

★ NOTES AND DOCUMENTS

The Digitization of the Film and Video Archives of the Oklahoma Historical Society

By Corey Ayers

In December 2011 the Oklahoma Historical Society purchased two telecine machines that allow for the transfer of sixteen and eight millimeter film to full 1080p digital files. The digital conversion allows film of all ages not only to be seen in the original state, but also to be enhanced by high definition resolution. The use of these machines has ushered in a new era for the film and video department at the Oklahoma Historical Society. The entire film collection is now being digitized and catalogued, giving moving images not seen for eighty years a new life and giving the public a rich new source for research. For example, the Haskell Pruett Collection documents community events such as parades and rodeos as well as leisure activities of an Oklahoma family from 1929 to the late 1960s. These films present a visual testament of life in Oklahoma at the time. Some other collections currently available in digital form include:

The Ramsey Film Production Company Collection
The Fred Lichtenheld Collection
The Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce Collection
The Colcord Family Collection
The James Kemm Collection
The Jeffers Family Collection



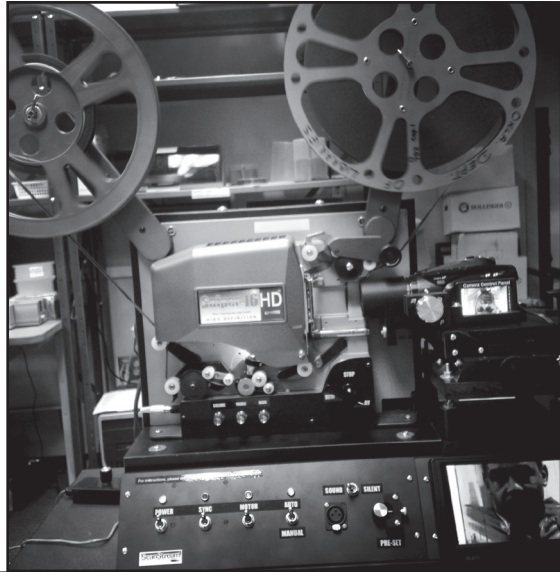
Above and below are still shots from a silent black and white film of men working in the Oklahoma City oil field. In this twenty-one minute movie converted from sixteen millimeter film, the viewer can see a cable tool rig working, trucks being used to clear trees, and aerial shots of the Oklahoma City Field and downtown Oklahoma City. The men are working on an I.T.O. rig. This film is from the Fred Lichtenheld Collection. The Oklahoma Historical Society watermark is removed on purchased copies of films.



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Collections are searchable on the OHS website at www.okhistory.org/research/film. The digitization of these collections in film storage at the Oklahoma History Center heralds the beginning of a new era for the use of film in research at the Oklahoma Historical Society.

Pictured on these two pages are the tools used to digitize the OHS film and video collections (photographs courtesy of Corey Ayers).



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Below: Diane Wasser working on the digitization of film.



The Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame

David Dary and Kenny A. Franks

By Paul F. Lambert and Elizabeth M. B. Bass

Since 1993 the Oklahoma Historical Society has annually honored up to four individuals, both professional and amateur, in its Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame. Recipients are selected on the basis of their contributions to the preservation, collection, interpretation, and dissemination of Oklahoma history. These criteria were first published in *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* 72 (Summer 1994). To date, seventy-nine individuals have been inducted.

Early honorees included Grant Foreman, Joseph B. Thoburn, Muriel H. Wright, Edward Everett Dale, and Angie Debo. In addition to historians, the award has been bestowed on artist Charles Banks Wilson, Cherokee genealogist Emmet Starr, author John Joseph Mathews, and Apache educator Mildred Imach Cleghorn. The inductees are honored at the awards banquet held during the Oklahoma Historical Society's Annual Meeting in April each year. In April 2012 David Dary, Kenny A. Franks, Richard Lowitt, and Rennard Strickland were inducted into the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame. The inductees are featured in this issue and the next issue of *The Chronicles*.

