

# LINKS

FREE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

**HOMETOWN OKLAHOMA  
SPECIAL EDITION SERIES**

December 5, 2003

## **Community Links**

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Chelsea's "Welcome" sign located on the south side of town, is in the Harold "Bud" Beck Memorial Park. The Park was dedicated to Bud's memory in 1972.

Bud was Rogers County Commissioner for District 1, from 1955 to December 1971, when he was killed in a fire at the county warehouse. Four coworkers also received injuries as a result of the fire. Laurence Weaver and George White had second and third degree burns, Garry Evans' injuries were a little less severe, and Jim Atchley received minor injuries.

The accident happened during a storm, with heavy rain, thunder, and lightening. The men were working in the garage area of the warehouse, emptying the auxiliary gas tanks of a truck. Rogers County Deputy, Bill Murphy speculated static electricity may have sparked the fire. Other theories were, lightening may have played a part in it, or the pilot light of a heater may have ignited the fumes. Two wooden beams inside the building, on the west side, still bear evidence of the fire.

This is the first issue in our Special Edition Series, "Hometown Oklahoma".

We hope you enjoy the articles and features about OUR hometown!

# MAIN STREET DINER

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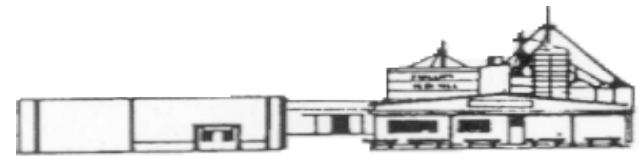
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### FYI

#### Chelsea's Historical Society

Chelsea's Historical Society was founded in 2001.

Officers are:

Ron Hicks – President  
Ted Foster - Vice President  
Cindy Hicks – Secretary  
Bob Maupin - Treasurer.

Currently the group meets on the second Thursday of every month.

The meetings start at 7:00 pm, but they usually gather earlier to have refreshments and visit. They meet at the Chelsea Community Center.

At the last meeting, Garry Evans was the guest speaker. Garry was one of the county workers injured in the fire that claimed the life of Bud Beck. (Our cover story)

Garry gave the group first had details of the accident, and Bud's 16 years as County Commissioner.

The association was founded to collect, preserve, and interpret Chelsea's past for the education and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Yearly membership rates are available. Annual individual membership is \$15.00 and annual family membership is \$20.00.

Contact Roy, Cindy or Ted for applications.

## Chelsea, "The Good Old Days"

The town got its name from a Frisco Railroad employee, Charles Peach, who named it Chelsea for his hometown in England. When Chelsea's City Charter was granted on April 16, 1898, it was already a thriving little community.

An ad in a 1896 issue of the 'Reporter' announced the opening of the first state bank in Indian Territory. The Bank of Chelsea opened March 23, 1896. The bank's president was J.T. McSpadden, vice president was C.W. Poole, and the cashier was John D. Scott. W.M. Couch purchased the first lot sold in Chelsea, and the bank was built on that lot.

According to the Reporter, after the charter was granted, Chelsea's first mayor was R.D. Flournoy. Marion W. Couch was the first child born in the corporate limits. The parents were W.M. and Victoria Couch. The first couple to marry was John W. Dorsey and Mary Byrd. Daniel Moore was the first blacksmith and W.M. Couch was the lumber dealer. Sam McSpadden built and operated a hotel on the east side of the railroad tracks, making him the first "landlord" in town. Dr. G.W. Morrison left Vinita, and came to Chelsea in 1889 to open the first medical practice in town. The first church built in Chelsea was the Methodist Church. Prior to that the group, headed by Pastor Williams, met at the railroad depot platform.

Chelsea is the home of Oklahoma's first oil well, which is commemorated at its own Historical Site. In 1888 Edward Byrd leased 94,000 acres for speculating purposes. The first well was brought in on August 15, 1889, with the help of driller, Sam Francis, of Foyil. The well was drilled to 32 feet. With a wooden derrick, a spring pole, and a horse-powered wench, it produced about one and a half barrels a day. The well was on land allotted to Laura Taylor. The Department of the Interior had not approved the lease. It passed into the hands of the Cherokee Oil and Gas Company, with little activity until about 1904, when official approval was granted.

Chelsea is the home of the Hogue House. A residence ordered from the Sears-Roebuck catalog in 1913 at a cost of \$1,600 and delivered pre-cut by train from Chicago. It is the only known Sears-Roebuck constructed home west of the Mississippi. The four-story house was built in 1913 for the Joseph Sterling Hogue family.

Mr. Hogue was born in East Tennessee in 1865. At the age of 12, Joseph, his mother, Sarah Jane, and stepfather, William Harrell, moved to Montgomery County Missouri.

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### Chelsea Now

Joseph worked for W.E. Ware. Ware encouraged the boy and his uncle, Sterling Condrey to come to the Indian Territory, where Joseph became a successful cattleman and farmer.

In 1898 Joseph married Mary Erskine Clarke. They had 4 children. The Hogue family never lived in a rented house. Their first home had only 3 rooms; the next one had 6 rooms. Their final move was into the Hogue House, located at 1001 S Olive. Hogue's daughter, Erskine Stanberry still lives in the home.

In 1901, Mr. Hogue, with other young men of the community, organized the First National Bank of Chelsea. Joseph served as bank president for many years. He was also a member of Chelsea's first town council, and served on the council for 16 years. In 1914 he was instrumental in the building of the Municipal Light Plant. In the 1920's he helped direct the paving of Chelsea's streets. In the 1930's he served as a Rogers County Commissioner, opening many section lines, which became farm to market roads.

