



G.A.R. Cemetery

MIAMI
City of Vision, Spirit & Opportunity

January 30, 2015 – ISSUE 9

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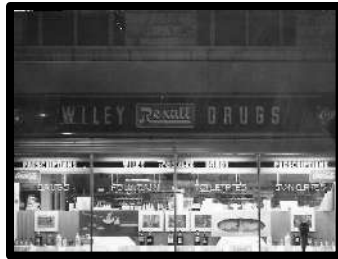




William "Willie E. Osborn
11/27/1934 – 2/16/2014



"Willie Osborn: circa 1950.
As a young Pharmacist



Wiley Drugs: circa 1950.
Willie's first Pharmacist position.

Right: Willie being sung to by a Barber Shop Quartet for Valentine's Day arranged by his wife Jane Osborn in the year 2000.



Left: Chief popcorn poppers at Coleman Theatre Beautiful.

Willie had to make sure he had a "Left Handed" scooper.

Did You Know?

➤ ... Willie Osborn?

- ✓ William E. Osborn was born in Commerce, OK. And attended schools in Picher, Commerce and Tahlequah, before coming to Miami in the 7th grade.

➤ ... What special talent he had?

- ✓ Willie played the saxophone for 6 years in the Miami High School band.

➤ ... What Willie's first job was?

- ✓ In 1947, Willie's first job was at the age of 11 at the bowling alley. His first positions was setting pins and then moved up to shining shoes in 1948.

➤ ... What made him so unique as a business owner?

- ✓ Rather than solely owning over 20 pharmacies in Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas & Missouri, he helped young pharmacists buy into these businesses making them partners.

➤ ... Willie served as President of the following organizations?

- ✓ Jaycees, Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, OK. Pharmacy Assoc., OK. State Board of Pharmacy, Pharmacy Providers of OK. & the American College of Apothecaries.

➤ ... What he often said?

"Everything I know, I learned from someone else."



Willie was Jaycee president when they made a contract with the famous Jim Shoulders to produce the rodeo in Miami in 1963. Willie told that when he asked for a contract to sign, Jim Shoulders just said his contract was a handshake. From then on each year there was just another handshake. Those two men understood each other.

The Jaycees were very nervous because they had to guarantee Shoulders a large sum – I think it was \$6000. They worked hard promoting all around the area. The crowds were good, but if my memory is correct the only profit they made was from the ads in the program and the beer truck! However, it was a good project and continued for many years with Shoulders. We got to see many cowboys who were famous or who later became famous. Also, some mighty famous bulls such as “Tornado” appeared here more than once.

When Willie was Jaycee President he had to ride a mule down Main Street in the Rodeo parade. The parade was the opening day of the rodeo and proceeded down Main Street clear out to the Fairgrounds. One year it was a beautiful day and a few minutes after the parade started a cloudburst came up and that parade set a time record for getting to the Fairgrounds. Willie asked Jim if they should postpone and Shoulders said absolutely not, mud makes the best rodeos.

Another tradition was that the Jaycee President had to ride a horse in the opening ceremonies on the first night. Shoulders put Willie on a “gentle” horse but proceeded to swat him with his hat as Willie entered the arena. That horse ran all over the arena with Willie holding on for dear life. Then, after the grand march and all the other riders and horses were lined up facing the crowd for the national anthem with the beautiful flags and all, Willie and his horse ended up facing the wrong direction. So his back and the horse’s rump faced the crowd. But they stood very still for the anthem.

Needless to say Osborn Drugs has always been willing to help with the rodeo in whatever way they were asked. Willie worked before 1968 for John Wiley and he was pretty generous to let Willie have time off to do all this rodeo business. In turn Willie always encouraged employees to participate in community events.

Willie and I loved doing these things, believing that a strong community makes for a stronger business. He often said as the years went by that “Everything I know I learned from someone else.” These projects were good training for young men in organizational skills, public participation and finances. We made lifelong friends who still work together on projects to benefit the community. One special gift was getting to know the “rodeo community” and the hardy people who love that sport.

