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VOLUME 1, ISSUE 7

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June 10, 2004

## Community Links

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Miami High School has an impressive list of alumni. Two most notable, made their mark on our nation, from football fields to the battlefield aftermath of war torn Iraq.

Steve Owens graduated from Miami High School in 1966. He put Miami on the map, while playing college football at OU. In 1969, Steve won the Heisman Trophy. There is more about Steve in this issue.

1988 graduate, Fern Holland put Miami in the news when she was killed in Iraq on March 9 of this year. Sadly, it took her death, to show those of us who did not know Fern, what a truly amazing woman she was. She did so much for so many, and then moved on, to help others less fortunate than us. We share more of Fern's story in this issue, and our center spread features a photo tribute of her life.

## History of Miami

Miami is the county seat of Ottawa County. The county is in the extreme northeastern county of Oklahoma, bordering Kansas and Missouri. The county was named for the Ottawa Indians, but comes from the Algonquian term "adawe", meaning to "buy and sell" or "trade and traffic." The county has been the home of members of a greater number of Indian tribes than any other county in the United States. The Court Clerks office maintains marriage divorce, probate and civil court records. Land records dating back from 1890, are kept by the County Clerk.

Wayland C. Lykins (1847-1909) was the son of Baptist missionary to the Peoria Indians. Lykins came from Kansas to the Indian Territory with a dream of a great cattle empire, with his own town as the hub.

The site selected for the new town, the first in Indian Territory where purchasers could secure a deed to their property, was a three cornered tract of land lying on the north side of the Neosho River. Lykins needed Congressional approval of the town site patent.

Lykins went to Washington D.C. with his proposal, but encountered resistance. The chief of the Miami Tribe, and a friend of Lykins, Thomas F. Richardville (1830-1911) was in Washington on business. Richardville agreed to talk with the U.S. Indian Commissioner, on Lykins behalf.

That meeting ultimately led to Congress authorizing the Secretary of State to approve the purchase of the town site from the Ottawa Indians on March 2, 1891. Because of his friend's help, Lykins invited Richardville to name the new town. The Chief chose Miami, in honor of his tribe.

The township patent, signed by President Benjamin Harris was issued on May 5, 1891. The sale of lots began the following month. Dr. W.L. McWilliams bought the first lot for \$30. His deed for a house at 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. and Q Street was the first issued to a white man in the Indian Territory.

The Miami Town Company established an office in a small frame building on the rear of the lot where some time later the Old Opera House would be built. It is now occupied by the Security Bank and Trust Company. All lots sold in Miami were sold through the company, sponsored by Lykins and Associates. It was said sales were slow at first, but as word of the new town spread, people hurried to the area.



Miami 1895



Merchants Day Parade about 1910



1908 Main looking north

G.W. Bigham of Melrose, Kansas, became the community's first merchant. His one story frame building was stocked with general merchandise. The following summer, Bigham built a large frame store building at south 1<sup>st</sup> and Main. Branching out, merchandise included hardware and farm implements.

In 1896, when Miami boasted a population of 400, a group of young men (ages 15 to 20) organized a baseball team. John Warren was the manager. The first diamond was laid out near the site of the present First National Bank building. The players' makeshift uniforms were purchased from their own funds. Merchants bore some of the uniform expense. The first couple of years, the catcher was the only player entitled to a glove.

Miami organized a volunteer fire department in 1905. M.B. Pickler was the first chief and Henry Duffee served as assistant chief. The "equipment" consisted of a hose cart that had wheels eight feet in diameter and carried 500 feet of hose. When the fire alarm would sound, the first man to get to the scene with a team and wagon was paid one dollar for assisting the firefighters.

In 1910 the first full-time fire department was organized. Jess Kern was the chief. Firemen were Herman Beck and Glen Kern. They were on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Their salary was \$40 per month. Two horses named Grover and Rowdy pulled the first fire wagon. A dog named Spooks was the department mascot for many years.

In 1906, the Indian Territory was preparing for the Constitutional Convention to be held in Guthrie, to form a constitution for the soon-to-be state of Oklahoma. The Democrats of District 60 nominated Don P. Williams of Miami, as delegate to the convention.

One of the most promoted industries was the Miami Berry Company, which owned 100 acres of land about where Northeastern A&M College is now located. The company raised strawberries, and was said to be the largest field in the world, with 1,000 pickers, 6 teams of horses, and workers for cultivating.

The community was proud of the Opera House, which had been built by Dr. McWilliams in 1901. The building cost \$18,000. The stone building was to become the center of all the social life of the community. McWilliams was told it was a foolish venture in the beginning. The building was demolished in 1975.



Miami Fire Department



1920s fire department



The Opera House

The Bank of Miami, the town's first bank, opened in December of 1895. Charles P. Williams was the first president and John S. Cheyne was the first cashier. The brick building was constructed by Henry I. Doty, a brick and stone contractor. In 1907 the name was changed to Miami State Bank.

A bank that would eventually merge with the present First National Bank and Trust Company was the First National Bank of Miami, Indian Territory. It opened in 1900. The president was E.B. Frayser. In 1928 the Ottawa County National and First National merged.

One of the first airplanes made in Oklahoma, was built in Miami in 1911 by Silva (Doc) Robinson, brother to pioneer mining figure, James F. Robinson. E.W. DeChenne assisted in building the glider-like craft. The mechanic was Everett DeHanas. His job was to repair and rebuild parts after it crashed, which was almost every flight.

The present day newspaper, the Miami News-Record was established on December 1 1923, when the Miami District Daily News and the Record-Herald were merged into one daily paper. There are records of at least 10 different newspapers prior to the establishment of the present Miami newspaper.



Hospital



Miami Lake Dam



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The B.F. Goodrich Company contributed to Ottawa County's financial life from 1943 until 1986. A company such as B.F. Goodrich doesn't just wonder into town and hang out an "OPEN FOR BUSINESS" sign.

A duplicated copy of a letter and survey form reached the desk of C.H. Mullendore, acting executive officer of the First National Bank. He looked at the lengthy questionnaire and dropped it into the wastebasket. Before the trash was emptied, something made Mullendore take another look at the documents.

A few hours after Mullendore reread the questionnaire he was in conference with civic leaders of Miami. This first meeting was followed by three months of intensive work before a package containing the first report was ready.

Some of Miami's commitments were to supply adequate power at an acceptable rate, an agreement to drill 6 water wells and provide a gathering line for the water supply. The city's only direct gift to Goodrich was the site chosen for the plant.

Finally, after all the painstaking negotiations were completed and Goodrich had accepted, the Miami planners realized it would cost at least \$100,000 to fulfill commitments. The civic leaders started work to raise the money.

The first Miami made tire rolled off the production line on February 28, 1945. To start, the plant was to employ 300 workers with an annual payroll of \$700,000. The facility consisted of about 450,000 square feet of manufacturing space.

In 1982, according to the book, History of Ottawa County, Goodrich employed 2,100 people, with an annual payroll of around \$51,000,000. The plant site consisted of 460 acres, 37 of which were under roof.

The Miami plant was probably best known for making one of the world's largest off-road tires. It weighed 6,000 pounds, was 123 inches high, and 60 inches across.

The Miami plant closed February 28, 1986.