Chelsea is also where "The Singing Cowboy", Gene Autry, was discovered. One night in 1926, Autry was singing and playing his guitar, to help pass the time at his job as a telegraph operator at the Chelsea Depot. A customer overheard him and told him he had enough talent to get a job on the radio. That customer was none other than Oklahoma's favorite son, Will Rogers. Autry soon quit his job to find work in the music business. And the rest, as they say, is history!

Chelsea is home to approximately 2,136 people (in 2000). The Town Council governs the city. There are 5 councilmen elected by popular vote. It is the council who appoints the Mayor, from their own ranks.

The current Mayor, Kenneth Weast, has the distinction of being Chelsea's youngest Mayor, and has held the post just over 6 months. The other councilmen are Earl Knite, Charlie Barnes, Norman Wooten, and Ted Foster. Cindy Hicks is the City Clerk. Chelsea's Chamber of Commerce president is Cindy Hefner.

The Chelsea Police Department has 4 full time and 2 part time officers. Larry Parker is the Chief. Chelsea's Fire Department currently has 18 volunteer firefighters. Allen Harris is the Fire Chief.

One of Chelsea's longest running annual events just celebrated its 68th year. The Chelsea Jamboree is held in September. The event hosts carnival rides, food and merchandise vendors, street games and contests, a parade, and street dance. Many area residents still submit entries of garden produce, baked goods, other food items, and handmade items to be judged. The 4-day event brings many people from surrounding area to Chelsea.

Information about Chelsea's history came from the book "History of Rogers County Oklahoma" loaned to us by Donna McSpadden, the Chelsea Reporter Archives, the Chelsea Historical Society, many city officials, and citizens of Chelsea.



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## Meet Clem McSpadden

For most Chelseans an introduction to Clem McSpadden is not necessary. He is indeed a man of many achievements. His career in politics and his participation in announcing and sponsoring rodeo events, has gained recognition for Clem, not only in Oklahoma, but most of the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

Clem McSpadden is Oklahoma born and bred. He was born in Bushyhead, on the family ranch, and raised in Oologah, on the ranch of his great-uncle, Will Rogers. Clem's father, Herb, managed the Oologah ranch from 1927 to 1962. Clem says he and his brothers, Bob and Trent, had a great childhood. Clem's love of rodeo started in his childhood. He and his brothers used to play rodeo. Their mother, Madalyn, would be the announcer, and the boys would take turns roping a bucket, pretending they were calf roping. Clem said he would cry if he didn't have the best time! His hero was the legendary rodeo cowboy, Bob Crosby.

After graduating from Oologah High School he joined the Navy and served as a Naval officer during WW II, before graduating from Oklahoma A & M (Oklahoma State University) with a B.S. degree in Animal Science.

Clem was elected to the Oklahoma State Senate in 1954 where he served until 1972. During that time, he served as President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Senate Appropriations Chairman, and was the first President Pro Tem in Oklahoma history to succeed himself. Clem was elected to the United States Congress in 1972 where he was the first freshman appointed to the prestigious Rules Committee. In 1974 Clem ran for Governor. He says he may have come in second, after making the run-off, "I didn't get the most votes, but think I won, as time was then given to start the ropings, ranch on family owned land, be with family, and work with people."

In 1977, Clem became the Executive Secretary of the Oklahoma Mining and Reclamation Association. The legislative activities associated with this position led to the formation of McSpadden & Associates in 1983. Clem has maintained a constant presence as a lobbyist since that time.

The office of McSpadden & Associates is located at 501 Pine, in Chelsea. The walls and shelves of the offices and conference room are lined with memorabilia, pictures, and awards from Clem's two careers, as well as family history. There is also an impressive collection of pictures and historical facts about Chelsea. The collection is museum quality, and rivals that of many museums.

Clem's achievements associated with the world of rodeo are as impressive as those of his political career. He has announced rodeos for over 50 years, and still does about 15 a year. He takes great pride in the fact that he was the first American to announce the Calgary Stampede in the Canadian National Finals Rodeo. It was there he developed the idea of announcing on horseback. He was instrumental in getting the National Finals Rodeo (NFR) moved to Oklahoma City, and managed the event for 18 years. He announced the NFR three times, and hosted the NFR nationwide telecast ten times.

During the 1974 NFR Clem hired a young Oklahoma singer to perform. She was paid \$10.00 a performance. That young singer was Reba McIntire! 28 years later, Clem presented Reba with 28 yellow roses, one rose for every year since she had been paid \$10.00 to perform. He gave them to her during curtain call, at the opening night of "Annie Get Your Gun" on Broadway.

He is the only Oklahoman to be elected President of the Professional Rodeo Cowboy's Association (PRCA). He currently serves on the executive board of the PRCA Humane Division. He has worked on ABC's Wide World of Sports, and lends his voice to television and radio commercials.

Clem wrote "Cowboy's prayer" and the patriotic tribute "If Our Flag Could Talk". Both are considered standard components of many grand entry parades at rodeos across the United States.

In 1975 Clem started the "Worlds Richest Roping" in Bushyhead. It pits the best of the best ropers against each other. A specifically built arena at their Bushyhead ranch was completed in 1976, and has been the home of the annual Labor Day weekend event, since that time. In 1977 Donna added a state of the art Western and Indian Art Show, with artists from throughout the United States and Canada. Proceeds from that show funded thousands of dollars to the American Heart Association, provided scholarships for 13 Chelsea area students, and helped build the Chelsea Public Library. The events hosted at the ranch attract thousands of visitors yearly, thereby increasing the spending revenue of the surrounding area.

