



# OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

*Centennial Update*

P. O. BOX 1146 OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA 73101 (405)235-5603

MARCH, 1989

An authentic Oklahoma dust storm just added to the "atmosphere" of the Community Foundation's Centennial Sampler on Tuesday, March 14. Over 300 Community Foundation donors were entertained at a Territorial-era reception held at the Oklahoma Historical Society building.

The party celebrated not only the Centennial of the 1889 Land Run but also the twentieth anniversary of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. Guests were treated to a "water bar", a buffet featuring sweet potato biscuits and black bean pate', and Territorial music from fiddles, juiccharps, dulcimers and a jawbone.

Recipients of Centennial grants from the Community Foundation displayed and performed "samples" of their efforts. Guests viewed pictures and plans from Harn Gardens as well as tee-shirts, buttons, and banners from Oklahoma City Beautiful's "Make It Shine for '89" Centennial clean-up campaign.

Oklahoma City's first architectural guide "Great Buildings Ahead" was introduced to Community Foundation donors through an elaborate photographic display. The multi-paneled board showed sample pages and illustrations from the 144-page guidebook.

The auditorium of the Historical Society was alive throughout the evening with performances of Canterbury Choral Society, Dance Conspiracy, and the Centennial Players of the Oklahoma City Arts Council. The latter group premiered several of its territorial vignettes which portray glimpses of the Land Run through music, comedy, and drama.

Governor Henry Bellmon was present to receive a framed copy of "The Greatest Horse Race, 1889 Centennial Map." The map was a joint project of the Community Foundation, Oklahoma Historical Society and the Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation. Maps were also presented to all guests. Governor Bellmon commented to the crowded auditorium, "This was certainly an appropriate way to kick off our Centennial celebration." James R. Tolbert, III, President of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation thanked the donors for their support over the past twenty years that the Community Foundation has served the city.



## **GREAT BUILDINGS AHEAD:**

The American Institute of Architects Central Oklahoma chapter and the Oklahoma county Metropolitan Librarty have joined hands to develop a guidebook of significant architectural landmarks.

The two organizations received a special Centennial Grant from the Oklahoma City Community Foundation to prepare a publication on both historic and contemporary buildings.  
(continued on page 2)

# BEAUTIFICATION COUNTDOWN AS CENTENNIAL APPROACHES

In only a few days, we will be counting down to our city's one hundredth birthday, April 22, and Oklahoma City Beautiful, through its "Make It Shine" program, is trying to make sure we are ready for it.

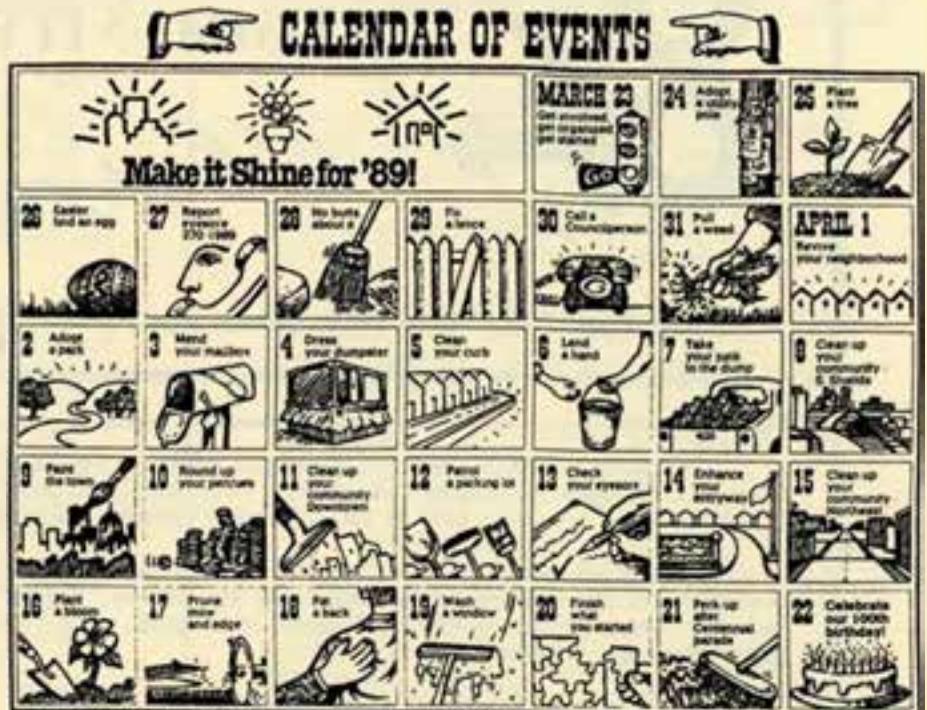
The program, designed to clean up Oklahoma City for 1989 celebrations, is funded through the Oklahoma City Community Foundation and the William T. Payne Fund at the Foundation.

