

No. 63: December 10, 2019

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LG

*'What's Happening' is a Free Newsletter
Provided by the Locust Grove Arts Alliance*

DOLL CONTEST . . . The Rural Oklahoma Museum of Poetry is sponsoring a doll-making contest as a part of its next exhibit on the 19th Amendment next year. See Page 7.



Local woman named Dewey's 'Poet of the month'

DEWEY—The director of the Rural Oklahoma Museum of Poetry (ROMP) Shaun Perkins, who founded ROMP in 2012 in rural Locust Grove, will be the featured poet at the Heritage Theatre in Dewey on Dec. 21.

Poetry Night is an open mic poetry event hosted by Morris McCorvey and includes a featured poet each month.

Guests can have drinks, dinner or snacks from Gizzy's

Eatery when they attend.

"I'm excited and can't help being a bit proud to have Shaun as our featured guest at the December poetry night," McCorvey said.

"She is the author of several collections of fine, thought-provoking verse."

Perkins taught English at both the Bartlesville mid-high and the high school and for many years at the RSU-Bartlesville campus,

teaching courses on everything from World Literature to Composition to Vocabulary.

In 1994, she was the Teacher of the Year at BHS.

While living in Bartlesville, Perkins became friends with fellow poet Morris McCorvey, who hosts the monthly poetry night event.

"Morris and I often had a rivalry going with local poetry contests," said Perkins.



"Since then, he has been kind enough to judge poetry contests I've held when I was teaching and also now with the contests I have through the museum."

Perkins intends to read some of McCorvey's own poems as a part of the event. She will also share poems she has written for the museum's 2020 exhibit Justice Not Roses: 100 Years of a Woman's Right to Vote.

"The anniversary of the 19th amendment is coming up next year, so the museum is going to feature a celebration in images and poetry around that theme all year,"

Perkins hopes that old colleagues, friends and students in Bartlesville will show up for the poetry event.

"It would be awesome to see some of the people I used to work with or taught. They

may not recognize me with grey hair, but I'm still a loud mouth and show off, so that will be apparent," Perkins said.

"I have fond memories of Bartlesville, as I moved there for my very first teaching job. I had wonderful mentors in three women: Maxine Kaiser, Lola Kelley and Virgia Barnes, who all taught at the high school at the time. I also got to live in a wonderful old house downtown on Wyandotte Street for many years," said Perkins.

In addition to teaching in Bartlesville, Perkins also worked for a time at the Tom Mix Museum in Dewey, which is where she said she developed her love for small museums.

"I thought of the Tom Mix Museum when I started
(Continues on Page 2)

Historical characters visited Nov. 22

Chautauqua: a living history



CHAUTAUQUA STORYTELLERS . . . Taking part in the celebration Nov. 22 were, from left, Jerry Yatess as town founder O.W. Killiam; Tammi Bell as an early Locust Grove mayor and merchant Euletta Foreman; Steve Bell as early business man Steve Foeman; Alysha Little as the owner of the Merrill home in Tahlequah; Emily Beckton as a pioneer woman; Bill McCloud, emcee; and Choogie Kingfisher as a Trail of Tears survivor. In front is Canton Little as a music man from the 1910's.

Parade tonight at 6 p.m.

Editor's Note: This column by Locust Grove Chamber of Commerce's President Adele Collette is part of a continuing series.

It is December and we are officially in full blown Christmas mode.

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and made lots of wonderful memories.

Small Business Saturday was on November 30 and it was a great day! There were many people out and about shopping for those great deals and the weather was nice.

I would like to thank all the businesses that held sales, the vendors who set up, Santa for spending time with the children, everyone who decorated a light pole, my board members for their hard work and all the people that came out shopping. I am looking forward to the rest of this month and all the things going on.

The Chamber board tried a few new things this year that we thought the community would like.

I am not sure if they will happen before this paper is published or not, so I will talk more about those events in the next issue. I am hoping for a good turnout for the parade like we have had the past couple years. The Parade will be on Tuesday, December 10 at 6 p.m. See

Locust Grove



Chamber Chat by Adele Collette

ing those floats covered in lights going down Main Street in the dark is so nice and exciting. I am not sure who enjoys it more, me or the children. It may be a close race.