Methodist Episcopal Church



Courthouse 1920

## History of G.A.R. Cemetery

On April 8, 1890 the United States Government granted a patent to Peter Labedie for 200 acres of land. Labedie was a member of the Confederate Peoria, Laskaskia, Wea, and Pianashaw tribes. He reserved four acres of his allotment for a "Miami and Peoria Church." Because of a mistake in the land description, the patent was canceled and not actually granted until September 8, 1890.

The land, as with all Indian allotments, could not be sold, nor was it subject to levy, taxation, or forfeiture for a period of 25 years from the date of allotment. However, the Confederate Peoria tribe could have restrictions removed, by special request.

In an article printed in the Miami Record on November 24, 1899, the commander of the J.B. McPherson Post No. 11, Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was quoted as saying, "We have this year bought 36 acres of land and had it surveyed for our city and surrounding county. We have reserved a plot for the use of the members of our Post, their families, and all ex-Union soldiers can secure a lot in the reserve."

Since the wounds of the Civil War had not been forgotten, it is not surprising that the same commander, a former Deputy Marshall for the United States Courts in Miami, Indian Territory, and a staunch Yankee, added the following statement. "While we cannot take our late foes into the Post and thus give them a lot in reserve, the Post has taken the necessary action to allow all ex-Confederates to purchase lots in the reserve, so that when our beautiful and impressive memorial services are held on each 30<sup>th</sup> of May, their graves may not be neglected and that this tie may have a tendency to bind their children and ours together and strengthen loyalty to our Government.

The land was purchased from Emily Ensworth, a daughter of Peter and Amelia Labedie. Peter had died in 1895, and apparently the original allotment had been divided among his heirs. The four acres that had been set aside for a church was not included in the transaction, but on March 13, 1913, the United States of America granted four acres of land to the trustees of the J.B. McPherson Post. These four acres carried the same legal description as the land set aside by Labedie.

The Post's holdings in 1913 included 40 acres of land. A \$400.00 mortgage held by the Post on the four acres was released on June 14, 1917. On October 10, 1917, the Post sold the four acres to F.R. Millner and C.J. Fribley for \$1,000. They operated a funeral home in Miami. (Continued on next page)



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Two years later, the acreage and funeral home was sold to the Mitchell-Fleming Undertaking Company. The partnership dissolved and the tract was transferred to Martin C. Fleming in 1923. A short time later the land was purchased by Virgil Cooper and given to the City of Miami, to be added to the 36 acres given to the City by GAR in 1910. Today, the four-acre tract is known as the Cooper Addition.

In 1910, concern for the future of the cemetery prompted the Post to appeal to the City of Miami to take over ownership of the cemetery. The city agreed to pay \$250.00 for each of the 13 remaining GAR veterans' burials. In 1926, when the contract was reaffirmed, only 11 of the veterans were living.

It was believed that a son of Peter and Amelia Labedie was the first burial in the cemetery, but there is no verification of this information.

The Ottawa County Historical Society was provided with information that the first grave opened in the cemetery was for the 6-week-old child of Jesse and Laura Dragoo and who is shown in a family photograph taken in 1895. This information cannot be verified either, due to a fire in the late 20s or early 30s that destroyed many of the early burial records.

The earliest marked grave is that of Atha Josephine Cardin, born 1872 and died in 1892. Another early marker is that of a one-year-old child, Irene Isabel Thaxton, who died in 1897. Her father once operated a ferry across the Neosho River.

15 British flyers that were in the RAF and died while in training at the Spartan School during WW II are interned in the cemetery. They all died between October 1941 and August 1945.

Sandra Ray compiled the history of the GAR Cemetery. She is the Office Manager and Records Clerk for the cemetery. What we used here is just a part of the history. If you would like to read the whole report, contact Sandy at the GAR Cemetery Office.



## WELCH STATE BANK

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*"Where You Come First!"*





The City of Miami is located in Ottawa County in the Northeast corner of Oklahoma situated at the confluence of the Neosho and Spring Rivers. The city takes its name from the Miami Indians and is pronounced "My-am-uh." Route 66 in Miami has the last section of the original Ribbon Road that is listed on the Oklahoma Natural Historic Landmark.

The City of Miami is recognized as a vital and innovative City with the 2000 U.S. Census showing a population of 13,704. Miami is the County seat of Ottawa County, which has a population of over 33,000.

The city is considered a full-service community. Miami's municipal government consists of two divisions: General Government and Department of Public Utilities.

In November 2000, the voters approved the change in form of government, which took effect on January 1, 2001. Miami is governed by a City Charter and has a Council-Manager form of government. The elected officials consist of a directly elected Mayor and one representative from the four wards within the City. Each elected official serves for a three (3) year staggered term with municipal elections held in April.

Miami's Public Utility Board consists of four (4) members with a representative from the City Council. The Board Members are appointed for four (4) year staggered terms by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Council. The combined budgets for both divisions are approximately \$20 million.



Mayor Brent Brassfield



## Some places to visit and things to see in Miami

The City Manager oversees the day-to-day operations of the City, leaving the governing body time to work on the development of sound public policies, a long-range plan, capital infrastructure improvements, a parks and recreation program, and economic development for the City.

The number one goal of the new City Council is the creation of a "road map" for Miami's future. Once finished with the plan, they will proceed toward their final destination of sound and efficient local government for all citizens and long-term economic prosperity. Their new philosophy is "Miami Moving Forward."

Mayor Brent Brassfield says, "I think you will find Miami to be a very interesting and exciting City. We believe the City of Miami offers a high quality of life. We also boast its diversity; from the lake area to the nine Indian cultures. We are proud to be a City "on the move." You will find new growth in industry, home development, and an ideal location for retirement." He also says Miami is a progressive City with small town values and big City ideas.

Michael Spurgeon is the City Manager and the General Manager of Public Utilities.

Charles Tomlin is Chief Financial Officer and City Clerk. Assistant City Clerk is Gay Harrison, and the two Deputy Clerks are Pat Lee and Amy Samuel.

The Chief of Police is Gary Anderson. Assistant Chief is Randy Mathia. Secretary to the Chief of Police is BeLinda Dawson.

The Patrol Division of the Miami Police Department consists of 21 sworn, uniformed officers.

The Detective Division for the Miami Police Department is headed by the Assistant Chief and comprised of six detectives.

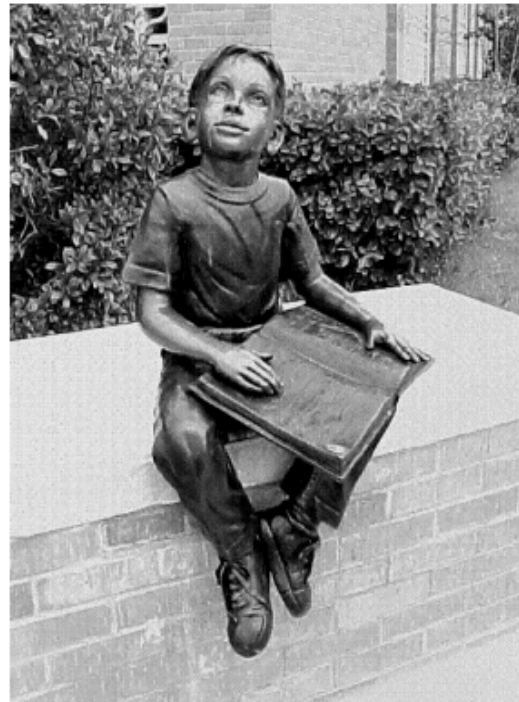
The Miami Police Reserve Program was re-established in 1997. At that time, 3 Reserve Officers were brought in. At present, they have seven Reserve Officers who volunteer numerous hours of service to the community. Reserve Officers do not receive any type of monetary compensation.

