (Library photo)
16. This picture illustrates the completed Phase II Meeting Room on the building's north side. (Library photo).
17. Patricia Gordon was branch manager of the Stilwell Public Library twice (1980-1990, 1992-2004). She was manager when Phase I of the Library was completed and dedicated in 1986. Attending the opening of the new Library were (left to right): Patricia Gordon; Mrs. and Dr. C.W. Mehegan; Bessie Moore, American Library Association Trustee; and EOLS Director, Marilyn Hinshaw. (*Stilwell Democrat-Journal*)
18. The Library's Awards and Honors proudly on display in the Library. The Library also received the Oklahoma Consumer Health Informational Award in 2004; and in 2006, received an award from the National Endowment for the Humanities for its "We the People" program. It was also the recipient of the Oklahoma Library Association's Citation of Merit for their expansion of library services to the entire community. (*Stilwell Democrat-Journal*)
19. Karen George was hired as the Library's 8th branch manager from 2004 to 2014. (*Stilwell Democrat-Journal*)
20. Energy-saving renovations in 2004 to helped reduce utility costs. (*Stilwell Democrat-Journal*)
21. Stilwell Public Library Friends Society's notice as it appeared in the *Stilwell Democrat-Journal* in March 2012.

22. The Kiwanis donated \$3,755 to the Friends Society for the proposed Children's Wing. The Kiwanis and Key Club members have been faithful Library supporters and volunteers since the organization began in 1947. (*Stilwell Democrat-Journal*)
23. Construction underway on the Children's Wing in 2017. (Library Photo)
24. Finished Children's Wing interior, 2017. (Library Photo)
25. Other Library renovations in 2012 included new carpeting and the painting of the Meeting Room. (Library Photo)
26. The 2018 Strawberry Queen visits the Library during the annual Strawberry Festival. (Library Photo)
27. Children and adults both utilized the new and improved library spaces resulting from the 2012 renovations and the addition of the Children's Wing in 2017. (Library Photos)
28. Stilwell's branch manager, Kathleen Conley-Brown, 2016-2021 (right); Westville's branch manager, Stephanie Freedle (left); and Superman were ready to talk about libraries at the 2017 Adair County Health Department Cooperative Fair. (Library Photo)
29. In 2016, the Library held *Pickle Palooza!* to acquaint the community with the new sport of Pickleball. (Library Photo)
30. Summer Reading Program participants enjoyed a puppet show in the Library's Meeting Room years prior to the 2012 renovations. (Library Photo)
31. Stilwell City employees prepared the Story Walk at Carson Park in the spring of 2019. (Library Photo)
32. Summer Reading Program participants enjoying a program in the new and larger Children's Wing, 2017. (Library photo)
33. Stilwell's Branch manager, Arlene Burton, 2014-2016. (Library photo)
34. Branch manager, Rachele Horney as of 2020. (Library photo)

Warner Bibliography & Captions

Bibliography

Introduction to Warner

1. Hartin, Haskell J. "Warner," The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture, <https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=WA024>.
2. Rigney, Margaret. *The First Century: A Pictorial History of Connors State College* (Warner, OK).
3. Shinn, Jess. "Growing Up With Warner, Okla: Late Territory and Early Statehood Days."
4. Shirk, George H. *Oklahoma Place Names* (Norman, OK), 2nd edition, 1974.
5. "Warner, Oklahoma." http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warner,_Oklahoma.

Warner's Early Library History

1. "10 WPA Libraries." *Muskogee Times-Democrat* (OK), November 11, 1940, 3.
2. Warner's WPA Library. Warner Chamber of Commerce photo.

Warner Public Library

1. "Cow Chip Day Activities on Saturday, September 15." *Five Star News* (Warner, OK), September 5, 1990, 1.
2. "CSC President Honored by Oklahoma Library Association." *Five Star News* (Warner, OK), May 8, 1991, 1.
3. EOLS Board Minutes, 1970-2020.
4. "First Book Review." *Five Star News* (Warner, OK), February 19, 1992.
5. "Friends of Library Meet, Adopt By-Laws." *Five Star News* (Warner, OK), November 27, 1991.