The Chamber Board is made up of about 9 people. Most of us put in many hours, every month, to come up with plans for events for our community.

We are taken away from our jobs and families to plan, organize and hold these events.

In the past few years we have tried different things to bring you events that you can participate in and have fun. Some have worked and some have not.

We have had board meetings and meetings for the public every month. These public meetings are for you to come and express your thoughts. What would you like to see the Chamber do

or bring to town? If you do not voice your opinions, they cannot be considered.

I watch surrounding towns, some smaller than us and some larger. I see the different events they hold, and they have success with them.

The difference in them and us, is they have the community behind them, not just a handful of people working on it. I would love to see some type of event every few months in Locust Grove; however, we need the community to be on board.

The Chamber will be changing the dates of meetings in 2020 hoping to get more people involved. You can check those dates on our website www.locustgroveoklahoma.com, as well as keep up with what the Chamber is doing. The meetings will be held at 8 p.m. one month, and noon the next. We are hoping the times are better for everyone. The first Chamber meeting in the new year will be on Tuesday, January 21 at 8 a.m. Please make plans to be there and bring your ideas or concerns. The plans for Founder's Day will begin at this meeting. If you would like to help, please let us know.

So, until January, y'all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



CHEROKEE NATIONAL TREASURE . . . Choogie Kingfisher was one of the storytellers for the Chautauqua held last month at Wonder City Coffee. He portrayed a survivor of the Trail of Tears and told of that harrowing experience for his people.

—Poet of the month—

(Continued from Page 1)

ROMP. The poetry museum is a tiny and humble place, but it can create a huge experience for people who visit. I also enjoyed how people interacted with Tom Mix's history at that museum. I wanted the same interaction with poetry at mine," Perkins said.

A recent KTUL series with Burt Mummolo called Traveling Oklahoma visited the Tom Mix Museum, on the advice of Perkins, after Mummolo filmed a segment at ROMP.

"I told Burt he needed to go to Dewey and see the Tom Mix Museum, and it was right up his alley," Perkins said.

About What's Happening in LG

EDITOR'S NOTE: While this newsletter is produced by the LGAA and will contain that organization's news, we also want to publish information about any activities in Locust Grove that our community might be interested in.

If you have news on LG events, places, or people, or want to place an ad in the newsletter, please contact Betty Perkins at blperkins@sstelco.com or 918-479-5617 (leave a message if no answer). The newsletter can also be viewed at lgartsalliance.com.

Submit pictures and stories (which we might have to edit for space concerns) to the email address above.

LGAA meeting set for Dec. 11

Members of the Locust Grove Arts Alliance will meet at the office on Main Street at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 11.

The closing of the Smithsonian exhibit "Water/Ways" will be the topic of conversation. The exhibit ran from Oct. 21 through Dec. 7.

Details about the six-week run of the exhibit can be found elsewhere in today's edition of the LGAA newsletter.

At the November meeting, Ray Grass talked about his progress on the town history mural he is currently on the east side of Rob Foreman's store at the intersection of Main Street and Broadway.

Grass began at the center of the mural with a portrait of the town's founder. Other details important to the town's beginnings are to be added next.

This rendition of the original which was destroyed in a fire that took down three business sites on Main Street and Broadway will be a smaller version, according to Grass because of the smaller area on which to paint.

The meeting ended with the presentation of a trophy to Matt Foreman for his work on the recycle ship he was instrumental in creating as a part of the Water/Ways exhibit. The group then preceded to cross the street to christen the ship with water



GRADUATE BUDDIES . . . *Hugh J. Callery wore his Class of 1960's T-shirt to a Veteran's Day assembly at Locust Grove High School where he met Trinity Palmer, a member of the high school band who was proudly wearing her Class of 2020 T-shirt. This 60-years of graduation difference called for a photo, and high school photographer Alexis Copeland complied. Trinity played in the high school band, and according to Callery "did a fine solo of 'Taps' for the assembly."*

Visit us at
rompoetry.com

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FOREMAN FAMILY HISTORY . . . *Steve and Tammi were storytellers for the Chautauqua held last month. Steve spoke as the voice of Steve Foreman, an early day Locust Grove businessman, and Tammi had the voice of Euletta Foreman, once mayor and business owner here. See story on Page 5.*

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60 attend Chautauqua

"Euletta had a wonderful time. Thank you for the opportunity to share the stories with the young ones," said Tammi Bell who portrayed Euletta Foreman at the Wonder City Wonder Chautauqua event on Nov. 22 at Wonder City Coffee.

