

AD INTERIM REPORT

September 5, 1950

The Board of Directors in its meeting January 27, 1950 decided to pass by the regular quarterly meeting on the last Thursday in April and convene at the Annual meeting, or Founders Day, May 26, 1950. Due to months of July and August bringing severely hot weather and many of the Board being away on vacation, it was decided that the Board meeting would be held October 26, 1950. This makes a long period without an official report of the Secretary and while the *Oklahoma Historical Society News Letter* went out to the Directors and members in every month containing business and news items, still this brief report touching high points of the work of the Society will be placed on record at this time.

The summer months for the Society are planning months. On July 7, 1950, the Executive Committee met and made out a report for the Secretary to offer the Office of the Budget some time in September. The Legislature meets the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January 1951 and appropriations must be made then for the next biennium. Last year the office of the Budget paid high tribute to the Society for getting its financial report in before any other department. It seems as though this may be true for this year too. The Board of Affairs, through Mr. L. W. Nickols, Superintending the work, has about finished the \$5,000 job of steel flooring being placed now in the Newspaper Room. It is a good piece of work and will extend the space and increase the efficiency of this department in the largest degree. The \$5,000 appropriated by the Legislature for the steel flooring in this room did not meet the requirements by many square feet. Gen. W. S. Key and the Secretary appeared before the Board of Public Affairs on Tuesday, August 29th and petitioned for sufficient money to finish the room with flooring now. The Board of Affairs together with C. M. Smith, Supervisor of buildings and grounds, have given assurance that every thing possible will be done to finish this job at the present time.

The founders of this Society believed that its chief function was setting up and developing some system whereby it could reach out to any and all points in Oklahoma where valuable books, papers, documents and letters of all kinds could be secured and placed in the Archives of the Society. Such men as Dr. Grant Foreman, Judge R. L. Williams, Dr. E. E. Dale, H. L. Muldrow assisted by others have been constantly on the alert through several decades that this work may be carried forward. Dr. Emma Estill-Harbour and Gen. W. S. Key, succeeding presidents to Judge Williams, have left nothing undone in building up and strengthening our already rich and far reaching Archives. In June Mrs. Francis R. Stoddard and her son, Dudley W. Stoddard, of New York City, gave the celebrated Whipple Papers. (See list attached to this report, and "The Journal of Lieutenant A. W. Whipple," in this issue.)

On or about August 1st, Dr. Emma Estill-Harbour and Mrs. C. E. Cook, after a year in making proper contacts with the Van Bibber heirs in the vicinity of Edmond, brought one of the most valuable collections of letters, papers and documents into the Archives the Society has received in many years.

Through the visitations of Miss Muriel H. Wright, a splendid collection of original historical records of the Sacred Heart Mission was brought in by Mrs. Rella Looney and Mrs. C. E. Cook from St. Gregory's Catholic University at Shawnee. Also through Miss Wright's interest and work, other valuable additions were made to the Society's collections, including the original Chickasaw court Record Book of old Pontotoc County, Chickasaw

Nation (1887-1903), and the old Pontotoc County Seal presented by Gordon M. Harrel and Renfro Herndon of the Pontotoc County Historical Society; one of the first printings of the *New York Herald* (1865) announcing President Lincoln's assassination and original commission of Lt. Col. Richard L. Peyton of the 47th Reg., Kentucky Militia, signed by Gov. Thomas L. Bramlett of Kentucky (1863), presented for the Union Memorial Hall by Miss Lena E. Peyton and Mrs. Grace P. Knowles of Shawnee; gold medal awarded Miss Carlotta Archer as the best pianist under 21 "Among the Girls of the Five Nations" (1884), a pupil of Mrs. Narcissa Owen of the Cherokee Nation, presented by Miss Archer's niece, Vera Jones Chauncey (Mrs. M. R.) of Stillwater; enlarged copies of original photographs of Col. Sampson Folsom, Rev. Allen Wright (Choctaws), and Elias C. Boudinot (Cherokee) from the Wright Oklahoma Collection for the Confederate Memorial Hall.

Through contacts made by Mrs. Helen M. Gorman, Confederate Memorial Hall, this collection of Confederate Memorabilia was given by Mrs. Vinnie Ream Lewis of Denver, Colorado: A photograph of the letter from his Excellency, President Jefferson Davis to the six Confederate Indian Nations dated, February 22, 1864, White House of the Confederacy, Richmond, Virginia; an original photograph of Brig. Gen. Stand Watie with signature; a letter written by Geo. L. Washington Qm. Dept. Indian Confederate Brigade written at Skullyville, I. T., April 11, 1863, to his friend Captain I. A. Clarke, North Choctaw Nation. This valuable collection of historical papers was also secured for the Confederate Memorial Hall through the efforts of Mrs. Helen M. Gorman from Judge and Mrs. E. E. Cochran, Idabel, Oklahoma; a gift of three newspapers: *Washington Globe* of November 14, 1837; *North Alabamian* April 11, 1862; *The Richmond Times* June 11, 1866.