The dispatch center is made up of 6 dispatchers and 1 dispatch supervisor. The center is the answering point for all 911 calls in Ottawa County as well as the dispatch center for several other communities for police, fire, and ambulance.

The Miami Fire Department has two fire stations with 29 employees and administration. Kevin Trease has been the Fire Chief since July of 2003. Ronnie Cline has been the Deputy Fire Chief since November 2003.

The information for this article was found on the City's web site. You can visit the site at:

[www.miamiok.org](http://www.miamiok.org)



Statue outside the Miami Public Library

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## Vintage Photos of Miami



A view of Main, about 1912



Looking SW from atop Courthouse



Schools over the years



Photos courtesy of John Schehrer

## Group Helps Families End Violence

The Community Crisis Center was established in 1981 to provide shelter for domestic violence and sexual assault victims.

The 20-bed shelter facility offers a safe environment for victims and provides for their basic needs. They have advocates who are skilled in assisting with protective orders, and offer support and assistance throughout court cases.

They also provide assistance in seeking permanent housing, employment, counseling, parenting assistance, money management, and many other life skills.

The shelter has served over 250 women and children in the past year. There is no cost to receive their services.

They have opened a resale shop called Unique Repeats, which is located at 17 N. Main. They welcome donations of good used clothing and other household items. Donations can be dropped off at the store. Net proceeds from the store are used for CCC expenses. Some donated items are offered to those who are making a fresh start.

The shop also offers the opportunity for members of the community to volunteer their time for a worthy cause. If you have extra time and a caring heart, please give them a call at 540-3060, or drop by the shop.

If you, or someone you know has been a victim of domestic violence or sexual assault, PLEASE call the 24-hour hotline number. 1-800-400-0883. Services are completely confidential.

### Community Crisis Center Helpful Numbers

24-hour Hotline: 1-800-400-0883

CCC Headquarters: 540-2275

Grove Office: 786-8009

Vinita Office: 256-1945

Jay Office: 253-3939

Sexual Assault Office: 542-8800

Child Advocacy Center: 540-1621

They also offer parenting classes and domestic violence education classes.

Community Crisis Center is here to help!



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## **Fern Holland Soldier of Human Rights**

*"I love the work and if I die, know that I'm doing precisely what I want to be doing - working to organize and educate human rights activists and women's groups-human rights and democracy education for independents who are motivated and capable of leading this country."*

"Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest wall of oppression and resistance."  
- Robert Kennedy

This statement by Robert Kennedy could well have been the motto Fern lived by. After Fern's death, Vi Holland, Fern's sister, made it clear the media should not glorify Fern as a hero for some front page story or 10 second sound bite. Rather the media could help raise awareness of Fern's beliefs. Fern's beliefs were not unlike our nation's founding fathers'. She believed all people are created equal. Fern traveled to other nations spreading this belief, not through propaganda but through actions.

Fern was in Iraq as a member of the Coalition Provisional Authority. She investigated human rights violations, set up women's rights conferences and assisted with the new constitution. She and two others were killed when gunmen posing as Iraqi police officers stopped her vehicle at a makeshift checkpoint near the town of Hillah, about 35 miles south of Baghdad.

Fern told friends her mother was her hero, but brother Joe Holland thinks it was the other way around. "Fern was my mother's hero. That's the truth," he said. Fern was in first grade when her parents went through a bitter divorce. Her mother moved from Bluejacket to Miami, taking Vi and Fern. The brothers stayed with their father. An older sister was already living on her own. (Continued on next page)



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"My mother, she was troubled - hurt - by the divorce," Joe Holland said. "She needed somebody, she really did. I think Fern just knew that instinctively. She was there for her, day in and day out." Tending to her mother did not keep Holland from doing what other kids were doing - and usually besting them at it, her siblings said.

"She was the best athlete of all of us," another brother, James Holland, said. "Softball, basketball, skiing, she was good at everything."

Grades were never a problem for Holland either. She graduated as salutatorian of her senior class. But she impressed her classmates in other ways as well. She served as class officer and school royalty her Junior and Senior years.

Chebon Porter, now a medical doctor in Birmingham, Ala., remembers Holland driving a black sports car down a Miami street, her hair blowing in the wind and the sound of Styx's "Come Sail Away" blaring out the T-top. "To a young man of the age, she was incredibly intimidating," he said.

When Holland graduated from OU with a psychology degree in 1992, she was debating whether to become a doctor or a lawyer. Unable to choose, she spent the next year traveling. Harmon, her college roommate, said Holland tagged along with a friend going to Israel on an archaeological dig. After that, the two women traveled across Europe and into Russia.

Friend Marny Dunlap, an Oklahoma City pediatrician, said Holland did volunteer work in a Russian orphanage or hospital. "She told me she was mainly working with children who were Chernobyl victims," Dunlap said. "She talked a lot about seeing these kids and how much they touched her and how sick they were. I think that probably was when she made her decision" to go to law school instead of medical school, Dunlap said.

Not so, said Terry Todd, a Tulsa lawyer and family friend. He hired Holland as a low-level law clerk at Barkley & Rodolf when she returned from her travels. "She wasn't sure if she wanted medical or law school. I said, 'Well, why don't you come to work for us? You might decide you don't want to be a lawyer,'" Todd said.

Instead, Holland enrolled in the University of Tulsa Law School and graduated near the top of her class. Barkley & Rodolf immediately promoted their longtime law clerk to lawyer, and Holland spent three years there, buying a home in Tulsa and seeming to dig in to the world of medical malpractice defense, the firm's specialty. But Rodolf knew it would not last. "I never saw her as someone who would settle into the corporate life."

In 1999, the Conner & Winters law firm in Tulsa lured Holland away with the chance to practice environmental law. Jim Green, her boss there, said Holland never concealed her itch to move on. "We defended cases all over the eastern half of the state so we had a lot of windshield time together. She told me she had always wanted to do something with her life and with her law degree to work for human rights, particularly abroad," he said.

In the spring of 2000, Holland announced she had joined the Peace Corps and was going to Namibia in West Africa. "It's the happiest I'd ever seen her," said Todd, one of Holland's mentors at Barkley & Rodolf. Holland became a role model among the group of Peace Corps volunteers who trained with her that summer.



**ON THE CORNER**  
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Jessica Samuel, who now works on the Navajo Reservation in Arizona, said the others looked up to Holland. "She had what a lot of the younger people would envy as a real life, a real job," Samuel said. "For her, the Peace Corps wasn't a stepping stone to a law career. It was an end goal. She talked a little about practicing law not being satisfying morally."

Holland learned the Oshikiyama dialect and then went to live in Onamutai, where her job was to get the community and parents involved in the village school.

