

Willow Whispers News Group

Volume III - Issue V

Monthly Willow Creek News

August 2003

OKLAHOMA'S PAST

In 1937, Oklahoma participated in a WPA funded project to transcribe the personal accounts of those who participated in the land runs in the late 1800's. Joseph W. Bouse was interviewed by Arnold Aronson in 1937. Excerpts of the interview are sidebars of this newspaper through December. Words, spelling and most punctuation's are original.

My Trip And Experience In The Opening Of Oklahoma

This story now continues from our June issue.

During the fall and winter the Kansas people would get up a party of hunters and make a raid in this country. They would kill and slaughter the game by the wagon load and then haul it home to Kansas. I have seen turkeys here by the thousands. They would go out on the prairie and feed on grasshoppers and other insects. They went to the cantons for water and rustle in the timber. This land was occupied by cattlemen for several years prior to the opening. Ranches, with thousands of cattle, had grazing permit, but no one so far knows where they got it. This was the finest country for cattlemen to hold their herds until they were fat, then drive them north to market in Kansas. They were loaded on trains there and shipped farther northeast. The cowman left Oklahoma with much regret. It was ideal cattle country, with plenty of water and good grass, with good creeks and plenty of protection for the cattle in the draws, canyons along the creeks.

Story will continue next month -

— Vote No September 9th —

Three former chairmen of the Tulsa County Republican Party - Dick Freeman, Dr. Mike Ritz and Rich Gradel - have issued a statement asking county voters

to reject the billion dollar one penny sales tax hike vote on September 9th 2003. Don Burdick, the current chairman, has not announced support or opposition to the vote. Elaine Dodd, chairman of the Tulsa County Democratic Party, hasn't announced an official position, either. The letter from Freeman, Ritz and Gradel state: "As former chairmen of the Tulsa County Republican Party, we join together today to announce our opposition to the billion-dollar Tulsa County sales tax increase and to urge our fellow Tulsa County Republicans to vote no on September 9. "As Republicans, we stand with President Bush, and Republican members of the State Legislature on the main principle that taxes should be lower, so that hard-working Americans can keep more of their own money, free to spend and invest it as they see fit. As Chairmen, we worked closely with the grassroots of the party to elect Republicans to office & to advance our Republican principles. "We want to see Tulsa's economy move forward, but we know that no community has ever taxed its way into prosperity. "It makes no sense to raise local taxes at a time of economic recession, when our Republican President & Congress are cutting taxes to give some relief to hard-working Americans & to stimulate the economy. We urge our Republican elected officials to work instead to make government more efficient and to remove obstacles to starting and growing a business in the Tulsa region. "Some projects on the list involve growing government and will impose significant financial burdens on already-strained local government budgets for years to come. "Other projects seem worthwhile, but we should find ways to finance them without raising taxes. "Republicans believe in accountability with government. "The proposed tax gives a new public trust full authority to add, delete and change projects, so that this tax increase amounts to a billion-dollar blank check. "While we appreciate & support our Republican elected officials, we cannot agree with the proposed tax increase they have put before Tulsa County citizens. "We urge Tulsa County voters to reject the billion-dollar sales tax increase Sept. 9th, 03." Mayor Bill LaFortune & County Commission Chairman Bob Dick, both registered Republicans, are the leading proponents of the billion dollar tax increase.

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Turf Report

--- Labor Day Travel---

NEW YORK (Reuters) - A record number of travelers will take to the roads and skies this Labor Day weekend for the last vacation of the traditional summer season, the American Automobile Association said Tuesday.

Roughly 33.4 million people will travel 50 miles or more from home, up nearly 2 percent from last year to the highest level since at least 1995, when AAA changed its method of predicting travel volumes, the group said.

"The potentially record high holiday travel reflects continued strong vacation travel among Americans as the summer has progressed," Sandra Hughes, AAA Travel vice president, said in a press release.

The travel predictions were based on a survey of 1,300 adults, according to AAA, the largest motorist and travel club in the United States. It has more than 44 million members.

The vast majority plan to drive and not fly, carrying over a trend away from air travel since the Sept. 11 hijackings in 2001 triggered fears of fresh attacks on planes.

About 28.2 million travelers will go by car, up 2.2 percent from last year, while 3.7 million plan to go by airplane, down 2.6 percent from last year, AAA said.

The increased travel would add pressure to thin domestic fuel stockpiles, already depleted by disrupted oil exports from Iraq and low gasoline imports from Europe.