The Clem McSpadden Championship Youth Rodeo is an annual event held in Tulsa, at the Expo Square Fairgrounds. This was the event's fifth year. Clem takes pride in the fact the event was named in his honor. He said the rodeo is a good way to teach youngsters responsibility, humility, and sportsmanship.

Clem has received many honors and awards over the course of both careers. He says the one he was most honored to receive, was the Ben Johnson Memorial Award. He was the first recipient, in 1998. He was named PRCA Announcer of the Year in 1986. In 2001 he was awarded OSU Animal Science "Graduate of Distinction" and named to Who's Who in American Politics. He is a member of the Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center, The PRCA Hall of Fame, and the Oklahoma Hall of Fame.

Donna were named "Oklahoma's Great Spirits" by the March of Dimes, for their humanitarian deeds.

Clem met his wife Donna in 1960. She was a Marshall for the Criminal Appeals Court in Oklahoma City. Clem was taking a group of schools kids on a tour of the building. They met during that tour, and later that day, Clem called and asked her if she would like to join him for a bite to eat and sit in on a jam session with some of the legislators picking and singing. They were married in White Oak in 1962.

Clem and Donna live in Chelsea. They have one son, Bart. Bart and his wife, Kate, and their two children, Noah and Chloe, live in Edmond. Bart is a partner of McSpadden & Associates. Clem's daughter, Kay and her husband, Joe Lucas, live in Edmond. His son, Paul and wife, Connie, and their two sons, John and James reside in Richardson, Texas.

Donna is a busy lady, in her own right. She manages the office and is active in volunteer work. One of the finest contributions she gave to the community was establishing the Chelsea Public Library. She worked to bring toll-free calling to our area in the mid 1990s. She is listed in "Who's Who in the World of Women".

Clem spoke fondly of his brother, Trent, who died in 2000, from injuries sustained in a mowing accident. Clem said there isn't a day goes by that he doesn't think of and miss Trent. He said if he has a day when he needs to get away from everything, he will go to the cemetery and visit Trent's grave.

Clem says he would make a much better Congressman today, than he did 30 years ago, because of his continued learning experience, and being an active lobbyist. He voiced his concern over term limits. He said in 2006 we will have a bunch of politicians who lack the knowledge and experience to do their jobs as well as they should. Reflecting on both careers, he said he probably met more cowboys (than politicians) he liked. He said, "There's plenty of bull in both arenas, but most of it in the rodeo arena washes off!"

When asked if he would ever retire, Clem smiled at Donna and said, "Not as long as Donna likes to shop. She likes to go to Wal Mart and Atwoods, and that takes money!" Donna smiled and said, "He'll never retire as long as there is a breath left in his body."

We want to say a special "Thank You" to Clem and Donna for their assistance with this issue of Hometown Oklahoma

*Service all makes and models.*

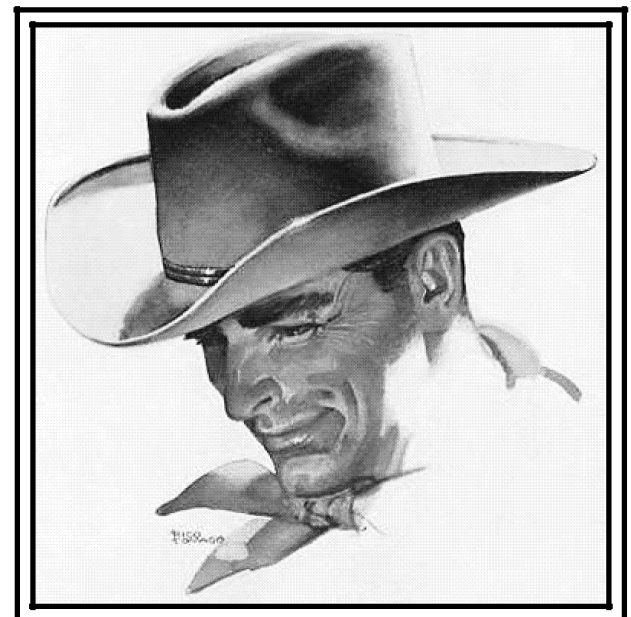
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Donna and Clem at the office



A few of the awards Clem has received



Reba presented first Platinum Record to Clem



Clem McSpadden Bridge

One award Clem was most honored to have received



The Conference Room



More in the Conference Room

# The Chelsea Reporter

The “Reporter” was established in 1896 by J.A. Clawson. It is one of the oldest newspapers in Oklahoma and remains locally owned and operated. It is thought to be the oldest ongoing business in Chelsea. The Reporter has always been a weekly publication, and has NEVER missed a publication date!

Among some of the earliest information available, in 1899 the Reporter was published on Thursdays. Publisher was D.G. Elliot and H.H. Carlin was the editor. In 1900 J.W. Quinn leased the paper and changed it from an 8 column to a 5 column paper, and it was at that time, all being printed in Chelsea. In late March of 1901, Clawson sold the paper to A.R. and R.E. Miller. At that time the paper was changed to a 7 column publication.

The next records are from July of 1906. At that time B.H. Hester bought in with M. Roberts. Some time before November of the same year, Roberts left, and in November of 1906, Ira D. Devine bought an interest in the paper.

The next records, from 1913, indicate the Reporter was under the management of F.L. Dale. In 1917, Sam R. Ogg came from the Daily Register in Siloam Springs, Arkansas and went in with Hester as the business manager.

In 1923, the paper changed hands again, when L.W. Evans became owner and manager. In 1927 Rev. J.A. Trickey and sons, LeRoy and Bill took ownership.

In the late 1930’s the A.J. Herring family moved to Chelsea from Muskogee, and purchased the paper. Upon the death of his father, Robert Herring took over the Reporter, and remains at the helm.