Thank you for honoring Willie. He would be very proud but also pleased that the rodeo has become such a successful benefit for Miami. ~Jane Osborn



Kim Horn

G.A.R. Cemetery Director

Last year, I attended a seminar and heard Britan Mills speak about her journey to do something after her Oklahoma hometown of Shawnee was hit by an F6 tornado. She wrote a "Love Letter to Oklahoma" which went viral.

One of my favorite quotes from her love letter:

"To not begin with your (Oklahoma's') beauty would be unfair. You are a land of watercolor painted skies where fireflies still dance, flickering in the dusk. Wild winds blow real, pure air, filling my lungs with freshness. Sweet honeysuckle blooms, bringing memories of running around a grandparent's pond, discovering every acre in sight. Green grass crunches under our feet, as children take turns running through sprinklers."

When I started to write my article for this month's newsletter, I began reflecting on Ms. Mills' words, and all the things she loves about being "Oklahoman". It prompted me to think about what my "Love Letter to G.A.R." would look like. It may seem strange to have a "Love Letter" to a Cemetery, but G.A.R. is a special site that holds a place of honor and remembrance in our community. To the Cemetery Staff, G.A.R. is a place of reverence, but also a celebration of life. It's an honor for us to share the "life stories" of people who are interred at the cemetery.

A few of the many things I love about G.A.R.:

- The rose bush that blooms in the spring on the graves of Mr. & Mrs. McCracken. It always signals that spring has arrived and Memorial Day is close by.
- The woman who came into the G.A.R. office the first year I was there, and had been looking for her grandmother's grave for over 20+ years. The grave was located near our office, and I'll never forget the feeling of satisfaction I had that day to walk out with her to show her the grave.
- The green leaves that start to bud out on the willow oak tree in the G.A.R. section of the cemetery. This is by far my favorite tree in G.A.R. Its 100+ years old, and I would love to know the stories it could tell about the early days of G.A.R.
- The story of "Booger Red" (Samuel Thomas Privitt, Jr.) who was one of the most famous bronc riders of all time...a member of the Cowboy Hall of Fame. "Booger Red" was buried in G.A.R. in 1926. He had no stone to mark his grave until 2011, when the money was raised to place a marker on his grave. My husband and I recently visited the Fort Worth Stockyards to pay tribute and drink a toast to "Booger Red" at the "Booger Red Saloon". It was quite the place with saddles for barstools.
- The multitude of Civil War headstones on the south end of the cemetery that tell a story all their own.

I could list a multitude of things, but the thing I love the most is the relationships that we build with the families we serve. The people we are able to assist while they are dealing with the passing of a loved one, the Veterans who participate in our annual Memorial Day Ceremony, and the amateur genealogists trying to locate specific graves. These special relationships will always be the thing the G.A.R. Staff and I love most about G.A.R.



Chad Masterson
G.A.R. Cemetery Foreman

FYI...

Just as it does every year, the holidays came upon us before we knew it. That magical time of the year when we reflect back on things we are thankful for, also the memories of loved ones we lost in 2015.

But now it is 2016. "WOW" a New Year! New things to come!

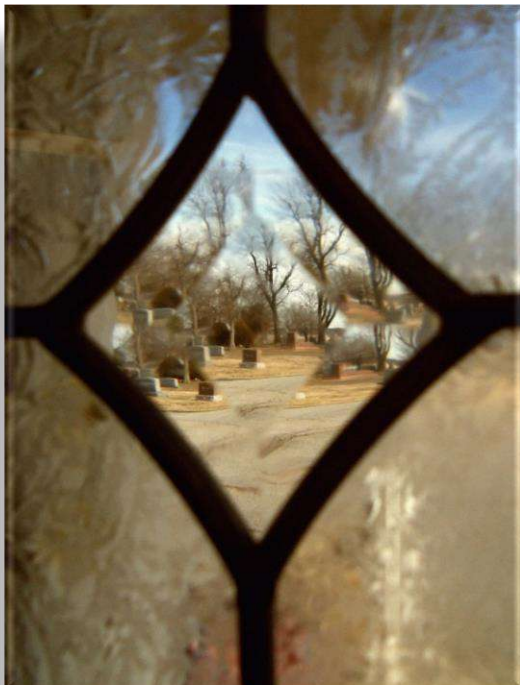
A few new things here at G.A.R. some new maple trees were planted on the north end, with 2 new ones on the south end also. A new road that will be asphalted this spring to match the ones that were re-done a few years ago. A new section of plots will be open soon on the west end of the cemetery. Reflecting back on all of the amazing memories 2015 brought to us, you can pretty much guarantee that 2016 will be just as memorable!