"We were without running water," Samuel said. "Her family, I believe, had electricity, but many times the electricity would go out. It also got really hot. But she was fine with it. I think her only frustration was not having a vehicle; not being able to go from village to village to get things done."

Holland helped students who had never left the village raise money for a trip to the national capital, Windhoek, to meet their president. A local newspaper clipping tells the story but never mentions Holland.

Debbie Anderson, another Peace Corps volunteer, remembers Holland being unusually eager to talk to Namibians. "It was like she'd seek out people to talk to and find out about their life situations, how they felt about things in their country, what their dreams were, how they thought things could be improved," Anderson said.

Holland came home after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks - about eight months short of her two-year Peace Corps commitment. "We understood why, obviously," Anderson said. "She had already accomplished so much. She left for appropriate reasons.

"In a letter, Holland told Samuel, her need to go home was not based on fear for her personal safety, but on her memory of the terrorist bombing in Oklahoma City and the recent death of her mother. "She had a sense of urgency that she needed to get back home and be with her family," Samuel said.

In Oklahoma, Holland resumed her work with Conner & Winters, but not for long. By January she had been accepted into the prestigious Georgetown Law Center in Washington to pursue an advanced degree in international law.

In Washington, Holland joined another law firm, where she worked on and off in 2002 and 2003. But her studies kept getting shoved to the sidelines. She had not even finished her first semester when she agreed in April to go to Guinea for the American Refugee Committee. The committee wanted her to investigate alleged human rights abuses at a refugee camp.

## Ottawa County Veterans' Memorial



"I told her, 'Fern, you're working on your LLM (degree). You can't just leave mid-semester and go to Africa,'" Green remembers saying. "She told me, 'Well you can if somebody needs you.'"

Colleen Striegel of the American Refugee Committee accompanied Holland to Guinea on a 10-day fact-finding mission. Afterward, Holland wrote a report that said women were being sexually exploited at the camp. She recommended establishing a legal clinic to help them seek justice. The committee hired Holland to go back to Guinea and start the clinic, Striegel said.

"It was really groundbreaking work she ended up doing. People thought it couldn't be done because this is Africa, this is a refugee camp," Striegel said.

At the time of Holland's death, the clinic had handled 118 cases including rapes, sexual assaults, wife beatings, family abandonment and sexual exploitation, according to a tribute from the Guinean refugees read at Holland's memorial service.

"Let it be known that your name and memory have gone into the annals of history forever," the grateful refugees wrote.

Vi Holland said her sister had a dream of opening legal clinics like the one in Guinea in refugee camps worldwide. Instead, the U.S. Agency for International Development hired her to work for women's rights in Iraq.

Leah Werchick of USAID said Holland's trip from the United States to Al Hillah, where she was based, was a disaster. Misplaced luggage, delayed flights. "By the time she finally made it to Al Hillah, you'd think she'd be exhausted. But she was just chomping at the bit, ready to start work right then," said Werchick, who had gone ahead to set things up.

Although Holland went to Iraq for USAID, she later joined the Coalition Provisional Authority when it assumed the goal of opening Iraqi women's centers in every province.

Werchick said the centers were places women could organize, learn political skills to participate in a democracy, and learn life skills. "That was Fern's real passion. She worked on all of that. She'd say, 'Can we get them sewing machines?' She'd just listen and figure out what the big priorities were."

"I've met so many wonderful people. So many of the women I've met are depending on me, and I'm going to see this through," Holland wrote to Green in an e-mail.

"She literally laid her life on the line for what she believed in, which was basic human rights and the rule of law," Green said. "Fern embodies everything that is noble about the practice of law. There are plenty of things that are not."

Governor Brad Henry posthumously named Fern a Heroic Oklahoman on Tuesday, April 6, 2004. "Fern Holland devoted her life to helping people who needed it most, and she ultimately lost her life because of that utter selflessness," Henry said. "Fern Holland was an extraordinary person with an extraordinary love for humanity. Her life is a source of inspiration for all of us to follow."

Fern was living proof, you don't have to wear a uniform and bear arms, to be a Hometown Hero. She had her beliefs and dreams, and wasn't afraid to work to achieve them. This beautiful and amazing woman could be a positive role model to young and old alike!

#### **FERN HOLLAND CHARITABLE FOUNDATION**

Family members and friends have set up the Fern Holland Charitable Foundation, which promotes human rights in Iraq and around the world.

To donate, send checks to Suite 3700, 15 E. 5th Street, Tulsa, OK, 74103.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Fern's family and friends, and we share their pride in this Oklahoma Hometown Hero.

The information used for this article came from a website paying tribute to Fern. There are many more interesting facts and pictures on the site. You can visit the site at:

[http://newsok.com/?fern\\_holland\\_home](http://newsok.com/?fern_holland_home)

## **Baptist Regional Health Center**

In 1918 James Fountain Robinson, one time civic leader and president of the First National Bank in Miami undertook a project to raise funds to build a hospital for Miami and the surrounding area.

Miami Baptist Hospital opened its doors on July 27, 1919. The hospital had a 62-bed capacity, with an average daily census of 20 to 25. In 1919 a School of Nursing was started. It was in operation until 1930.

In 1983, the name was changed to Baptist Regional Health Center. More than 100,000 square feet of working space has been added to the hospital, including the Physicians Office center located across the street from the hospital.

In 1994, the Dail and Frances West Resources Center was opened. It is home to the BRHC Foundation, Community Relations and Marketing, the Education Department, and the Human Resource offices. An auditorium and classrooms are also located in the West Resource Center.

BRHC has over 500 employees, with a full-time medical staff of 21 physicians. The volunteer auxiliary has a force of over 100 men and women. The hospital is licensed for 123 beds.



## **Northeast Technology Center**

The Northeast Vocational Technical School district was formed in 1969. It is located 12 miles south of Miami on Highway 69. The north campus near Afton and the south campus located between Pryor and Claremore opened their doors in August of 1973.

Since then, over 10,000 students have graduated from full-time daytime programs with entry-level skills to succeed in the job market. Thousands more have attended one or more short-term evening classes at each campus.

In August of 1996, the east campus located near Kansas, Oklahoma opened. The combined campuses serve the largest geographical area of any vo-tech district in the state.

Services such as the business development program, the agri/ranch management program, the single parent/displaced homemaker program, the training for industry program and industry-specific training all help the worker, the small business, or the large industry.

Full time daytime courses offered are proven courses for those occupations that are expanding and needing more employees. Short-term evening classes are designed to upgrade skills, teach new skills, or to learn something new "just for fun."

