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EDITORIAL

The editors of the *Chronicles* are glad to receive contributions that add to the sum of historical knowledge of Oklahoma and her people. Scholarship in the preparation of these articles is desirable but will not be insisted upon in contributions that contain distinct additions to the field in which we are interested. Material that has appeared in print elsewhere is not desired but exceptions will be made in articles of outstanding interest that may be described as ancient writings and that are not otherwise available to the readers of the *Chronicles*. Contributions that appear to be compilations of writings of others are not desired though articles of distinction where it has been necessary to quote from authorities not otherwise accessible to the readers of the *Chronicles* will be excepted from this rule.

THREE HISTORICAL EVENTS

On March 3, 1889, Grover Cleveland, then President of the United States, signed the bill that authorized the opening of the *Unassigned Lands* in the Indian Territory to homestead entry. Acting under the authority granted, President Harrison issued his proclamation on March 23d, which recited the law, and described the boundaries, and declared the said Unassigned Lands, "will at and after the hour of twelve o'clock noon on the 22d day of April 1889, and not before, be opened to settlement under the homestead laws of the United States." The whole world knows the result, a new state was born that day, and April 22, 1933, will mark the 44th birthday of Oklahoma.

The next important historical event was the passage by

the Congress of the *Organic Act*. It was signed by President Harrison and became a law May 2d, 1890. It was indeed the *Magna Carta* for the newly organized territory. This Act gave the people all of the rights and privileges of American citizens and placed them under the protection of the law. It provided for a legislature and an organized government and gave our State its legal name, *Oklahoma*. The Organic Act also established courts and extended the laws of Arkansas over that part of the Indian Territory not included in the newly created Oklahoma Territory. May 2d, 1933, will be the 43d anniversary of the passage of the Organic Act.

May 27, 1933, will mark the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Oklahoma Historical Society. It was organized by newspaper men of the Territory at their annual meeting at Kingfisher, May 27, 1893.