6. "Earn a Free Ringling Bros. Ticket While Reading." *Muskogee Phoenix & Times Democrat* (OK), May 29, 2008, 1.
7. "Ed Tatum Memorial Fund Established." *Five Star News* (Warner, OK), August 8, 2000, 1.
8. Hughes, Holly. "Warner Library Offers Hotspots for Check-Out." *Muskogee Phoenix & Times Democrat* (OK), December 13, 2019, 1.
9. "Library Meeting Scheduled." *Five Star News* (Warner, OK), May 16, 1990, 1.
10. "Library Opens for Warner Customers." *Five Star News* (Warner, OK), April 11, 1990, 1.
11. "Library News." *Five Star News* (Warner, OK), April 25, 2000.
12. "Ogdon Heads Literacy Council." *Five Star News* (Warner, OK), September 25, 1991, 1.
13. Ridenour, Elizabeth, "Warner Library Begins Expansion with Groundbreaking Ceremony." *Muskogee Daily Phoenix* (OK), May 4, 2001, 3A.
14. Spaulding, Cathy. "Traveling Exhibit Highlights Tulsa Race Massacre." *Muskogee Phoenix & Times Democrat* (OK), February 21, 2020, 1.
15. "The Friends of the Warner Public Library is Having a Weight-Loss Marathon to Help Fund the Summer Children's Reading Program." *Muskogee Phoenix & Times Democrat* (OK), March 22, 2005, 1.
16. "The Sun Shone on Dedication." *Five Star News* (Warner, OK), May 2, 1990, 1.
17. "Walking With Ease Program Coming to Warner." *Muskogee Phoenix & Times Democrat* (OK), August 10, 2019, 1.
18. "Warner Library Celebrates with Open House." *Muskogee Phoenix & Times Democrat* (OK), November 3, 2010, 1.
19. "Warner Library Friends Receives FOLIO Grant." *Five Star News* (Warner, OK), October 9, 1991.
20. "Warner Library to Host Eat Better, Move More." *Muskogee Phoenix & Times Democrat* (OK), March 19, 2017, 1.
21. "Warner Library to Host Tai chi for Better Balance." *Muskogee Phoenix & Times Democrat* (OK), July 12, 2018, 1.
22. Zah, Erny. "Warner Site Goes from Bookmobile to Bustling Community Center." *Muskogee Phoenix & Times Democrat* (OK), August 15, 2004, 1.

Captions

Introduction to Warner

1. Campbell Russell, 1863-1937.
2. Campbell Russell was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 1932 along with contemporaries Will Rogers, Governor C.N. Haskell, Thomas P. Gore and the first Chair of the State's Department of Agriculture, J. P. Connors.
3. Connors' Hall of Fame recipient in 2019, Dr. Kayse Shrum, (1972 -), current president of Oklahoma State University. (Hometown: Coweta, Ok)
4. Lou Henson (1932-2020), retired from the University of Illinois as its all-time leader in basketball victories. He was also a winning coach at New Mexico State. He is a member of the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame. (Hometown: Okay, Ok)
5. George Kottaras, (1983-) Former Connors' baseball catcher. He has played professionally for the Brewers, Boston Red Sox, Royals, Blue Jays and Cardinals during his Major League career. (Hometown: Toronto, Canada)

Early Library History

1. Saturday Story Hour attendees at Warner's First Public Library, funded as part of the WPA Library Services Program in the early 1940s. Mrs. Pearl Barton was the librarian.

Warner Public Library

1. Carl O. Westbrook, EdD, Connors State College President, 1978-1994.
2. The Warner Public Library served the small communities in the southernmost section of Muskogee County.
3. Roy Rains, Muskogee County Commissioner addressed the crowd as (left to right) Warner Councilman Ed Tatum; Dr. Carl Westbrook and Warner Mayor, Irlan Bullard look on during the Dedication Ceremonies of the new Warner Public Library. (*Five Star News*)
4. Dr. Westbrook also addressed the crowd during the Dedication Ceremony as (left to right) Mayor Irlan Bullard and EOLS Director Marilyn Hinshaw looked on. (*Five Star News*)
5. Warner Public Library's first building in 1990. (Library photo)

6. The Warner Chamber of Commerce officially opened the Warner Public Library with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on April 3, 1990. Branch manager Shirley Thomas (fourth from left), and Councilman Ed Tatum, (seated, center) who also served as Chair of the Warner Public Library Advisory committee, cut the ribbon. (*Five Star News*)
7. Warner Public Library's first branch manager, Shirley Thomas, 1990-1994.(Library photo)
8. One of the Library's Cow Chip Day parade floats, "*Reading is Udderly Delightful.*"(*Five Star News*)
9. The first Easter Egg hunt sponsored by the Greater Warner Area Friends group. Since then, the Hunt has become an annual Friends-sponsored event. (Library photo)
10. The Annual Turtle Race in 1995 hosted 73 participants who entered their turtles in the race that year. (*Five Star News*)
11. The Friends also host the Library's Annual Christmas Open House. In 2016, Santa read to the children. (Library photo)
12. When it rains, the Annual Turtle Race moves indoors, 2011. (Library photo)
13. Will Hill, storyteller, grabs his audience with his Native American tales at the Summer Reading Program in 2009. (Library photo)
14. Touch-a-Truck is one of the most popular library events System-wide. Warner is no exception, 2017. (Library photo)
15. Peggy Matthews, Warner Library's third branch manager, 1998-2014. (Library photo)
16. Mr. Scarecrow welcomed everyone to the Library, in the fall of 1999. (Library photo)
17. It's a full house at a Summer Reading Program in June 2009. (Library photo)
18. The new roof line for the original Warner Public Library under construction, 2001. (Library photo)
19. The new west front entrance under construction in December 2001. (Library photo)
20. Finished project, 2002. (Library photo)
21. The Yumare Folkloric Dancers (OKC) helped the Library celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month at the Library in 2015. (Library photo)
22. Holly Hughes was shared branch manager of both the Warner and Haskell Libraries from 2014 to 2022. (Library photo)

23. Plenty of room for story time now in 2018. (Library photo)
24. Standing-Room-Only at a music-filled Summer Reading Program in 2015. (Library photo)
25. Branch manager Holly Hughes with Black History Month presenter Jimmie White. (Library photo)