David Dary

David Dary of Norman, Oklahoma, is a native of Kansas and was born in Manhattan. He earned a bachelor's degree from Kansas State University and a graduate degree in journalism from the University

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of Kansas (KU). His initial career in radio took him to CBS News in Washington, DC, where he covered the final months of the President Dwight D. Eisenhower administration and the John F. Kennedy administration. He introduced Kennedy on CBS for the president's Cuban Missile Crisis speech. He later was recruited by NBC News and worked for that organization in Washington, DC, before returning to Kansas to help build a new NBC television station in Topeka. He then joined the journalism faculty at the University of Kansas, eventually rising to the rank of full professor. Dary launched his writing career during those years, which, to date, has resulted in his twenty-two books and significant contributions to twenty-three additional books.

After twenty years at KU, Dary was recruited in 1989 to head what now is known as the Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Oklahoma. He played a major role in fundraising, elevating the school to college status, and providing a new journalism building. He retired in 2000 as emeritus professor and returned to writing.



David Dary receiving his Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame medal from Executive Director Dr. Bob Blackburn and OHS Board President Emmy Stidham at the Annual Awards Banquet held at the Northeastern Oklahoma A & M College campus, April 27, 2012 (photograph by Bill Welge).

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Dary is nationally recognized for his books dealing with various aspects of the history of the American West. Many of his broader works contain significant Oklahoma material, and some of them focus strongly on Oklahoma topics. Among those titles are *The Buffalo Book: The Full Saga of the American Animal*; *Comanche*; *Cowboy Culture: A Saga of Five Centuries*; *The Santa Fe Trail: Its History, Legends and Lore*; *The Oklahoma Publishing Company's First Century: The Gaylord Family Story*; *A Texas Cowboy's Journal: Up the Trail to Kansas in 1868*; and *Stories of Old-Time Oklahoma*. In recognition of his literary efforts, Dary has received two Wrangler Awards from the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, two Spur Awards, the Owen Wister Lifetime Achievement Award from the Western Writers of America, and the Arrell Gibson Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Oklahoma Center for the Book. The OHS is proud to add Dary to the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame.

Kenny A. Franks

The next inductee into the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame is Dr. Kenny A. Franks of Cleveland, Oklahoma. A native of Okemah, he earned MA and PhD degrees in history at Oklahoma State University. His doctoral dissertation, "Stand Watie and the Agony of the Cherokee Nation," was published by Memphis State University Press in 1973. In that year he joined the staff of the Oklahoma Historical Society, serving as editor of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, editor of The Oklahoma Series, and director of publications. Franks was recruited to the staff of the Oklahoma Heritage Association in 1979 and worked for that organization until 2003. During that period he served as director of education and publications, editing the following publications and series: The Oklahoma Trackmaker Series; *Oklahoma! Magazine of the Oklahoma Heritage Association*; The Oklahoma Horizons Series; The Oklahoma Heritage County History Series; and The Oklahoma Statesman Series.

In addition to his major contributions as an editor, Franks has authored, coauthored, or been a contributor to forty-one books, almost all of which dealt with Oklahoma subjects. In addition to the Stand Watie book mentioned previously, some of his titles are *The Oklahoma Petroleum Industry*; *Early Oklahoma Oil: A Photographic History, 1859-1936*; *Voices from the Oil Fields*; *Citizen Soldiers: A History of the Oklahoma National Guard*; *The Rush Begins: A History of the Red Fork, Cleveland, and Glenn Pool Oil Fields*; *Ragtown: A History of the Healdton-Hewitt Oil Field*; *The Osage Oil Boom*; and *Oklahoma: Its*

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Land and People. He also published numerous articles in historical journals; served as a historical consultant for radio, television, and newspaper projects; and has done significant work as a historical forensics and legal consultant.

Franks's biography of Stand Watie received numerous awards, including the Mrs. Simon Baruch University Award for the best book on Southern History in 1979 and the Jefferson Davis Medal for a Biography of a famous Southern Leader in 1979. The Oklahoma Series received the Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History, and his book *The Oklahoma Petroleum Industry* received the Distinguished Service Award from the Oklahoma Petroleum Council in 1982.

Dr. Kenny A. Franks being honored as a new inductee into the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame by Dr. Bob Blackburn and President Emmy Stidham (photograph by Bill Welge).