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Society Column-

YOUR GOVERNMENT AT WORK

Banned by county:

Dogs tied in yards

'A society is judged by how they
 treat their pets and their old people'

Florida., the region made infamous for its butterfly ballot in the 2000 presidential election, has just passed

a new dog restriction being praised by some pet owners, but could leave opponents of "big government" howling.

County bans untethered dogs in yards

Officials have made it illegal to tie up a dog outside during the day on your own property.

Specifically, the law – slated to take effect Sept. 1 – makes it a crime to tether a dog outdoors between the Dog owners who currently leave their pets chained or tied up outside must now bring the animal indoors during the mandated hours.

Penalties range from a written warning on the first offense to fines of \$500 and a mandatory court appearance by the fourth offense. Dog owners who currently leave their pets chained or tied up outside must now bring the animal indoors during the mandated hours.

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"Dogs that are chained outside are put through hell sometimes," Lake Worth resident Rosa Durando told the South Florida Sun-Sentinel. "A society is judged by how they treat their pets and their old people."

Commissioner Burt Aaronson was the sole vote against the ordinance, stating dogs provided with water, shade and long chains may fare better than animals kept inside. He also pointed out the new ban on tethering would likely discourage people from adopting pets.

The restriction was championed by Commissioner Mary McCarty, frustrated over the case of a dog tied up in hot weather with no water, and the county's inability to take action.

"We're not after good pet owners, but there are the abusers out there, and that's unfortunately why we have to have a law to go after them," she said, according to the paper.

Roving Reporter

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Looking For Luck ?

According to legend or folklore, wearing your birthstone brings good luck & protection. Each birthstone is said to have its own magical properties that may help ward off evil spirits or cure various ailments.

Peridot: Created from volcanic action- tiny peridot crystals are sometimes combed from black sands Hawaii. Lively lime green gemstone.

Myth: Banishes evil spirits, protects its wearer from terrors in the night, & strengthens sight and heart.

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Reflections In A Black Out

First, the lights flickered, then they went out. Then, they came on again. Then they went out, for good. August demand for air conditioning overloaded the circuits, I thought.

The hall was dark as I made my way down to "the nook," the guest studio at NBC's offices at 30 Rockefeller Center. I called MSNBC to volunteer a live report from "30 Rock" on the blackout and what was going on below on 6th Avenue. They said they would get back to me. But when they called, the phone did not ring. No matter what. The blackout was now an international story, from Detroit to Toronto to Connecticut. Fifty million had lost power.

My wife and I made our way down a darkened fire escape to emerge onto Sixth Avenue and walk the 10 blocks to Essex House. The restaurant was not serving, but we were handed bottles of water before taking the stairs to our room on the 7th floor. The electronic keys were still working. Then, it was a mini bar dinner of cashews, pretzels, potato chips and a Snickers bar. Junk food.

By morning, electricity was back, but cell phones were still not working and the planes not flying. There seemed no way out of the Big Apple. But when a car arrived to transport me to MS NBC, I told the driver to make it D.C.. Five hours later, we were at 400 N. Capitol St. in time for the 6 PM. show.

Yet during the night previous, as I looked out over the world's greatest city, suddenly gone dark, the vulnerability of our high-tech nation was transparent in the blackness that enveloped Central Park and the Upper East and West Side. Had this blackout lasted another 48 hours, the situation could have deteriorated with startling speed and gone ugly fast.

For the 8 million living there, food in refrigerators and freezers would have begun to spoil. With no electricity for stoves or ovens, nothing could have been cooked. Unless families had dry food on hand, scores of thousands would have had to go panic-buying at stores, where the shelves would have soon been empty.

Looking down on Central Park South the night of that blackout, one saw, in the glare of the headlights, folks on rollerblades and bicycles. The next morning, a line of SUVs was at the hotel, picking up passengers and luggage, and headed for the bridges and tunnels out of Manhattan. If you owned a car and had a tank of gas, you could make it 300 miles south to where the electricity was on.

But the lines at the gas pumps were lengthening, and one heard of stations already charging \$10 a gallon.

Hearing the sirens wail all night and wondering – were the cops racing to rescue trapped subway riders, or save citizens from muggers or looters? – I thought: If I lived here, Sullivan Law or no Sullivan Law, I would keep a gun, ammunition and a generator with fuel in the house to brighten up our darkness!

Tulsa's Communiqué



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