Regardless of obstacles that have arisen, it has been, and continues to be Robert’s goal that the Chelsea Reporter remains a locally owned and operated “country weekly” publication, geared to serving the needs of a small rural community, and the surrounding area.

For many years, The Chelsea Reporter shared space with the Chelsea Tag Agency. Starting in 1955, Jennie May Bard did double duty as the tag agent and also worked as a journalist for the newspaper. She retired from the Chelsea Reporter in 1983. The tag agency moved to another location, and Jennie May remained with the agency, until shortly before her death in April of 2000.

The Chelsea Reporter archives consists of volumes of large books which contain the actual publications. Each volume has every edition published in a given year. Time is taking a toll on the older volumes. The paper has become so fragile, even a gentle turn of the page causes damage. Sadly, if those volumes are not preserved, the record of much of Chelsea’s history, as well as generations of local families’ history will be lost.

We want to say a special “Thank You” to Robert Herring, Sharon Williams, Linda Lord, and Jamilee Merritt for their assistance with this article, and letting us go through the Reporter archives.

# Business In Chelsea

Farming and grain production were big business in the early years of Chelsea, but it was cattle that brought the first big boom to the Indian Territory. For many years the drilling, refining, and mining of fossil fuels caused Chelsea’s economy to flourish. Petroleum and coal still boost the economy of the area, just not to the magnitude of days gone by.

Some of the earliest businesses established in Chelsea, remain in business today. The Chelsea Reporter, the Bank of Chelsea (now known as Bank of Commerce), and the First National Bank contribute greatly to Chelsea's economy.

Family owned and operated businesses still play an important part in Chelsea’s economy. The same family has owned Jarvis Texaco since it’s creation. Fraley Insurance just celebrated 70 years of being in business.

The Chelsea Industrial Park has approximately a dozen businesses already in operation, or at least in the planning phase. All Star Trophy, Quality Galvanizing, Lewis Refuse, Bell Tower, Samco, and Stow Away Inc. are some of the businesses already in operation. The park will also be the home of the Chelsea Slaughter House. The building that originally housed the business was destroyed by fire.



## Historic Route 66



Chelsea is located on Historic Route 66. Before the current stretch of the highway was completed, Route 66 came through town on what is now Olive Street and turned back east on 1st Street. The bridge shown in the picture was built in 1926, the same year the highway was commissioned.

Here are some interesting facts about Route 66, and the part Oklahoma played in its creation.

- Current maps do not include old Route 66.
- Route 66 is 2448 miles long. (about 4000 km)
- Route 66 was commissioned in 1926.
- Route 66 crosses 8 states and 3 time zones.
- Route 66 starts in Chicago, and ends in L.A. (Santa Monica).
- In 1926 only 800 miles of Route 66 were paved.
- In 1937 Route 66 got paved end-to-end.
- You can only drive parts of Route 66 these days. Interstate Highways I-55, I-44, I-40, I-15 and I-10 have replaced it.
- Route 66 is also known as The Mother Road, The Main Street of America, and The Will Rogers Highway.
- Cyrus Stevens Avery, a Tulsa businessman and Oklahoma's first highway commissioner, can be called the father of Route 66. He spearheaded the national committee that created the US Highway System in 1926. Avery championed a Chicago to Los Angeles route that would drop south through Oklahoma and then turn west traveling through Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California. It was Avery who picked the double sixes as the new road's official number.
- After World War II, Oklahoma was the home of the National Highway 66 Association, the group responsible for the promotion of Route 66 on a nationwide basis.
- In 1985 Route 66 was officially decommissioned.
- By 1989, the Oklahoma legislature recognized the need for an agency to handle the preservation and promotion of Oklahoma Route 66. Shortly afterwards, the Oklahoma Route 66 Association was born.
- Oklahoma has more miles of the original route left than any other

Route 66 state. In Oklahoma, you can travel almost all of old Route 66 without getting on the interstate system.

- Oklahoma was the first state to design and install the distinctive historic markers.
- Oklahoma was the first state in the nation to sponsor a Route 66 museum.

These facts were found on the website of the National Historic Route 66 Federation (<http://www.national66.com>), and the Oklahoma Route 66 Association's website (<http://oklahomaroute66.com>).

The National Historic Route 66 Federation is a worldwide, nonprofit organization dedicated to directing the public's attention to the importance of U. S. Highway Route 66 in America's cultural heritage and acquiring the federal, state and private support necessary to preserve the historic landmarks and revitalize the economies of communities along the entire 2,400-mile stretch of road.

The Oklahoma Route 66 Association is a nonprofit organization made up of volunteers who are dedicated to the promotion and preservation of Route 66. They serve as the non-governmental body that coordinates the statewide economic development, enhancement, improvement, preservation, and recognition of U.S. Route 66 in Oklahoma. In keeping with their mandate, they generate whatever finances and pressures they can to save Route 66 landmarks from decay or destruction. The Association sponsors at least one tour a year along Oklahoma Route 66. It is a fun, family-oriented event, open to member and non-members



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# H o m e t o w n

## H e r o e s



Many Chelseans have paid the ultimate price, while serving our country. It is with great pride we honor some of Chelsea's fallen heroes. Our hearts go out to the families of these "HOMETOWN HEROES". To those of you more fortunate, to have served and returned home, we extend a heartfelt "Thank You!"



*Samuel Don DeLozier*

Born October 4, 1934, died May 27, 1963



*David Lee Hubbard Jr.*

Born October 26, 1937, died May 16, 1965



Captain DeLozier, a helicopter pilot, was killed while placing a cross on a Catholic Church in Gropingen, Germany. He had volunteered for the good will mission, and it was to be his last assignment before returning to the United States. The 880 pound gold and silver cross was flown from Donzdorf to Goppingen, where it was to be placed on the bell tower of the uncompleted Christ the King Catholic Church.