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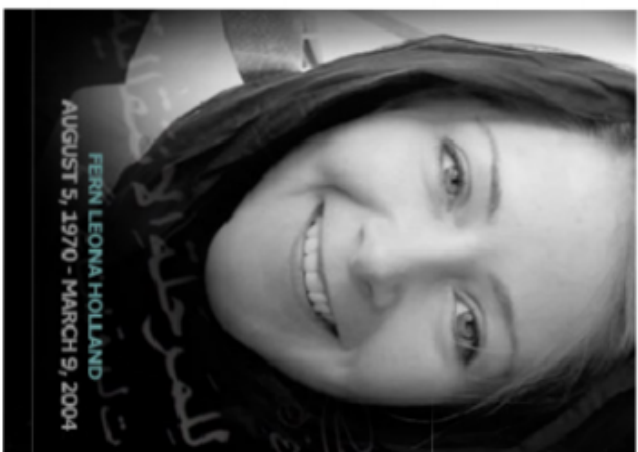
## H e r o e s



*We dedicate this issue of Hometown Oklahoma to the memory of Fern Holland. Fern did so much for so many, in countries that do not have the rights and freedom we enjoy. In Fern's own words, "I love the work and if I die, know that I'm doing precisely what I want to be doing - working to organize and educate human rights activists and women's groups."*



*Some of the many phases of Fern's life.  
She did it, HER way!*





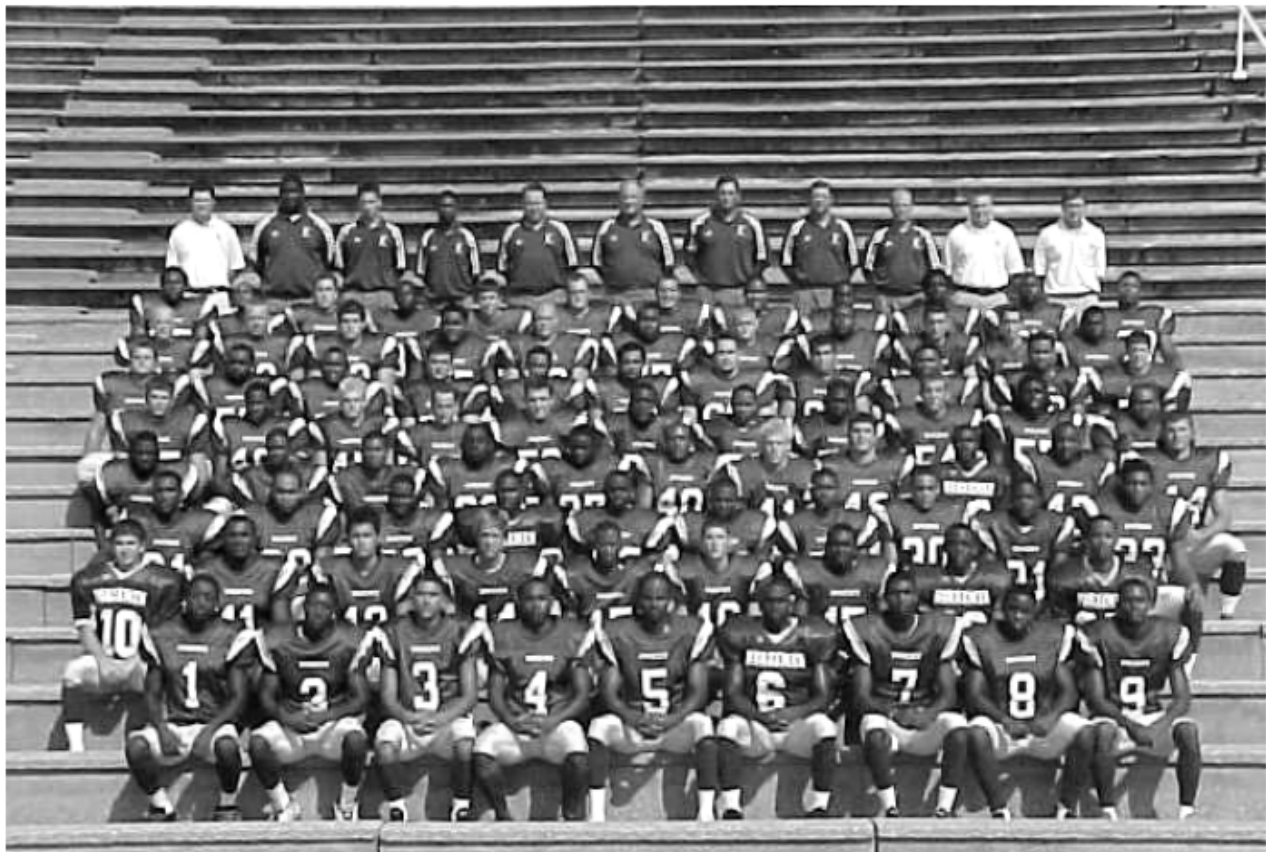
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2003 Golden Norsemen Football Team

## NEO A&M College

Originating from a single classroom, the Miami School of Mines was established in 1919. The college first held classes in September of 1920 at the Mining and Exchange Building, now known as the Robinson Building. There were 42 students enrolled the first semester. Lloyd B. Drake was the first president.

Rev. J. Allan Watson, pastor of the First Christian Church, taught English. A Mrs. Garth taught Spanish, She was the only female teacher, that first year. A Mr. Wakeman taught geology and chemistry, but was replaced by Mr. Loring at Thanksgiving time, 1920. Forrest Miller taught math.

A football team was organized the first semester. Melvin Hutts helped the boys train. The team played at what is now the Miami Fairgrounds.

Two classes graduated under the name of Miami School of Mines. The first had three graduates and the second had eleven. In 1925 the school changed to a state junior college called Northeast Oklahoma Junior College. The change to the current name came about in 1943.

The college has grown into a 140-acre campus with over 25 buildings. With five residence halls and four apartment complexes, NEO prides itself on being the largest residential two-year college in Oklahoma. The College provides many of the activities and academics of a large university, which can be enjoyed in a small college setting.

## Oklahoma Eight Man Football

Miami Oklahoma is proud to be the Home of Oklahoma Eight Man Football!

The Oklahoma game is considered the nation's oldest eight-man all-star contest, dating back to 1973. The Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau and NEO officials have signed a five-year contract with the Oklahoma Football Coaches Association to bring the game to Robertson Field. The Eight-Man Game for 2004 is scheduled for July 17th at 8:00 p.m., so mark your calendars and set your reminders to visit Miami, Oklahoma on that day for the big game! For more information regarding the game please call 918-542-4435

## The Coleman Theater

April of this year marked the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Coleman Theater. It is sometimes referred to as the centerpiece of Highway 66, and is listed on the National Historical Registry. The building was built on the site of the burned out county court house. George L. Coleman built the theater in 1929, at a cost of \$590,000.

The old foundations contained pieces of farm machinery for reinforcement, making removal difficult. Three feet away from these footings are the foundations and basement walls of the Coleman. This created interesting tunnels that go nowhere.

Mr. Coleman was a wealthy man who invested in worthy community projects. Coleman was instrumental in the building of the Miami Baptist Hospital and Hotel Miami soon after the close of World War I. His philanthropies included generous donations to the American Red Cross. His lead and zinc mines furnished \$40 to \$50 million annually into the economic and cultural growth of northeast Oklahoma.

The Coleman still impresses visitors with its beauty. The huge stucco finished building is still an architectural masterpiece. Many of the original fixtures and ornaments are still in place. Intricate terra cotta gargoyles and other creatures were hand carved by artisans and carefully placed on the walls during construction.



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Beneath the stage were dressing rooms for entertainers. The Coleman dressing rooms had an entrance from Main Street, unlike many theatres of the time, whose actors had to enter through the alley. Inside the theater area, 51-year-old red damask brocade panels in excellent condition still hang beside old light sconces and beneath stained glass panels. Much of the theater looks the same today as it did when it opened.