A Chautauqua is an event of living history, where people present their stories as folks from our past.

Locust Grove, called the Wonder City when it was first founded in 1912, is full of wonders, and this event, displayed them.

As an extension of the Smithsonian Water/Ways exhibit, the chautauqua performances focused on people of LG's past and the importance of water was woven into the personas' stories.

Participants listed below, brought the history of Indian

Territory and Locust Grove to life.

Master of Ceremonies: Bill McCloud

Town Founder O.W. Killam: Jerry Yates

Cherokee Trail of Tears Survivor: Choogie Kingfisher

Murrell Home relative Emily Murrell: Alysha Little

Town Leader Steve Foreman: Stephen Bell (Foreman's great-grandson)

Euletta Foreman, business owner and former mayor: Tammi Bell

Grace Leake Hotel Owner: Emily Beckton

Music from the 1910's provided by Canton Little

Event Coordinator: Roxann Yates

Photographer: Marea Breedlove

More than 60 people attended the event, and many commented on the entertainment.

"The performances were awesome! So proud of my husband who represented a



***MUSIC MAN** Canton Little plays traditional music from the 1910's during the Chautauqua performance Nov. 22 at Wonder City Coffee.*

Cherokee man (himself) and after his story there wasn't a dry eye in the room," said Traci Lynn Kingfisher.

"It was all great!" said Carolyn Parker.

"Chautauqua, a time of telling the past, great history. It was so inspiring," said Janet Larson.

"It was a wonderful night! All the performances were amazing!" said Verla Fletcher.

"I had such a good time. When Alysha made her entrance, I was wowed," said Gwen Pool.

Comic book hero poem contest set

The Rural Oklahoma Museum of Poetry has been with the Pryor Creek Comic Convention since it started, and the museum is once again offering a Poem Contest for this 4th year of the convention.

This year, the contest is to write a limerick about a favorite comic book hero.

Winners will be announced and on display at the Pryor Creek Comic-Con in January.

Cash prizes will be awarded with \$75 for first, \$50 for second, and \$25 for third.

Poems will be judged on the basis of form, imagery, creativity, language, and adherence to/development of theme.

Deadline for entries is Jan. 11.

A limerick is a humorous poem consisting of five lines. The first, second, and fifth lines must have seven to ten

syllables while rhyming and having the same verbal rhythm.

The third and fourth lines only have to have five to seven syllables, and have to rhyme with each other and have the same rhythm.

An entry form must be included with all entries.

Forms and online submission are available at ROMPoetry.com or at ROMP Rummage Store, 112 E. Main.

The Pryor Creek Comic Convention is the brainchild of LG native and Tulsa World Scene writer, Jimmie Tramel.

The 4th annual event will take place Jan. 18, 2020 at the new Mayes County Event Center east of Pryor at the fairgrounds.

There will be author and artist guests, a costume contest and a dealer room full of comics and merchandise.

The admission is \$5.

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Childhood memory directs William Clough Bloss' life work

By Roxann Perkins Yates

As a youth, his father guided his hand to the scarred back of a slave that they were helping to freedom. William Clough Bloss desire to free slaves began at that touch, and his entire life was devoted to human rights of slaves, women, the afflicted.

Born in 1795 and called an "early agitator against slavery," William moved to Rochester.

On the Erie Canal he built a tavern in a town that was awhirl with reform movements. Rochester, NY, home to Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass, was also home to William, "a thinker years in advance of his time," according to the "Democrat and Chronicle" of Rochester.

William's tavern was so close to the canal that whiffletree lead bars attached to horses would rub off the mortar on the building.

Within a year he became a temperance movement advocate and dumped all of his liquor into the canal. He created Temperance societies in every Monroe county town.

In 1830 his East Avenue home served those on their flight to freedom. The home still stands in Rochester.