The cable holding the cross could not be disconnected and a gust of wind sent the helicopter crashing into the courtyard. A crewman was killed instantly, Captain DeLozier died 4 hours later.

Sargent David Hubbard was the first Chelsean to lose his life in the fight against Communist Aggression in South Vietnam. The Chelsea Airman was listed among the casualties in an explosion at the Bein Hoa Air Base. He had been in Vietnam since May 8, 1965, after a short period of training in Manilla.

Sargent Hubbard was a munitions disposal technician with a Pacific Air Force Unit that was responsible for training Vietnamese forces in air tactics and techniques for combat.



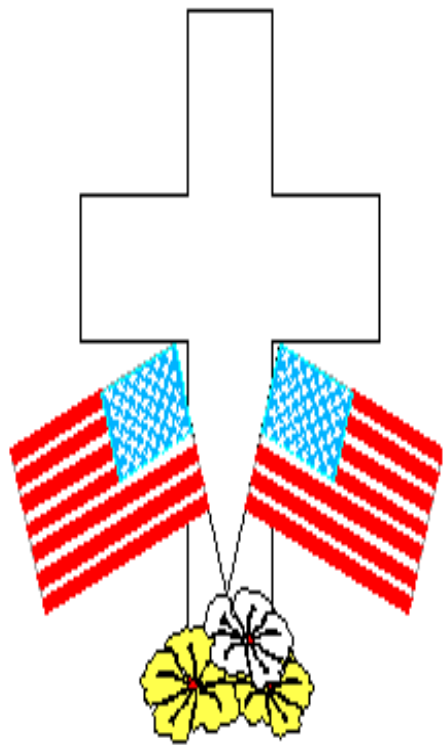


## *Thomas Joseph Barbee*



Born December 12, 1945, died January 24, 1967

Spec. 4 Thomas Barbee was killed by an enemy booby trap explosion. He had been in Vietnam since September of 1967. At the time of his death, 3 of his 5 brothers were also serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.



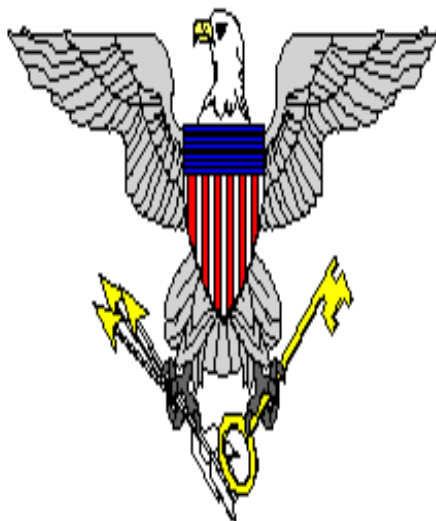
## *George Brian Allison*



Born September 27, 1947, died April 27, 1968

Spec. 4 George Allison was a Medic with the 9th Infantry. He died in a U.S. Armed Forces Base Hospital, from injuries he received on April 22. He suffered chest wounds when the truck he was riding in struck a Vietnamese land mine.

Spec. 4 Allison entered the Army in July of 1967. He had been in Vietnam since December of 1967.



## *David Alford Bradshaw*



Born August 2, 1948, died November 14, 1968

Spec. 4 David Bradshaw was with the 1st Battalion, 5th Mechanized Infantry, 25th Division. He and 5 other Americans were traveling from an airfield, back to their Unit, after completion of a mission. The vehicle they were riding in struck a Vietnamese land mine.

David had returned to duty in Vietnam on November 11, after 5 days Rest & Recuperation leave in Honolulu. The leave came after 6 months duty in Vietnam. David entered the Army in November of 1967.

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December	1-6		Adair Tournament			TBA			
	9	Tuesday	Sperry	There	*	6:30	JV	4:30	
	12	Friday	Dewey	HOME	*	6:30	JV	4:30	
	16	Tuesday	Nowata	There	*	6:30	JV	4:30	
	19	Friday	Berryhill	There	*	6:30	JV	4:30	
January	6	Tuesday	Claremore Sequoyah	HOME	*	6:30	JV	4:30	
	9	Friday	Verdigris	There	*	6:30	JV	4:30	
	13	Tuesday	Inola	HOME	*	6:30	JV	4:30	
	16	Friday	Adair	HOME		6:30	JV	4:30	HOMECOMING
	19-24		Pryor Tournament			TBA			
	27	Tuesday	Sperry	HOME	*	6:30	JV	4:30	
	30	Friday	Dewey	There	*	6:30	JV	4:30	
February	3	Tuesday	Nowata	HOME	*	6:30	JV	4:30	
	6	Friday	Berryhill	HOME	*	6:30	JV	4:30	
	10	Tuesday	Claremore Sequoyah	There	*	6:30	JV	4:30	
	13	Friday	Verdigris	HOME	*	6:30	JV	4:30	SENIOR NIGHT
	17	Tuesday	Inola	There	*	6:30	JV	4:30	
<i>February</i>	<i>20-21</i>		<i>District Tournament</i>						
<i>February</i>	<i>26-28</i>		<i>Regionals</i>						
<i>March</i>	<i>4-6</i>		<i>Area Tournament</i>						
<i>March</i>	<i>11-13</i>		<i>State Tournament</i>						

\* Conference Games

# Education in Chelsea

Long before Statehood, and even before Chelsea was granted a charter; education has played an important part in Chelsea's history. Mary Strange was the first teacher in a schoolhouse built before 1889.