The Boller Brothers of Kansas City Missouri designed the 4-story building. It took the combined work of contractors from Kansas City, St. Louis, and Joplin to transform what was one of the more unsightly corners in Miami into what was the most beautiful, in only 330 days.

Programs for the grand opening can still be found in Miami. The Coleman's 1,600 seats were packed at one dollar each for the first feature, which included five acts of circuit vaudeville, an all talking movie starring Fredrick March called "The Dummy," and an "Our Gang" comedy.

Under the direction of E.E. Mason, the theater's ten-piece orchestra also played during opening night. Owen James, a former Miami High School principal, manned the three-manual organ.

Manager E.C. Griffin provided the first laugh in a long series of entertainment when, after delivering an eloquent welcoming speech, he walked into a solid fireproof curtain.

An upstairs ballroom, once used by the Coleman family for gala events, has been graced by the likes of Will Rogers, Bob Hope, and Bing Crosby. These famous entertainers were known to attend social functions at the Coleman and were among many investors in Coleman's enterprises.

Many early day stars, such as Will Rogers, Tom Mix and fan dancer Sally Rand have appeared on the Coleman's stage, as well as on its screen. Athletes Jim Thorpe and Andy Payne made appearances on the Coleman stage.

The Coleman family gave the theater to the City of Miami in December of 1989. The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Weekend Gala was April 16, 17, and 18.



Photo from the 1920s

## Coleman Theater's "Mighty Wurlitzer"

The original pipe organ, the "Mighty Wurlitzer", has returned home to the Coleman. The J. T. Peterson Organ Company of Fort Worth, Texas restored, refurbished, enhanced and completed the reinstallation of the organ in the theatre in 1996.

The organ left the community in 1972 and was located for the Coleman through the Tulsa Chapter of American Theatre Organ Society. Billy James Hargis, Tulsa evangelist, had acquired it. Hargis owned it for two years. Jim Peterson of Burlington, Texas, purchased it from Hargis and had it for over two decades.

Lyn Larsen, noted theatre organist was the artist for the gala "Mighty Wurlitzer Homecoming Concerts." Citizens of the Miami community donated all of the \$85,000 used to repurchase and repair the organ. The Coleman Theater is the only theater in Oklahoma (and one of the few in the United States) that has its original pipe organ installed in its original setting.

It took time, energy and a lot of luck to find the lost "Mighty Wurlitzer."

It started with Miami's Administrative Assistant, Sue Valliere, whose vision was to search for the Mighty Wurlitzer. Sue, along with the Sooner Chapter of the American Theater Organ Society, worked diligently to make this happen. Sue was directed to Jim Peterson of Burleson, Texas. A contract was made between M.D.R.A. and J. T. Peterson to "provide, restore and install the (3) three manual Wurlitzer pipe organ originally installed in the Coleman Theatre Beautiful in Miami, Oklahoma (circa 1929) per attached specifications and modifications" for \$70, 697. Estimated value today is \$300,000.

The Wurlitzer Opus 2026 Model 160 special pipe organ, authenticated by serial numbers found on the instrument, was delivered for installation February 21, 1929. The console is a massive, French-style mahogany design.

Peterson updated the manual switching to state-of-the-art digital switching in the restoration and added three ranks of pipes in the upper line "to include additional 'spicy' sounds, to complement the sweet and lush sounds of the original instrument. A theater organ, unlike a church pipe organ, was designed to sound like a full and complete orchestra.

A digital recording device, called a MIDI, is an enhancement included in the updated organ. This device may be used to playback the identical musical number or the entire program.



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Many volunteers were "on call" to aid when needed. These volunteers logged hours and hours in the reinstallation work. Charles A. Neal, Jr. and Jane Osborn directed a Friends of the Coleman fund-raising drive to raise over \$70,000 in donations from the community.

The State Arts Council of Oklahoma awarded the 1995 Governor's Arts Award for Community Service to the "Friends" for their efforts. Much appreciation goes to those who contributed money, materials, time and energy to this project.

Today, the uniqueness of having an original organ in a movie palace draws people from across the country to witness this marvel. Welcome home, Mighty Wurlitzer!

Also in 1995, the City of Miami and Friends of the Coleman Theatre provided funds and in-kind services to construct two new elegant first-floor restrooms that met ADA guidelines.

Television crews from Germany and Japan have visited and prepared travel documentaries for viewing in their home countries.

Network and independent companies from the U.S. have prepared video presentations for public broadcasting.

Many tourists journeying along historic Route 66 visit the theatre as they travel through the Midwest. The theatre has become the #1 tourist stop in Miami.

The Oklahoma State Historical Society placed a Route 66 Mini-Museum on the Coleman mezzanine in 1996.

The Friends of the Coleman was founded to aid in the restoration process of the theatre. Their purpose is to "enlist support, preserve the memory and to promote the future of the theatre". To become a member or make a donation send a check to Friends of the Coleman, P.O. Box 269, Miami, OK 74355.

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## Steve Owens

1966 Miami High School graduate, Steve Owens was the 1969 Heisman Trophy winner. Steve shattered 13 major school records, nine Big Eight standards and seven NCAA marks in his collegiate career at the University of Oklahoma.

Owens held a three-year OU career rushing record with 3,867 yards, as well as the most points in a year and most points in a career. He set records never equaled, by rushing that NCAA record 358 times his Heisman year; giving him the career NCAA rushing attempts record of 905. Owens was an accomplished tailback at OU and successful at the I-Formation.

His 56 career touchdowns were also an NCAA record. He was named both the A.P. and UPI Back of the Year in 1969, Football Coach Back of the Year in 1969, Consensus All-American and Big Eight Back of the Year in 1968 and 1969. Owens was also named All Big Eight Conference from 1967-1969 and Big Eight Sophomore of the Year in 1967.

In 1991, Owens was honored by being named to the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame, and was named the Walter Camp Foundation Alumnus of the Year. Steve was inducted into the Orange Bowl Hall of Honor in 1992.

Owens was a first round draft choice for the Detroit Lions where he spent six seasons in the NFL, retiring due to a serious knee injury. He played in 53 games from 1970-1974 and had 635 carries for 2,451 yards and 20 touchdowns. He was the first Lion to rush for more than 1,000 yards, rushing for 1,035 yards and 8 touchdowns in 1971. That year he was selected to the Pro-Bowl and named All-Pro.

Owens served as Athletic Director at the University of Oklahoma from September 1996 until his resignation in March 1998. Steve is CEO of Steve Owens Associates and President of Owens-Powell & Associates, both of which offer full range of insurance and service related products. Steve is also CEO of FORESIGHT, Inc., which provides services to the rent-to-own industry on a national level.

He was also accomplished in providing outreach to charitable organizations including the Ronald McDonald house, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Cystic Fibrosis. Steve has given his time to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Born in Gore, Oklahoma in 1947, Owens was also named Oklahoma High School Football Player of the Year, High School All-American and Oklahoma All-State football in 1965.