"The Rights of Man" was his publication against slavery, inhumane treatment of people. It was published bi-weekly and before Douglass's "North Star."

Many freedom seekers spent their final nights in barns, homes, and boats in Rochester before traveling upriver to Canada. Douglass and William's homes were on that final leg to freedom. Though the system was successful, it was treacherous and difficult. Douglass said it was an attempt to "bail out the ocean with a teaspoon."

William once said to his son Joseph, "I am subject to a fine of \$1,000 for six months for giving this woman a crust of bread, a cup of water... But I shall disobey this law and where there is another like it, I do also disobey it."

In the 1840s William was a Whig party representative but lost his job because he would not obey Jim Crow laws. In 1845 he sat among the black congregation at a communion service, and

Gone, but not forgotten

subsequently, lost his reelection. But he soon served in the New York State Assembly from 1845-47 and advocated for equal rights for black men. He did not believe that "man can hold property in man."



freedom seekers.

He was also opposed to the death penalty and wrote a plea to save a man sentenced to death. Joined by Anthony and Douglass, William protested at Rochester City Hall in 1858. They were forced to

run from a mob.

In 1863 a memorial to William the speaker states that he was "in obedience to the voice of duty."

He believed all should have an education, was against taxation without representation, and made speeches for women's rights to vote. He often gave speeches for the common good of the people and gave many speeches at Corinthian Hall denouncing slavery.

In a tribute to his father, Joseph recalled a story his dad told him.

"A fugitive slave in our house exhibited his back and shoulders, and you could almost hide your fingers in the welts cut by his master's lash. I can see the bloody tracks today."

He was, until his death in 1863, an "orator on whose lips the people hung."

William was "a thinker years in advance of his time."

--Democrat and Chronicle of Rochester



ROMP plans women's right to vote exhibit

Next year, 2020, marks the anniversary of women acquiring the right to vote. Passed by Congress in 1919 and ratified on August 18, 1920, the 19th amendment guaranteed women the right to vote.

On the 100th anniversary of this occasion, the Rural Oklahoma Museum of Poetry (ROMP) will have an exhibit to honor women's suffrage and to invite people in to share an experience of poetry that is also one of history and politics.

For this exhibit, the museum has hired museum logo artist Bryan Nicholas Grey to paint the entire inside of the building and possibly the outside in murals that represent pivotal women and events in women's suffrage.

Activist Margaret Foley appears in a famous photograph of the time. She is holding a sign that says, "The Rose Stands for Chivalry. We Want Justice." The title of the exhibit is Justice, Not Roses.

(Continues on Page 10)

Rural Oklahoma Museum
of Poetry presents

SUFFRAGIST DOLL CONTEST

6 categories

CASH PRIZES

Deadline: Jan. 4, 2020

A contest in conjunction with
ROMP's 2020 exhibit on the 19th
Amendment Centennial

For details & entry form,
see ROMPoetry.com

Suffragist doll art contest planned

In conjunction with the Rural Oklahoma Museum of Poetry's 2020 exhibit on the 19th Amendment and the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote, ROMP is sponsoring a suffragist doll art contest.

Readers are invited to make a suffragist doll and win cash prizes for best rendition.

Six categories will provide \$600 to winners. The categories include . . .

1. Paper or Cardboard Doll
2. Crocheted/Knitted Handmade Doll
3. Handmade dress on a Barbie Doll
4. Metal/Wood Doll
5. Clay/Ceramic Doll
6. Kids Entry - Any medium, Ages 3-12).

All entries must include a complete entry form and be delivered to Wonder City Coffee by the deadline. Forms are available at the coffee shop, ROMP Rummage or online at ROMPoetry.com.



SUFFRAIST DOLL... A cloth doll dressed in a crochet dress of a suffraist is shown above, and below, a paperdoll is shown with appropriate dress of the time period..