Oklahoma City Beautiful has developed a 30-day Centennial Countdown Calendar of cleanup activities for individuals and groups, which can be conducted on both public and private property.

Shown in reduction in this issue, the large calendar, well illustrated by Oklahoma City Public Schools artist J. R. Feuerborn, is available free of charge at all McDonald's restaurants. No purchase is necessary to obtain this calendar. The calendar is also available at no cost in the office of Oklahoma City Beautiful, 116 S. Walker. There is parking directly east of the building. Each day, starting with March 23, and ending April 21, will be designated for a specific cleanup activity. These activities are designed to get individuals to spruce up their home or business as well as get individuals, businesses and groups to clean up public property.

The goal is to promote pride among citizens of Oklahoma City and create an attitude of personal responsibility for the cleanliness and beauty of the environment.

Earlier efforts in the Make It Shine campaign included a cleanup of downtown Oklahoma City by over 600 volunteers, a hotline number for reporting eye sores (270-1989) and an effort at tree planting on public lands.



Project sponsors include: The Oklahoma City Community Foundation, The Wm. T. Payne Fund, J. R. Feuerborn, Journal Record Press, Zellerbach (a Mead Company), KJZZ 107 FM, McDonald's Corporation, The Daily Oklahoman and Oklahoma City Beautiful.

## GREAT BUILDINGS AHEAD Continued from Page 1

This architectural tour guide, an official project of the Run of '89 Centennial Celebration includes Oklahoma City, plus counties and towns generally considered the "Unassigned lands" that were developed in the days just following the Run of 1889. The focus of the book is to illuminate the architectural heritage of Central Oklahoma.

The 'pocket architecture' book contains descriptions, illustrations, and maps developed with the assistance of Historical Society organizations in Canadian and Logan Counties, the Oklahoma Historical Society, the Heritage Hills Association in Oklahoma City, and the Friends of the Metropolitan Library. Each home and commercial building is described architecturally and put into historical perspective.

Owners of the Heritage Hills homes are listed, from the original builders or buyers to today's owners, many of whom have renovated or added to their historic homes. Interesting and little-known facts are appended to the histories, as well as stories like that about the depression violence at the Slick-Urschel home.

Elsewhere in Oklahoma City chapters, stories abound concerning such smaller buildings as Kaiser's Ice Cream parlor, the Heierding Building in northeast Oklahoma City, plus other unusual buildings such as the "Milk Bottle" building on Classen Boulevard. There are accounts of the buildings and history of Bricktown, east of Oklahoma City's downtown, plus histories of Stockyards City and the Paseo.

Copies will be available after April 1 through the American Institute of Architects, 405 N. W. 15, Oklahoma City, OK 73103. Single copies will sell for \$5 and group discounts are available.

# The Greatest Horse Race

April 22, 1989 is the Centennial of the 1889 Land Run, an event unique in the history of Oklahoma and the world. "The Greatest Horse Race, 1889 Centennial Map" is an 18" x 24", four-color visual portrayal which tells the story of this incredible land opening.

The Centennial Map was produced as a cooperative project of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation, the Oklahoma Historical Society and the Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation.

The map was modeled after a series of historical maps produced by National Geographic Magazine. Around the geographic portrayal of the land area are short, historical sketches covering such topics as the Boomer and Sooners, the Five Civilized Tribes, Guthrie, Oklahoma City, William Couch, Anton Classen, and much more.

One side features Indian Territory, No Man's Land and Old Greer County. It concentrates on events between the Civil War and 1889 which brought about the Unassigned lands and allowed the Land Run to occur. The opposite side shows an enlargement of the two million acres of the Unassigned Lands and the individual stories of the permanent settlement of the area on April 22, 1889.

The map is an excellent educational tool and has already been utilized in schools throughout the state. It is an appropriate souvenir for visitors coming to the state and for Oklahomans who want to learn or review the Land Run story.

"We are celebrating the Centennial of the Land Run and we thought it was important to produce something that would tell visitors and Oklahomans alike what really happened", said Bob Blackburn, copy editor of the map and Director of Publications at the Oklahoma Historical Society.