Nannie Ross, from Sallisaw, taught at a Cherokee school for Indians. During its time, the Chelsea Academy was considered one of the most important institutions in the city. Professor Thos L. Bates was principle. In November 1897 there were 120 students enrolled.

Currently there are 1078 students enrolled in the Chelsea Public Schools. With 120 employees, the school district is Chelsea's largest employer. Mike Martin is the Superintendent of Chelsea Schools. He has been with the school district 6 years. He has been in education a total of 26 years. He came to Chelsea from McCloud.

Longfellow Early Childhood Center is where the pre kindergarten and kindergarten classes are held. The system also consists of McIntosh Elementary, Art Goad Intermediate School, Junior High, and High School.

Longfellow has 5 kindergarten classes and 1 pre kindergarten class. McIntosh has 5 first grade classes, 3 second grade classes, and 4 third grade classes. The cafeteria located at McIntosh serves Longfellow and McIntosh students. The meals are transported to Longfellow.

Linda Bates is the Principal of Longfellow and McIntosh. She has served in that capacity for 10 years. Linda says all the students at the 2 schools are outstanding. The teachers instill in the students that learning isn't a competition. The desire for each and every student to want to do better, and learn more is their goal. Linda attended school in Chelsea.

Art Goad Intermediate School has 73 students in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, 80 in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, and 93 in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The faculty members are pleased they can now offer their students enhanced reading and math programs, accelerated reading and math programs, and offer after school tutoring 2 days a week.

Gayle Hendrickson has been the principal at Art Goad for 5 years. She has been in education approximately 19 years.

Chelsea's Junior High School has 80 students in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and 111 students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The school's athletics programs consist of baseball, girls softball, basketball (both boys and girls teams), track, and football. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade football team has one girl on it, Brittany Hutchins.

The school also offers a newspaper class, which publishes the Dragon Times. The Editor is Holly Griffith and Co-Editor is Jenni Temple. Several students serve as staff writers.

Every month the teachers vote one outstanding student in each grade as Student of the Month. The students must have a 3.2 or higher grade point average, and demonstrate positive citizenship, to be considered. The honorees are given free passes to the monthly school dance, and some local merchants give free gifts. The latest winners are Casey Wilson and Sierra McSpadden.

Meg Moss is in her 4<sup>th</sup> year as Junior High principal. She has been in education 24 years, 21 of which have been in Chelsea. Meg is a Chelsea graduate. There are 3 generations of Chelsea graduates in her family, her father, herself, and her son.

Chelsea High School has 81 freshmen, 82 sophomores, 65 juniors, and 54 seniors. Paul Gruenberg has been the principal for 2 years, and has been in edutaion for 20 years.

High School athletics consists of girls softball, baseball, basketball (boys and girls teams), track, cheerleading, weight lifting, and football.

Other activities the students participate in are band, chorus, annual staff, and their newspaper is Dragon Tales.

'Senior Personalities' represent the most unique students in the senior class, and are chosen by a majority vote of fellow classmates. The winners will be honored in the 2004 yearbook. A partial list of the categories and the winners of each are: Mr. And Miss CHS - Jordan Park & Katie Peper, Most Athletic - Kyle Rowley & Cassie Godsey, Most Likely to Succeed - Zach Osten & Sarah Allen, Best Personality - Derek Keeler & Jill Clark, Most Musical - Patrick Theall & Candace Taylor, Most Outgoing - Toney Dicks & Kyla Evans.

## Honoring Past Faculty

Chelsea Public Schools have honored some of the past faculty members who have contributed much to the system through their years of dedicated service, by naming some of the facilities in their honor. The Rupert Cross Field House, Art Goad Intermediate School, and the Dale Wilson Gymnasium are 3 examples.

### Art Goad

Art Goad came to Chelsea in the summer of 1965, from Watts Oklahoma. He had been in the Watts school system from 1958 to 1965. Art came to Chelsea as a football coach and classroom teacher. Rupert Cross talked Art into coaching baseball, before Rupert retired from coaching. Art ended his teaching and coaching career in 1976.

From 1976 to the mid 80's Art was a counselor at Chelsea Middle School, then served as Principal of the same school until 1989. In 1989 he went back to counseling, this time at Chelsea High School, where he stayed till his retirement in 1993.

Art said he would have stayed in coaching if he could have had some coaching assistants. He said he felt he was holding back some of the students, who could have done better if only he had been able to devote more time to them. He said he could have moved to a larger school system, but Chelsea had become home to him and his family.

Art also drove a school bus all but 5 years of his career in education, and continued to drive even after he retired. Last year he gave up the driving too. He now delivers the Tulsa World.

### Dale Wilson

Dale was a 1976 graduate of Chelsea High, where he was a member of the National Honor Society. He was active in the FFA and the Student Council. He played baseball and basketball all four years of high school.

He taught and coached in Chelsea for 15 years. His concern for youth prompted him to open a Youth Center called Dragon Country. Dale died April 25, 1995 after a long illness.

### Rupert Cross

Rupert started his teaching and coaching career in 1933 in Haskell County. In 1944 he moved to Jenks, where he coached football for 3 years. Coming to Chelsea in 1947, and for the first 9 years, he coached all Chelsea teams in football, baseball, and basketball. Rupert also taught Drivers Education and Wood Shop. Rupert continued coaching, teaching, and counseling until his retirement in 1973.

Mr. Cross worked long and hard at his chosen profession, and was elected to the Oklahoma Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1968. He died in 1997 at the age of 87.