Some facts about 19th Amendment

- The 19th Amendment was first proposed (and defeated) in 1878.
- One suffragist died for the cause. Aloysius Larch-Miller from Oklahoma died after debating an anti-suffragist when she was ill with the flu. She died

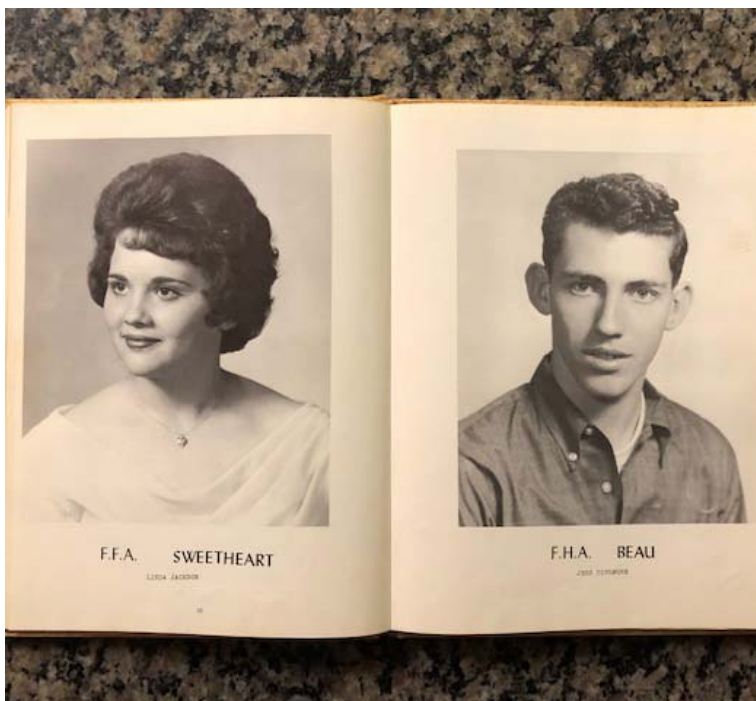
two days after the debate.

- Eight days after the amendment was ratified, 10 million women joined the electorate.
- FDR became the first president whose mother was eligible to vote.
- Mississippi became the last

state to ratify the amendment, doing so on March 22, 1984.

- In 1797, New Jersey temporarily granted voting rights to unwed women.
- Women in the Wyoming Territory could vote in 1869.

ONCE UPON A TIME



FFA SWEETHEART AND FFA BEAU 1964
Linda Jackson and Jess Stipes

1964 TREASURE CHEST . .
Full page pictures of the FFA Sweetheart Linda Jackson and FFA Beau Jess Stipes were featured in the 1964 Pirate yearbook. The cover was a bright red which is a traditional color for the yearbook throughout the years, mostly red, some white, some black, and at least one in magenta, or what some men might call, purple even though that may be called sexist. **AT RIGHT . .**
Three separate groups from the music department this year are shown, including a glee club, a quartet group and a triple trio group. All were under the direction of Donna Talley. Pianist was Cheryl Frazier, in each picture in white top.

GLEE CLUB

The Glee Club should be congratulated for their fine achievements during the past year.
Each year the Glee Club presents a "Candle Lighting" program. We take our hats off to them because of such a fine performance.
The Glee Club should be very proud indeed to have as fine a person as Mrs. Talley for their instructor.



Quartette

The girls quartette have been a very busy group throughout the year. Members of the quartette include:

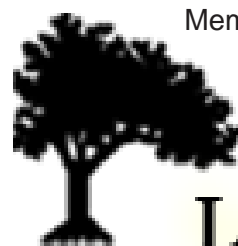
Mrs. Donna Talley.....Instructor
Cheryl Frazier.....Pianist
Joyce Ann Calloway.....1st. Soprano
Barbara Younger.....2nd. Soprano
Dorothy Smith.....Alto
Sue Fogelman.....Alto



Triple Trio

The triple trio is composed of nine girls. From left to right they are:

Mrs. Donna Talley
Halline Barttough
Joyce Ann Calloway
Elaine Cowan
Helen Bryant
Wanda Littlefield
Ann Schae
Sue Fogelman
Marilyn Bell
Barbara Younger
Cheryl Frazier



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A poem is
but a thought,
a mere memory
caught at play.

Robert M. Hensel



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Reader jumps from one detective to another

By Betty Perkins

I'm a lover of mysteries and I tend to read everything an author writes if I absolutely love the first book by him/her.

This all started when I read a book by John Grisham titled *A Time to Kill*.