A Day at G.A.R.



Nancy Bro
G.A.R. Cemetery Office Manager



I named our cover photo "Looking through glass". I took it through the prisms glass on our front door here at G.A.R. Cemetery. You can see that it appears to have a crossroads; however on the contrary, it is but a single, straight and narrow road.

Sometimes it's easier to see the surface of your surroundings instead of studying and figuring out why something appears to be askew and accepting it as truth.

Today finds me searching within. Why am I where I am? Am I really where I think I am? Or, do I believe that my world is as beautiful as I see it, and embrace each day as a blessing even if it is a little askew at times. ☺

Veteran's Honor

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January Interments

Ramon Fent
Patrick Thompson
Margaret Journagan
Delores Lewis
Charles F. Lewis Jr.
Frank Henry Hansford
Rosa Lee Osburn
Dorothy McMillian
Elmer Mattingley
Walter Horne
Tracy Wright
Magdaleno Luevano Reyes
Cheryl Thulin

February Interments

Patricia June Johnson
Edward Johnson
Lucille Marshall
Allen Gleaves
Wanda Wooley
Eddie Joe Barnett
Timothy Leon Hart
Dorothy A. Rogers
Rose Mary Williams
Phyllis McClintic
Wm "Jack" Mann
Elton Ray Kibel
Brenda Christensen
Heather Elaine Babb
James Charles Hogan
Richard Platt
Betty Fern Robinson
James Gregory Larken
Rhonda J. Rogers

March Interments

Debra Jane Shoemaker
Caleb Mundy
Marion Lee Baker
Donald R. Renick
Donald Leroy Helmick
Robert J. Reeves
William Homer Miller
Linda Booth
Betty Jane McFerron
Douglas Thulin
Lee Roy Divine

April Interments

Eric J. Daugherty
Edith Stallsworth Thomas
James Sherman Mocabee
Marjorie Jones
Lorene Terrill
Jackie "Jack" Miller
Cecil F. McCulley
Marshall Lance Manning
Roberta Sharp
Donna O'Conner
Ricky Dale Estep
Sally Kimbro
Priscilla Fullerton
Darlene Hoggard

April Interments, cont.

Jane Marie Whitecrow
Wanda L. Buckert
Sophia Charlene Clarke
Woodrow W. Brewster

May Interments

Teresa L. Masterson
Leroy Neal
Jimmie Abernathy
Kenneth Price
Penny Vandiver
Wanda Helmick
Hazel A. Robitaille

June Interments

Gail Marsolf
Arcangel Marroquin
George Sharp
Peggy June Green
Virginia Hamilton
Sheila Reavis
Mary Aline Dixon-Seals
Everette Cecil Beights
Irene Mildred Beights
Janell Stanberry
Robert "Bobby" Chrismon
Fredonia Ellen Freeman
John "Scott" Haralson
Ella Mae Fensky
Sandra Lea Phillips-Agi
Thelma Lorene Bennett
Gladys L. Smith

July Interments

James Flick
Durwood M. Ellis
Jim Wade Jr.
Emily K. Buchanan
Fern Vanpool
Greg D. Smith
Patricia L. Garrett
Elmer L. Cox
Shirley J. Kelly
William Hopper
Mary Wetzel
George Trolinger
James R. Shawver Jr.
Nadine Logan
Linda Kay Basore
Jack McNeely Sr.
Flossie Pauline Shoemaker
Martha Dick

August Interments

Betty Goodrich
Betty Stratton-Caudill
Ruth Lee Geouge
Brian Reeves
Mary M. Altebaumer
Dearl L. Wells
Claude Paul McNeely
Leroy Williams
Virginia M. Erbes

August Interments, cont.