## Chelsea Public Schools Coming Events

Dec. 19, 2003: End of 1<sup>st</sup> Semester

Dec. 22, 2003 - Jan. 2, 2004: Winter Break

Jan. 5, 2004: 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester begins

Feb. 12, 2004: Parent / Teacher Conf. (4 pm to 7 pm)

Feb. 13, 2004: Parent / Teacher Conf. (8 am to 12 pm)

Feb. 20, 2004: Zone Meeting

April 9, 2004: Good Friday

May 19, 2004: Students last day!

They have 7 Snow Days in the schedule.

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## Chelsea Alumni

The first graduating class of Chelsea High School, in 1911, had 6 students. Lucille McSpadden, Harlan DeLozier, Dewitt Henry, Lou Lindley, Mattie Bains, and Elizabeth Sharp had graduated from the 10<sup>th</sup> grade at the Chelsea Academy. The following year, the High School was completed, and the six went on to further their education.

In 1914 the first Alumni Banquet was held. Harlan and Lucille were instrumental in the organization of the event. Since that time it has been an annual event held every Memorial weekend.

From the first graduating class, Dewitt and Lou married in 1915. Harlan and Lucille married in 1916. Both couples stayed in Chelsea and raised their families here. Both men were successful businessmen.

Many Chelsea Public School alumni have gone on to successful careers in education, sports, business, literature, law, medicine, and entertainment. Several teachers in the school system are graduates of Chelsea. They chose to stay in Chelsea and give back to the system, what was given to them. Here is a list of just a few Chelsea Alumni, and where they are now.

**Ralph Terry**, class of 1953: Ralph began his Major League baseball career in 1956, with the New York Yankees. He played 12 seasons with 4 different teams, and ended his playing career in 1967. He could well have been remembered as the pitcher who gave up Pittsburgh Pirates' Bill Mazeroski's winning home run in the 1960 World Series, but he redeemed himself with an All-Star season in 1962. Highlighted by an outstanding World Series, in which the Yankees faced the San Francisco Giants. He got his first World Series win in game 5, and pitched a 4 hit shutout in game 7. He was named Series MVP.

After leaving baseball in 1967, Ralph turned to Pro Golfing. He was a Club Pro in New Jersey. When he turned 50 he joined the Seniors Tour and earned \$250,000 in 100 events. He said it was a thrill to get to play with some of his golfing idols, such as Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, and Lee Trevino. In 1996 he joined the Celebrity Players Tour and plays 10 to 12 events a year, to raise money for charity.

Ralph said the only B he got in high school was from Rupert Cross in Wood Shop. Ralph made a footstool, which he says he still has, "And it still looks pretty good after 50 years!"

Ralph has 2 sons. Rafe lives in Wichita and has 2 children, Olivia is 11 and Corbin is 8. Gabe lives in Oklahoma City. Ralph and his wife, Tanya, live in Larned KS. He said Kansas has adopted him, and has been very good to him, but he says he will always be an Oklahoman and Chelsean at heart!

When we talked with Ralph on the phone, he sent greetings to his friends and family here in town. He was disappointed he didn't get to make it back for his graduating class 50-year reunion.

**Garry Crawford**, class of 1966: Garry joined the Army in 1967. While in the Army, he launched his career in the medical field. He was with the 41st Civil Affairs Co. in Nha Trang, Vietnam from June 1968 to June 1969, at an operating dispensary for indigenous personnel in a Refugee Center.



After leaving the service, he continued working in the medical field, while furthering his education. He worked his way up the ranks from orderly, to operating room staff nurse, to O.R. Supervisor, then on to Director of Surgical Services at hospitals in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas, and Nebraska. Garry even tried his hand at teaching. He was an instructor at Tri-County Area Vo-Tech in Bartlesville from 1977 to 1981.

In 1998, Garry and his wife, Joyce moved to Hastings Nebraska, where he is the Director of Surgical Services at Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital. Joyce works for the Nebraska State Health Department. Although living in Nebraska, Garry is a Major in the Oklahoma National Guard.

Garry's daughter Terri, and her two sons, Dalton and Devon, live in Delaware, Oklahoma. His son, Jason and wife, Meagan, and their son Jayden, live in Coffeyville.

**John Wooley**, class of 1966: John has been a Tulsa World entertainment writer since 1983. Several of his articles and columns have won awards from the Society of Professional Journalists and the Associated Press. He has also been commended by the Oklahoma Legislature and given the key to the city of Tulsa for his stories and radio broadcasts about western-swing music.

His KVOO radio show with Disc Jockey Hall of Famer Billy Parker, which began as an all-western-swing program called "Wooley Wednesday," was one of the station's top-rated shows for 12 years. He is also a regular commentator on public radio station KWGS, and recently he and Parker were inducted into the Cowtown Society of Western Music Hall of Fame in Fort Worth, Texas.

John is the editor, co-author, or author of eleven books, including "How To Make It In the Music Business" and his latest horror novel "A Wash In the Blood." His previous novel, "Dark Within," was a finalist for an Oklahoma Book Award. He also wrote the script for two movies and wrote and produced the western-swing documentary 'Still Swingin'.

Occasionally, he plays his Vox Jaguar organ on the Red Dirt Rangers' "We Don't Have to Say Goodbye" and Steve Ripley's new single "Gone Away," which he co-wrote with Ripley and DuBois. John was an inductee to the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame this year.

John and his wife, Janis, live outside of Chelsea. They have two sons, Jonathan and Steven.

**Kathie Dawes Manning**, class of 1971: Kathie was named Chelsea Public School District's "Teacher of the Year" for the 2002-2003 school year. She teaches Special Education at Chelsea Junior High. Her colleagues chose her for this honor.

She has dedicated her entire teaching career, 23 years, to special education, most of it in Chelsea. She has taught all the different fields of special education, on all grade levels.