Many of you have probably read it because it was a popular book and one that was made into a movie which, of course, was not really as good as the book. Have you ever noticed this?

I can't think of one movie that I thought was better than the book. There must be at least one out there, but I haven't met it yet.

I'm about to get away from

my topic -- something I know I tend to do when I'm writing in first person. I seem to think it means I get to wander off topic.

So, eventually I got tired of lawyer mysteries, regardless of the way I still feel about the great Perry Mason books by Erle Stanley Gardner.

I then started on John Sandford and his detectives from Minnesota. While I liked his Lucas Davenport character, I never warmed up to Virgil Flowers, so eventually I moved on despite the fact that I believe Sandford is a master of description.

I was captivated by Lee Child's Jack Reacher character though seven or eight novels, but when the movie adaptation of Reacher was played by Tom Cruise, it left me cold.

Book Club



Despite the fact that every book Child has written has been made into a movie, Tom Cruise not only soured my desire to see his movies, it also, oddly enough, was

Baldacci is still my number one detective writer. You may think mysteries are the only type of book I read, but that is not the case. Mysteries I read for fun and relaxation.

I just could not see Cruise as the 6 foot, 5-inch Jack Reacher.

I still believe Child is one of the best plotters out there.

From Child, I moved to David Baldacci and his series of different detectives. I love each of his series, but I'm partial to his Minute Man books.

Baldacci is still my number one detective writer. You may think mysteries are the only type of book I read, but that is not the case. Mysteries I read for fun and relaxation.

ation.

I'm currently reading a book by Scott Pelley, *Truth Worth Telling*, about his years as a journalist and the cases he covered during his lifetime.

The first chapter in this book is about the New York Fire Department and how they reacted to the bombing of the Twin Towers. That's not a story to be read for fun, but it is an important story to tell, and for others to read.

All right, I have said all of this to tell you about a new writer of mystery, Paul Finch, who is the writer of the current book I am reading.

Stolen is a story of a female detective, Lucy Clayburn who is in the midst of one of the biggest police operations of her life.

Members of the public have started to go missing, taken from the street as they go about their daily lives.

I'm interested. More later.

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–New ROMP exhibit– *ROMP exhibit booklet to highlight 19 suffragists*

(Continued from Page 6)
Roses were the symbol of those opposed to the women's right to vote.

The exhibit would emphasize Oklahoma women, place and events that played a role in this endeavor. The poetry of suffrage will be highlighted, and as is the tradition of past ROMP exhibits, there will be a variety of interactive ways that visitors can explore the theme.

ROMP is sponsoring two contests to accompany this exhibit: 19th Amendment Poem Contest and Suffragist Doll Art Contest.

The poem contest is open to original poems that somehow address the theme of suffrage, women's rights, or activities/ideas associated with female empowerment.

The Suffragist Doll Contest is looking for entries of dolls of all kinds that represent suffragists of the 19th and early 20th centuries.

More details about the categories are at ROMPoetry.com. Both poetry and art contests have cash prizes. The planned opening for the exhibit will include celebrations on February 28 and 29, 2020.

February 28 is the actual day in 1920 that Oklahoma ratified the amendment. The celebration will include talks, historical representations, poetry awards and more.

For more information, visit ROMPoetry.com, see ROMP on Facebook, email ROMPoetry@gmail.com or call 918-864-9152.

**"MEN, THEIR RIGHTS, AND NOTHING MORE;
WOMEN, THEIR RIGHTS, AND NOTHING LESS."**

SUSAN B. ANTHONY

The 2020 Rural Oklahoma Museum of Poetry exhibit booklet, titled *19 for the 19th*, will include biographies, photographs, poems, and illustrations about nineteen influential suffragists in the cause for women's rights and the passage of the 19th amendment.

One of those women is Belva Lockwood. Belva Lockwood was a teacher and lawyer involved in activities for women's suffrage almost all of her life.

She was the first woman to argue a case before the Supreme Court and in 1884, she became the first woman to officially run for President of the United States.

Though criticized by both men and women for different reasons, Lockwood did not back down from her campaign for Presidency in both the 1884 and the 1888 elections.