June Maxine McKinney
Stephanie Stepp
Betty H. Randolph
Anna "Louise" Hargrove
Jessica M. King
Ricky Weigel
Lois McCoy
James Shockley
Sharron S. Williams

September Interments

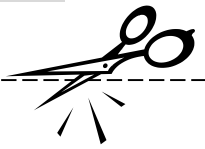
James Anthony Bear
Patricia Hall
Imogene Pryor
Phyllis Leggett
Alta Martin
Patricia L. Goettel
Toni E. Couch
Vergie Mae Freeman-Clark

November Interments

Shermalene Day
Emily R. Smith
Harry Leonard Flosom
Antje May Brady
Sylvester L. Moyer
Paris Lynn Harmon
Earl C. Kelly
Adley Charles Anderson
Alice Cooper
Henry Vanbeber
Martha Kirk Smith
Junior Ray Jones
Bobby James
James Richard Smith
Helen Gorecki
Charles "Chuck" Donald Price
Neville Robison
James Keith Wilkinson
Jonna L. Boyd
Jo Ann Cox
Connie Bradley
Rose Marie Wagner

December Interments

Helen G. Sexton
Mary Louise Moore
Patty Campbell
Jimmie R. Tillerson
Erika W. Abel
Carrol Allgood
Connie Patrick
Carlton Doyle James
Sia Xiong Lee
Leta Ellick
Katheryn Dickerson
Sara Webb
Claudia Barrett
Elmer E. Randall
Harvey N. Morrison
Wanda Mae Hall



Clip And Save!

G.A.R. Cemetery Decoration Removal Schedule

****All Decorations Must Be Removed From Graves By 8:00 a.m.
On The Dates Listed****

DECORATION REMOVAL

DATE

First Monday in February	02/01/2016
Second Monday Following Easter	04/04/2016
First Monday Following Memorial Day	06/06/2016
First Monday in October	10/03/2016

- Wrought iron basket hangers are not permitted except for the time period of December 15th through January 15th and one week prior to Memorial Day until the first Monday following Memorial Day.
- Notices for our decoration removal schedule will be posted on signs at cemetery entrances the week preceding decoration removals.
- All decorations not collected by date and time listed will be disposed of with no exceptions.
- For more information about the G.A.R. Cemetery decoration removal schedule, please call the cemetery at 918-541-2288.

Genealogy

*Miami Public
Library*

200 N Main * Miami, OK

Barbara Becker

geniedept@miami.lib.ok.us

www.miamipl.okpls.org

918-541-2292

Staff Hours

Mon, Wed, Thu. 10:00 am - noon,
1:00-5:00 pm

Tues 9:00 a.m. - noon, 1:00-4:00 pm

"Barbara could
not have been
nicer!" ~ M.J. Picket



How you
make others
feel about
themselves
says a lot
about you.



The greatest thing you'll ever learn,
is just to love and be loved in return.
-Mother Teresa-

Adopt~A~Flag

Order by May 6th and have yours displayed

This Memorial Day!

For more information:

Call: (918) 541-2288

Email: nbro@miamiokla.net

Or visit: www.miamiokla.net



2016 EVENT SCHEDULE

- Memorial Day Ceremony **Monday, May 30, 2016 @ 9:00 a.m.**
- British Flyers Remembrance Ceremony **Saturday, October 15th, 2016 @ 10:30 am**

Do you know someone that wants to get our Newsletter?

Here's How!

Phone: (918) 541-2288 ~ email: nbro@miamiokla.net ~ web: www.miamiokla.net

CONTACT US

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