On August 22nd, Mr. Gene Aldrich of Moore, a graduate student of the University of Oklahoma, delivered to the Oklahoma Historical Society and to the Archivist, Mrs. Looney, a very valuable collection of papers of the late Peter Hanraty, member of the Oklahoma Constitutional Convention and the first Mine Inspector of Oklahoma. This fine collection is the gift of Mr. Hanraty's daughters; Miss Margaret Hanraty, Mrs. Mary Talbot, Mrs. Nell Barclay and Mrs. Louise Matchett. Included in this gift was the pen which Mr. Hanraty used in signing the Constitution of Oklahoma. To widen and enforce this work of the Society the Secretary issued a letter to all the Staff Members:

"This Society has no money to secure historical collections and under present by-laws, we are not permitted to keep any collector in the field.

"It has occurred to me that the only way to meet this condition and to bring to the Society historical documents, which in truth should come here and no where else, is to ask that each one of you become an alert agent on the outlook for valuable history in such forms as books, papers, letters, scrap-books, newspapers, articles, relics, pictures etc."

Expenses will be paid on all trips for this purpose. Written reports must be made in detail.

Since this letter was written Mrs. C. E. Cook made a tour through eastern Oklahoma, consulting with Dr. Grant Foreman of Muskogee, Oklahoma and on to see after a fine collection of papers in McIntosh county and then into the Canadian vicinity to make contact with prominent families in that region and working a few days in and around McAlester; she brought in some excellent historical material and has set up connections that will be sure to secure fine contributions to our Archives in the future. The Secretary is planning to visit in September and early October the Indian Agencies in Concho, Anadarko, Miami, Pawnee and Shawnee. Mrs. Rella Looney, Archivist, has just informed me that Mrs. Ethel McCullah

of Oklahoma City has presented to the Society the "Final Rolls of the Five Civilized Tribes" and "A Muskogee or Creek First Reader," by W. S. Robertson and David Winslett. So anyone can see with half-an-eye that this has been a very rich season for the addition of valuable historical material to the Oklahoma Historical Society.

It is also very pleasing to report that Mr. E. H. Kelly, Chief Bank Examiner of the state of Oklahoma, has brought into the Archives Department this week much valuable historical material relating to the origin, development and present history of banking and banks in the state. He promises to continue this good work.

As you recall the Oklahoma Historical Marker Project was begun in the spring of 1949 by the Society securing \$5,000 for 1949-1950 and \$5,000 for the years 1950-1951 for the erection of markers over the state. Fifty of these markers were purchased through the State Highway Commission, and placed in historic spots throughout the state in the fall of 1949 and spring of 1950 under our auspices. At the beginning of the fiscal year, (July 1) 1950-1951, work was begun immediately to place the other fifty markers and on the date of this report, inscriptions have been written, the points over the state where these shall be erected have been agreed upon and the markers are being turned out by the Sewah Studios' factory in Marietta, Ohio and will be shipped into the state very soon. By January 1, 1951, the job will be completely done and over Oklahoma will be 100 testimonials in beautiful and durable tablets in aluminum, steel and concrete, telling citizens and travelers along our highways that Oklahoma has a history second to no state in the Union.

Under the "Every Member get a Member Campaign" for membership last year, our membership reached the saturation point. Still memberships continue to pour in. New Membership fees and renewals for the last three months moved considerably over the \$500 mark. The Secretary has notified the Board of Directors that he intends to launch a campaign with your assistance in the Fall known as the "Exclusive Life Membership Campaign." There are nineteen counties in the state that have no Life Member of this Society in them. There are many counties that have very few and many of these are very rich and thickly populated counties. All Members of the Board agree that this is wrong and largely due to the fact that the Society has failed to cover the state as it should. This will be remedied in the Fall campaign known as the "Exclusive Life Membership Campaign."

There are many other matters of significance that could be brought before the Board of Directors in this brief report but they will be presented in a report to the Board of Directors ten days before the regular meeting on October 26, 1950. In conclusion, may I say that the Society has never had a larger and more loyal membership and a closer contact with the citizens of the state and over the United States through the 4,000 copies of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, 5,000 "News Letters," (for the quarter) and 2,500 brochures, (all sent out in the past quarter), than at the present time. The Society is better equipped with proper apparatus and furnishings of all kind than ever before. Seven thousand dollars has been spent in 1950 for redecoration, \$5,000 for enlargement of the News Paper Room and plans are already shaped for better salaries and appropriations for improvements on the building and the purchase of needed apparatus for proper expansion.

The Board, through its progressive president, has assisted materially in carrying out this program, assisted by faithful members of your committees and staff members.

Hoping that the largest attendance possible on the part of the Board of Directors on October 26, 1950, 10:00 a.m., in the Historical Building will reveal the large interest each has in this institution, I am

Sincerely,

Charles Evans, Secretary