She was a woman who



NEW EXHIBIT . . . Suffragist Belva Lockwood is shown above and will be one of the women recognized in the museum's exhibit.

was strong in her beliefs about equal rights and justice and refused to be hampered by ridicule.

When she was seventy-five, Lockwood represented a group of Cherokees forced off their ancestral lands during the Trail of Tears, and she successfully won a settle-

ment for them of \$5 million dollars, an amazing sum for 1905.

This is the poem by ROMP director Shaun Perkins about Lockwood that will be included in the booklet.

A Distraction

It stayed with me—to be refused

Admission to law school because I would

"Be likely to distract the attention

Of the young men." Therefore, I would distract

Them by getting in another law school

And distract the President when he

Refused my rightful degree and distract

The populace of D.C. by riding a bike and distract

The nation by running for President

And distract the suffragists who thought

I was not sincere, and in my 75th year

Distract the Supreme Court in order

To gain a settlement for the devastated Cherokees.

A life of distraction left little room

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Water/Ways by the numbers —

There are many ways to look back to reflect on the effect that the Smithsonian exhibit "Water/Ways" had on the community.

Perhaps the best way is to simply look at the event by the numbers. Here they are:

- 2 women invested time and effort in bringing the Smithsonian exhibit to Locust Grove: Marsha Whalen Downum and Shaun Perkins who wrote the grant application for a chance to display this exhibit in our town for six weeks.

- 5 towns (actually 4 cities and one town) in Oklahoma that were chosen to host the exhibit.

- 14 people who helped in the initial clean up of the VFW building, including painting and lighting update.

- 6 LGAA members who took on the job of uncrating the different components of the exhibit and constructing it for viewing, plus the job of taking it down, packing it up for the crates to move on to its next site: Mark and Kelly Palmer, Jerry and Roxann Yates, Shaun Perkins, Michael Duck.

- 4 gold fish were a part of the canoe water feature: Created by Bill Guthrie and Kelly Palmer.

- 1 man painted a mural which featured local water sites in Locust Grove: Matt Foreman.

- 226 who entered the poetry contest (entries from different states and one international entry).

- 83 entered the plastic art contest, conducted by Roxann Yates.

- 169 people attended the opening ceremonies on Oct. 21.

- 18 loyal LGAA members who volunteered at least 3-1/2 hours a week for six weeks to man the exhibit: Shelley Horton, Sarah Coday, Alysha Little, Ray Grass, Gwen Pool, Kelly Palmer, Roxann Yates, Jennifer Henson, Marea Breedlove, Cara Schwichtenberg, Linda Callery, Matt Foreman, Betty Perkins, Sandy Burford, Michael Duck, Theresa Mennecke, Emily Ward, Kaden Rhodes, Shaun Perkins, and Cara Schwichtenberg.

- 7 weeks the exhibit was open to the public: Oct 21 – Dec. 7.

- 1524 number of people who signed the guest book – slightly more than the entire population of Locust Grove.

- 5 people collaborated on the LGAA Recycler ship to accept recycled plastic: Matt Foreman, Jeremy Ellis, Jessica Ellis, Kenneth Dallis, and Pete Ellis.

- 141 people wrote a poem during the actual exhibit about what they learned



GONE FISHING . . . LGAA member Sandy Burford, right, helps some junior high students make fish printing with supplies made available from the Blue Thumb program.

while viewing it.

- 89 people filled out an anonymous evaluation sheet after viewing the exhibit.

- 15 people attended a Harvesting Rain talk given by Oklahoma Water Board's Jeri Fleming, in conjunction with the exhibit.

- 12 people attended a 2-day workshop by Blue Thumb, in conjunction with the exhibit.

- 11 people attended a talk by Justin Alberty on the History of the GRDA, in conjunction with the exhibit.

- 62 people attended the Wonder City Wonders Chautauqua, in conjunction

with the exhibit.

- 7 Blue Thumb volunteers donated their time to educating exhibit visitors about our streams and waterways.

- 23 people attended an art workshop to paint connected art on a water theme, taught by Adele Collette, and on display at the exhibit.

- 16 artists donated their work to the LGAA to help fund the exhibit.

- 1 newspaper The Paper ran free front page advertising to help the LGAA promote the exhibit.