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More Photos from John



Main 1938



1966

## The Dobson Museum

Soloman Bedford Dobson brought his wife and four children to the little pioneer town of Miami, Indian Territory, in 1892. The family made the trip from Kentucky in a covered wagon. Seven-year-old Nellie rode her little pony alongside the wagon during the trip.

Martha Ellen died at age five. The two boys, Wayman and Soloman - "Sully" would be part of Dobson and Sons, a company which began with an ice plant and bottling works, then grew to include mining, farming, and other investments as the community prospered. Wayman was the mayor of Miami by the time Oklahoma became a state. He remained active in civic affairs the rest of his life.

None of the Dobson children ever married. Wayman died in 1945, Sully died in 1960, and the last surviving member of the family, Nellie died in 1968. With her passing, "Miss Nellie" made some generous bequests to the community she loved so much.

\$2.2 million was left in trust for institutions and individuals of the town. Part of the bequest was a trust in excess of \$1.75 million to be shared by three of her favorite interests: Northeastern A&M College, the Miami Garden Club, and the Ottawa County Historical Society.

The bequest reflected a special concern for her home, her lovely flower gardens, and her wish to preserve History. She stipulated that a place to store and exhibit personal property, books, and records be provided, and that her home be preserved as a memorial.

In 1960, shortly after becoming a charter member of the Ottawa County Historical Society, Miss Nellie provided temporary quarters for Miami's first museum, in a downtown building she owned.

In accordance with her wishes, a modern museum costing approximately \$180,000 was constructed on the Dobson home grounds. The complex of home, gardens, and museum is known as "The Dobson Memorial Center."

The formal dedication of the Dobson Memorial Center Museum on April 9, 1972, provided the community an opportunity to say "Thanks!" Few communities have received such a gift as Miss Nellie left.

Included in the over 5,000 historical items on display at the museum is one of Miss Nellie's dolls with flaxen hair and blue ribbons, and a tiny hat her sister wore. Other items include Indian artifacts; displays of furniture and toys used by first settlers, collections of old documents, newspapers, photographs, glassware, tools, and books on Oklahoma and Ottawa County.

The museum is staffed by volunteers, and ran by the Ottawa County Historical Society. Private tours are available by calling the museum at 542-5388.



Miss Nellie Dobson



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## National Main Street Program

April 1, 1995 – March 31, 1999

In the past, Main Street in Miami was the center of community activity. A strong economic base has always existed in downtown, featuring banks, law offices, shops, cafes and movie theaters. Today these businesses are still located downtown and strive to compete with suburban expansion.

Many things have contributed to the deterioration of the downtown area since the turn of the century. Automobiles enabled people to drive further for shopping. Catering to this mobility, businessmen began to construct outlying strip-malls and shopping malls. This construction began the trend toward suburban neighborhoods and parks. The early 1970's drained life from most mid-sized downtown's because many of the businesses are residents moved to these suburbs.

In 1977, the National Trust for Historic Preservation began the National Main Street Program to address the effort of downtown revitalization through coordinated management and the preservation of historic structures.

Oklahoma joined the National Main Street Program in 1986 with five towns participating. Today, the Oklahoma Main Street Program is thriving with 37 active Main Street communities and one of the only statewide computer networks in the country. The Oklahoma Main Street Program has helped these communities by increasing business traffic, attracting new businesses to the downtown, assisting with needed improvements, and encouraging important historic preservation.

Miami became a Main Street city in April 1995. Take a walk downtown and you will see the downtown revitalization process in progress with planned special events, building façade renovations and plans to attract needed businesses and services to the downtown area.

The City of Miami, local merchants, financial institutions and private donations fund Miami Main Street. A full-time director and a Board of Directors operated the program. Its success depends on the active involvement of volunteers. We encourage you to support the Main Street program with needed funds and volunteer hours.

In just four years they accomplished many good things for the city.

Over \$3.2 million in private reinvestments in downtown Miami.

A net gain in 20 businesses and 44 new jobs.

27 building façade renovations.

Main Street Banners with Coleman picture and Route 66 logo.

\$7,000 committed to Window and Awning improvements.

\$163,930 raised to fund the Main Street program from 64 businesses, financial institutions, individuals and the City of Miami.

Four Miami Main Street projects have received the Project Pride award from the Chamber of Commerce.

Featured on Joplin Channels 7 and 12, in the Associated Press and in the Oklahoma Main Street newsletter for downtown revitalization efforts and the Oklahoma Today Magazine.

Sponsored:

- ◆ Breakfast with Santa
- ◆ Music on Main Street
- ◆ Halloween Picture Promotion
- ◆ 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament
- ◆ Silent Auctions
- ◆ Spring Fashion Review
- ◆ Chili Feeds
- ◆ Christmas Promotions
- ◆ Rodeo Parade

Helped with downtown clean-up efforts.

Conducted surveys to determine attitudes of Miami shoppers and survey to find out if employment had increased in the 4-year period.

Sponsored Customer Service Seminar for downtown employees and business owners.

Formed a Task Force to study improvements to Main Street, which resulted in better signage, better parking limits removal of 3 stoplights and removal of gazebos and replacement of benches.

Worked with the Chamber of Commerce and M.A.E.D.S. to provide an Internet Home Page for the City of Miami.

Main Street volunteers have logged well over 3,800 hours in making downtown a better place to live, work and shop.

## Miami Public Schools

Miami Public Schools are responsible for creating a positive learning environment where all students have the opportunity to achieve academic success and to become productive, responsible citizens who can adapt to an ever-changing world.

Bill Stephens, the Superintendent of Schools, serves as the chief executive officer of the schools. He is responsible for both everyday operation and long-range planning for the district.

Miami Schools strive to provide a safe, nurturing, and positive environment where students receive a quality education. Their mission is to assure that Miami graduates can compete with graduates from anywhere in the world.

One of the programs the school systems takes part in, is "GEAR UP." Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs— GEAR UP—is a federal program designed to better prepare middle and high school students for college through mentoring programs and scholarships as well as new academic preparation and awareness programs for students and parents.

This national initiative began in 1998 to encourage more American youth to have high expectations, stay in school, study hard and take the right courses to prepare for college. More than 670 partnerships applied nationwide and Oklahoma GEAR UP was one of 164 successful applicants.

Throughout the next few years, Oklahoma GEAR UP will target resources and services to 102,878 priority students in 145 school districts in Oklahoma. The resources and services will be provided through partnerships between the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, Oklahoma colleges and universities, middle schools, community-based organizations and businesses.

Miami High School Principal is Mike Reece. Assitant Principal is Richie Fretwell. The school has 42 faculty members and a support staff of 15. There are 6 nutrician staff members.



Miami's first public school



The school offers a well rounded athletic program and a wide range of extra curricular activities and organizations.

Will Rogers Middle School mission statement is: "In partnership with parents and community, Will Rogers Middle School will prepare all students for the challenges, choices, responsibilities and opportunities of the future. Mark Stanton is Principal and David Pendergraft is Dean of Student Affairs.

The 21st Century Community Learning Center, supported by grants from the US Department of Education, enables school districts to fund public schools as community education centers, keeping children safe in the after-school hours while they learn and build new skills. The program, which started in 2000, affords the middle school population after-school activities on Monday-Thursday from 3:15-5:30 p.m. The average attendance is approximately 90 students per day.