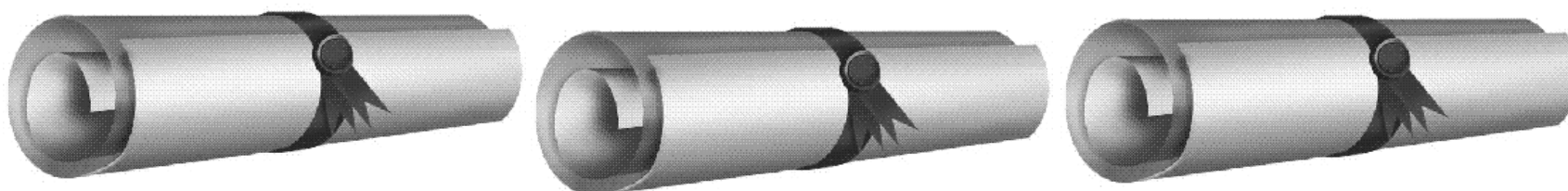
Kathie says she knew she wanted to teach, even as a child. She would line up her dolls and teddy bears on her bed, and pretend she was their teacher.

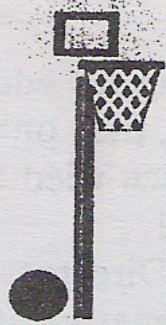
She says she has always enjoyed teaching, but the past year has been a trying one, because of the massive budget cuts in the education system.

Kathie is no stranger to work! Besides teaching, she drove a school bus for several years. She gave up a regular route last May, but still subs for them when needed. She has also delivered The Tulsa Word newspaper for 6 years. Kathie played the piano and organ at the First Baptist Church in Chelsea for several years. When she finds time, she enjoys reading, cross-stitch, crocheting, sewing, and gardening.

Kathie's son, Michael and his wife, Marie, live in Chelsea. They have 3 children, Ashley, Alicia, and Ryan.

We apologize for running out of time before we could do this story justice. We know there are many more names to be added to this list. If you have a story about a Chelsea Alumni you would like to share with us, please contact us and we will run it in the Links "Little Green Paper".





# CHELSEA

## JR. HIGH BASKETBALL

### 2003-2004

*gym*  
High School Longfellow

November

17-21                    7            Inola Tourney  
 17-21                    8            Foyil Tourney  
 24 Monday            7-8-9      Sperry

HOME      5:30            Girls            Boys

December

1 Monday            7-8-9      Claremore Sequoyah  
 8 Monday            7-8-9      Nowata  
 11 Thursday        7-8-9      Claremore Sequoyah  
 15 Monday            7-8-9      Inola  
 18 Thursday        7-8        Oklahoma Union

There      5:30  
 HOME      9:30            Boys            Girls  
 HOME      5:30            Girls            Boys  
 There      5:30  
 There      5:00            All 4 Games

January

5 Monday            7-8        Adair  
 5, 7, & 8                9        Adair Tourney  
 12 Monday            7-8-9      Nowata  
 15 Thursday        7-8-9      Verdigris  
 19 Monday            7-8-9      Inola  
 22 Thursday        7-8-9      Dewey  
 26, 28 & 29            7-8        Adair Tourney  
 26, 28 & 29            9        Conference Tourney

HOME      5:00            All 4 Games  
 There      5:30  
 There      5:30  
 HOME      5:30            Boys            Girls  
 There      5:30

February

2 Monday            7-8        Oklahoma Union  
 5 Thursday        7-8-9      Verdigris  
 9 Monday            7-8-9      Adair

HOME      5:00            All 4 Games  
 HOME      5:30            Girls            Boys  
 There      5:30



## Do You Remember?

While doing research for this issue, we took a walk down “Memory Lane” with several Chelseans. We uncovered many interesting and fun facts along the way. So we are inviting you to take the “walk” too, and we want to know,

### DO YOU REMEMBER?.....

- When 19 of 57 cars of a Frisco train derailed December 19, 1969, Chelsea looked like a parking lot! 16 of the 19 derailed cars were auto transports. It was estimated 200 new cars and trucks were partially damaged or totally destroyed. Gene Lockwood was the Oklahoma Highway Patrol Trooper who arrived on the scene shortly after the accident. He said when he arrived, horns were honking and buzzers were buzzing, as a result of shorts in wiring, after impact.
- You could go to the movies. We were unable to find the date the movie theater opened. It is estimated it closed in the late 60's.
- Chelsea had a hospital. It was housed at the old Church of the Nazarene building. The building was constructed in 1911 by the Episcopal Church, and was called “Church of the Redeemer”. The church remained there until 1921, at which time a Dr. Jennings purchased it. He made some additions and changes, turning the building into the only known hospital in Chelsea. It was unclear when the hospital closed, but the Church of the Nazarene bought the building in 1955.
- You could get a coney on a hamburger bun at “The Bakery”. Ed South would cut the frank in half, throw it on the grill, then place it on the bun, circling the outer edge; a generous amount of onions was placed in the center, and then covered with some of the best chili around. You could also play the jukebox and pinball there.
- If you wanted to swimming, you had to go to a lake, coal pit, or farm pond. Chelsea's swimming pool was built in the early to mid 70's.

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**Thank you!**

We want to thank each and every one of you who met with, and assisted us, while we were working on the articles and features in this first edition of Hometown Oklahoma. Without your help, this issue would not have been possible.

We also want to thank our readers. We hope you enjoy future issues of this series.

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Community Links is dedicated to linking communities, increasing knowledge, expanding horizons, and offering opportunities. Links "The Little Green Paper" and Links "Special Edition Series" are published by persons with disabilities.

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