- 12 VFW members, including Commander Stephen Bell, agreed to allow the

LGAA to host the exhibit in the VFW Hall.

- 33 LGMS arts students painted umbrellas to help decorate the exhibit.

- 1 artist, Ray Grass, constructed and painted Water/Ways signs to placed at intersections to guide visitors to the exhibit.

- 5 town council board members voted to buy brackets for Main Street light poles for the hanging of the Water/Ways banners, and 2 town employees hung them.

Editor's Note: See what visitors to the exhibit had to say about the experience on Page 12.

Comments from visitors to "Water/Ways exhibit

Even though it wasn't required of visitors to the Smithsonian Water/Ways Exhibit, 89 chose to leave anonymous evaluations. Some of their responses are shared here:

"It (the exhibit) gave citizens a different and educational perspective of the awesome power and need of water."

This same visitor also wrote, "I applaud this small organization's (LGAA) efforts to educate, enlighten us, and show the importance of art in our lives."

Another writer also said the exhibit helped the community by offering them an educational and enjoyable event to attend.

One visitor said, "I see how water can bring a community together for the good of all residents."

A young person (under 18) said, "I loved it!"

One male visitor said he wasn't aware of how much the LGAA does for the community.

He added, "Thank you." The opening ceremony on Oct. 21 was the occasion for one visitor to mention the LGAA for "encouraging poetry and art to all groups."

In addition to the exhibit, the Locust Grove Arts Alliance also sponsored a poetry and arts contests for all ages to enter.

One visitor mentioned the organization by saying, "I really appreciate the volunteers and the hard work from local people to bring the exhibit here."

Some said they had a new appreciation for the ways presented that the community could help in saving "our oceans and rivers."

"It is a great exhibit and way to bring the community together," one woman said.

Another noted, "This

shines a light on Locust Grove in a positive way." She also said, "The exhibit shared good information with the art and poetry of local youth and adults."

"The spirit of this group is fantastic!"

"I made us aware that the clock is ticking for resources to develop responsible water usage."

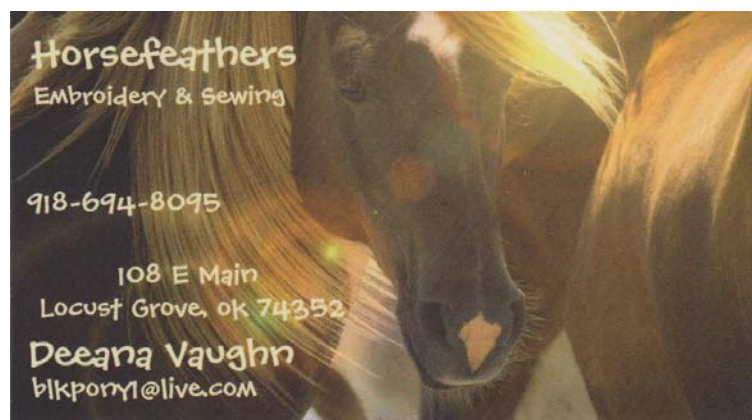
"I really enjoyed everything in the exhibit," one visitor wrote. "It made me

much more appreciative of the amount of water needed for everything."

Another wrote, "It was awesome -- the amazing art, the poetry, the ingenuity of the LGAA. Everything."

One writer mentioned the dual aspect of the exhibit and the contests. "It is a fabulous asset and a perfect blend of educational benefit and the arts."

"It gave me a better appreciation for our water."



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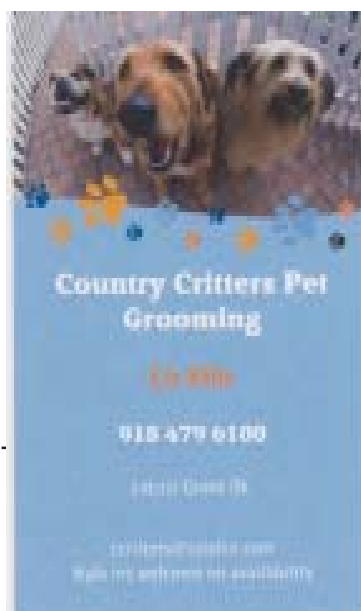
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