Folded copies are available through the Oklahoma City Community Foundation for \$1.00 (\$2.00 if mailed) or bundles of 25 for \$12.50 (\$14.50 if mailed). The map is also available in larger quantities for convention distribution and posters suitable for framing.

For information, contact the Oklahoma City Community Foundation, (405) 235-5603, P. O. Box 1146, Oklahoma City, OK 73101.

## CANTERBURY CHORAL SOCIETY

Canterbury Choral Society will present its "Oklahoma's Own" Centennial concert on Friday, March 31, 1989 at Civic Center Music Hall. The concert will feature two native Oklahomans who have starred with the Metropolitan Opera, Leona Mitchell and Stephen Dickson. Dickson is from Oklahoma City and Miss Mitchell is from Enid.

As part of its Centennial project, Canterbury had commissioned a choral work by Michael Hennagin. The premiere of this work, "Song of Songs", with a special piece written especially for Miss Mitchell, will highlight the concert program. Hennigan's work is based on Southwestern "pioneer folk songs and Oklahoma traditions".

Tickets for the concert are available at the door or through Canterbury, P. O. Box 54533, Oklahoma City, OK 73154. For more information, call 842-SING.

## DANCE CONSPIRACY

Dance Conspiracy, a coalition of four Oklahoma City dance companies, will present the Centennial performance "Land Sakes!" on Saturday, April 1 at Civic Center Music Hall. The four participating companies are Prairie Dance Theatre, BLAC Moves Too, StarDanceSwan, and Ballet Oklahoma.

StarDanceSwan's "The Medicine Show" will focus on the role of the medicine show in providing entertainment. Prairie Dance Theatre will portray the beginning of the end of the traditional tribal life of American Indians in "Survivors."

The little-known story of the black Buffalo soldiers during the settlement of Oklahoma will be told in the BLAC Moves Too performance, "I Have Heard of a Land." The evening concludes with Ballet Oklahoma's "Saturday Promenade," a celebration of the birth of a typical Oklahoma town.

Tickets are available at Civic Center Music Hall, 231-2264, Myriad Gardens Box Office, 236-2333 and Sight'n Sound stores.

## HARN GARDENS

Oklahoma City's only living history demonstration of a homestead during the Territorial era is the William Fremont Harn Gardens and 1889er Museum. Located at 312 N. E. 18th Street, the house and twelve surrounding acres were rescued from the city's budget ax in 1985 and turned into a unique educational and historical project.

Left to the City of Oklahoma City by Mr. Harn's niece, Miss Florence Wilson, the house and land were furnished as a museum by the 1889er Society and operated by the city. The City closed the Museum in 1985 but the property then reverted to the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation under the terms of Miss Wilson's will.

A determined group of historians, preservationists, and people who simply appreciated efforts to preserve the past formed the non-profit Harn Gardens group to develop the site and operate it as a living history project.

To the original homestead, an authentic schoolhouse has been added. The schoolhouse, furnished as it might have been at the time, is the focal point of an unique education project for school-aged children.

Recently added has been a working barn that was moved from Okeene, Oklahoma. The demonstration area surrounding the barn will include an orchard, a garden plot planted with true Territorial crops, and appropriate farm animals.

The Harn Gardens is open Tuesday-Saturday throughout the year. Hours of operation and information about special events are available by calling 235-4058.

## CENTENNIAL PLAYERS

Many visitors into Oklahoma City during the spring of 1989 will be treated to a light-hearted dramatic portrayal of life during the Land Run and Territorial period. The Oklahoma City Arts Council has formed a troop of performers, The Centennial Players, to bring to life the individual tales and stores of the original settlers.

The troop is composed of six actors and musicians who have written a series of 8-12 minute vignettes. Each story draws on a single historical incident of the Territorial period but through original music, comedy, and drama. An entertaining view of history is presented. The length of the program can be varied by the number of stores performed.

The Centennial Players will be available for performances in libraries and schools, and for community groups such as civic clubs, nursing homes and hospitals. The troop will also perform for convention groups and at the 1989 Spring Arts Festival.

The troop premiered at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation's Centennial Sampler on March 14. During the week of March 20-25, 1989, fourteen performances will be given at various branches of the Metropolitan Library System.

For booking information, contact Lynn Monroney at the Arts Council of Oklahoma City, 236-1426.

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
P. O. BOX 1146, 115 PARK AVENUE  
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73101-1146

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Okla. City, OK  
Permit No. 255