The Miami Public School system has five elementary schools and a kindergarten center. Nichols Elementary Principal is Jim Dykens. Robyn Barnes is Rockdale Elementary and Kindergarten Center Principal. Roosevelt Elementary Principal is Mr. Frank Hecksher. Janell Trimble is Washington Elementary Principal. Wilson Elementary Principal is Cindy Machado.

The information for this article came from the school system web site at:  
<http://www.miami.k12.ok.us>

We would like to thank Mr. Reece for helping us with pictures we used in our tribute to Fern Holland.



Mural at Osborn Drugs



## Charles Banks Wilson

Few other artists have become so identified with Oklahoma as this painter, printmaker, book and magazine illustrator, teacher, lecturer, and historian. His works have been shown in over 200 exhibits throughout the world. Permanent collections of major museums and galleries contain his paintings and prints of Oklahoma life.

Charles was born in Springdale, Arkansas, although his parents lived in Miami. His mother, Bertha was staying with her parents in Arkansas while her husband, Charles Bertram Wilson was serving in WW I. A letter was delivered to him in the trenches of France on August 6, 1918, announcing his son's birth.

It is said that by the age of five, Charles was drawing on anything flat; table tops, backs of pictures, bottoms of drawers, etc. His mother encouraged him in developing this talent.

Wilson was accepted at the prestigious Art Institute of Chicago in 1936 to study painting, watercolor, and lithography. He completed his formal training with high awards and honors. After serving an apprenticeship with illustrators at the *Chicago Tribune*, who taught him the humor in art, Wilson came to the attention of the prominent artist, Thomas Hart Benton (1899-1975). Through Benton's recommendation, Wilson went to New York City to provide a print for a folio being prepared by the American Art Association. From that start Wilson began his career as a book illustrator.

Wilson returned to Oklahoma during World War II and began teaching night classes at Northeastern A&M College in Miami. He was so popular that his teaching load increased to the point that he established the art department and served as its head for fifteen years. Although Wilson was an inspiring and engaging teacher, he left the profession, feeling he could no longer contribute what he thought the task demanded. Since 1960 he has painted full time.

Wilson has gained recognition for his oil paintings, such as the images of famous Oklahomans in the state capitol. Working in a variety of media, from painting to sculpture, he has also made the exacting medium of egg tempera a specialty. Charming scenes of rural midwestern life make up another facet of Wilson's artistic personality.



Jim Thorpe painting by Wilson



1941 painting by Wilson



Reflecting knowledge and understanding of people and places, his paintings of boys swimming on hot summer days and farmers tending fields or a sorghum mill recall a simpler time. Painted in what is often referred to as a Regionalist style, Wilson's images are rhythmic and dynamic.

American Indian life is a frequent subject of Wilson's work. Years of study, including sketching several hundred individuals described as Purebloods, attending ceremonies, as well as mutual respect and admiration, are evident in his portraits and scenes.

Wilson designed the logo for the Ottawa Historical Society. He designed the silver medal that was issued for the Quapaw history Indian Tribal Series. His lithograph the "Swimming Hole" has been called one of America's best-loved prints.



Will Rogers painting by Wilson

## History of Ottawa County

Much of the information we used for the history of Miami was found in the book "History of Ottawa County" written by Velma Neiberding.

Velma was a newspaper feature writer and columnist for the Miami News-Record. She grew up in a family that lived, made, and talked about history. Velma began her writing career in the sixth grade, publishing a school newspaper. It was printed with a penny pencil on a Big Chief tablet.

Velma authored two teenage books, a history of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church of Miami, and a history of the Quapaw tribe. She passed away on February 5, 1989, after years of suffering with a heart condition.

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## Do You Remember?

### **Do you remember when Millner-Berkey Department Store burned?**

One of the biggest fires in the history of Miami occurred on August 19, 1948. Fire Departments from as far away as Joplin and Tulsa help fight the fire, which threatened to consume the entire west side of Main street, from Central, north to the Miami Hotel. The fire started when an exhaust fan overheated.



### **Do you remember the great Neosho River flood of 1951?**

In July of 1951 the Neosho River overflowed after heavy rains. About 3000 Miami residents evacuated their homes. Some houses were washed from their foundations. The water was ten feet deep at NEO College. The only access to the city was from the north.

## Hanging In Miami

The date was August 28, 1908. John Hopkins was led blindfolded to a scaffold and hanged publicly on Main Street for the murder of Lena Craig early in 1908. Some say he died with bitter words on his lips. "Let's get this over with. I want to get to Hell in time for supper."

Legend and fact mingle with the stories of the hanging. The trial transcripts tell of a lover's quarrel, and possibly a suicide pact. There was sworn testimony that Hopkins cried to his brother who was first on the scene after the shooting, "Let me finish it... I fired one shot at myself, but the gun bounced."

The middle aged and balding father of four died on the gallows that hot August day, thus paying his debt to society.

Lena Craig was described as a pretty red haired girl who came from Racine, Missouri to teach at the Union school, in what was then the Shawnee Nation.

Hopkins was described as "wild" and terribly infatuated with the young teacher. At the time, many felt Lena's parents had discouraged marriage, and this led to the quarrel that ended in tragedy.


The trial was held in the historic "Old Opera House" (the McWilliams building), which served as a courtroom at the time. One of Miami's pioneer attorneys, Vern Thompson was the county attorney at the time and he was the prosecutor.

Those on the jury were: F.S. Rickner, J.H. Hanna, John Hawthorn, Charles Mounce, Walter, Cook, Sam Moss, C.E. Cary, R.R. Thompson, Walter Tydings, Tone Brown, S.F Skaggs, and A.C. Rosenburg.

Seventeen witnesses were called to testify. Four physicians certified that Hopkins was sane. They were G.W. Baker, W.L. McWilliams, A.M. Cooter, and G.F. Smythe.


There was touching testimony by Dr. Barnard of Seneca, Missouri. He had been called upon to attend the dying teacher. He said the school children were in her last thoughts. In her delirium, she asked the kids not to play in the creek by the school. He also testified that he had treated Hopkins that same night, after he had tried to cut his own throat.

The courtroom drama moved to a finish with Hopkins being found guilty and sentenced to die by hanging. Oklahoma's first Governor, C.N. Haskell, granted one reprieve. This delayed the execution, from June 19 to August 28.




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## Thank You!!!!!!

We want to thank everyone who helped us, while doing research for this issue! It was a pleasure meeting all of you! We work with limited manpower and time. The help we get from residents of the community enables us to feature more interesting facts about the towns we visit. We apologize to anyone we didn't have time to contact, who had stories for this issue.

**NEXT STOP: Pryor Oklahoma!**

We look forward to sharing with our readers what we learn about YOUR hometown!

### FYI

The vintage photos of Miami used in this issue are courtesy of John Schehrer. John has a web site loaded with old pictures from all over Ottawa County. He offers photo CDs for sale on the web site. Please visit the site.

<http://www.homestead.com/schehrer2/>

### FYI

The photos and information about Fern Holland used in this issue came from a web site paying tribute to Fern. Her family provided the pictures used on the site.

[http://newsok.com/?fern\\_holland\\_home](http://newsok.com/?fern_holland_home)

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