

# Willow Whispers News Group

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## **OKLAHOMA MEMORIES**

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 1800s. Joseph W. Bouse was interviewed by Arnold Aronson in 1937. Excerpts of the interview are sidebars of this newspaper through December of this year. The words, the spelling and most punctuation is original.

### **My Trip And Experience In The Opening Of Oklahoma**

I, Joseph W. Bouse, was one of 13 children. Nine of which were boys and four girls. All lived to see their 21st birthday and older. In 1888-1899 I was spending my winter in Florida. It was the custom for people to spend the winter in Florida and return north about April, which was my intention. But when President Cleveland issued the proclamation to open Oklahoma for settlement on the 22nd of April at 12 o'clock High noon, I decided to remain in Florida until the 19th of April. Instead of going back to Philadelphia, I decided to purchase a ticket to Purcell, Indian Territory, and take in the opening. There was a young man there in Florida by the name of Lee Mizell, who wanted to go with me. I knew he was a full blooded Florida Cracker, and never been out of the state. I said all right, Lee, I will be glad to have you. That was my first mistake. We arrived in Purcell on the evening of the 21st day of April, 1889. This was a small trading town on the railroad running north and south through the land to be opened.

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We found hundreds of people getting ready for the race next day. No accommodations left. You had to accommodate yourself as best you could. We made out very well during the night. Everything was wide open, and on the move all night. People were planning how they were going to cross the South Canadian River and where they were going to head for. Soldiers were patrolling the river for miles to keep the sooners out. Every once in a while they would bring someone out, turn them loose with orders not to try it again.

As the hour drew near we decided to start the race by going on the first train. Leaving there was five full trains standing ready to go. Continued next month

-W-W- Reporting Entertainment -

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## **Oklahoma Lottery**

For one of the Oklahoma Land lotteries where everyone had put their name into a hat. This lottery was for a drawing to find a winner for land in the opening of The Oklahoma Territory. A woman's name was drawn from the hat. She was declared the winner. There were protests of a woman winning the land. After reviewing the rulers of the lottery; the judges said that there wasn't a word in the rulers that prevented a woman from entering the lottery or winning the lottery. During the time everyone had to wait for an answer from the judges; the woman had marriage proposed to her by a half a dozen men.

- Reporter's Communiqué

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## Will Rogers Film Festival

The Tulsa by Cinemark Theatre, will be the site of the Will Rogers Film Festival, a special five-day event on March 2-6. Designed to honor one of Oklahoma's and America's most Famous Citizens, the film festival will feature screening of some of Rogers most famous movies as well as the unveiling of a new plaque to augment the statue in front of the theatre. The Will Rogers Memorial Commission and the Will Rogers Motion Picture Pioneer Foundation are co-sponsors of the event.

Jim Hartz, former NBC news anchor and Today Show host, now chairperson of the Will Rogers Memorial Commission says, "Cinemark USA demonstrates a strong understanding of the historic importance of Will Rogers in cinema. Will Rogers' movies are quality family entertainment of sustained value because of the sound philosophy he consistently voiced on the screen. We commend Cinemark USA." Adds Alan Stock, President of Cinemark USA, "Behind the incredibly successful Will Rogers movies feigns a rich philosophy of life. Will Rogers' character, hard work ethic, and timeless humor are guideposts for today. These are inspirational and entertaining movies starring a time-proven, quality role model for all generations. "Will Rogers starred in 21 "talkies," 50 silent films, he wrote 4,000 newspaper columns, and was syndicated in over 600 newspapers.

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He was a trick roper n vaudeville and later starred as a cowboy-humorist comedian in the Zeigfield Follies on Broadway for a decade.

Willow Whispers At The Movies -

## Happy Valentines Day!

**Love can never be measured  
Within those moments of time  
As we find ourselves together  
Within those timeless moments,**

**Understanding why Valentines  
Will come and go for ever,  
While our love of friendship  
Holds us together!**

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**Your Kindness**  
You may never do  
A kindness too soon,  
Because you will never  
Know how soon,  
It will be too late !!!



## 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.

### What is the myth behind your birthstone?

**February-Amethyst:** Found in pale lilac to rich, deep purple shades and available in almost any size and shape. **Myth:** Serves as a symbol of royal sover-eighty: prevents intoxication, plague and evil spells and protects its wearer from treason and deceit.

Art Gallery Commentator -

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## Philbrook Hosts - Native American Exhibit

“Changing Hands: Art Without Reservation,” the first exhibit in a three-part series examining Native American arts in the Southwest, will be on display at Philbrook Museum of Art through March 16th.

This groundbreaking series of exhibitions places contemporary Native American work in a broad context within current art and culture and includes works by 100 emerging and established artists, including cutting-edge work in clay, glass, fiber, jewelry, metal and wood.

The exhibition is sponsored in Tulsa by Chandler-Fates & Reitz, the Meing Family Foundation, Jack & Margaret Neely, Donald H. & Rita E. Newman, Ruth K. Nelson & Tom Murphy, the Kathleen Patton Westby Foundation, Friends of Native American Art, PACERS, the Oklahoma Arts Council, Linda & Ray Booker & James Potts & Wulfers, Inc.

In connection with the exhibition, the Contemporary American Master Craft Series returns to Philbrook. This is an opportunity for participants to learn directly from experts in art and design. This biennial series features a workshop and a public lecture open to the public for a minimal fee. Featured in 2003 is Richard Zane Smith, renowned for reawakening the legacy of Southwest Anasazi pottery, while adding contemporary color and design. Smith’s work is featured in the “Changing Hands: Art Without Reservation” exhibition and is also represented in Philbrook’s permanent collection.

To enroll in the workshop or for more information, call 748-5375. Pre-registration is required.

The workshop will take place on Saturday, March 8th from 10AM until 5PM. This hands-on exploration of the corrugated pottery techniques from the Southwest begins with a visual introduction to the ancient Anasazi vessels of Northern Arizona. Smith will then guide participants through finding and processing native clays as they develop a feeling for and familiarity with the corrugated process. The cost for the workshop is \$60 and includes a box lunch.

The public lecture will be held Sunday, March 9th at 2PM. Smith will discuss his own life and work, as well as the Native American Art movement in a slide presentation. Open discussion is encouraged during the question-and-answer period following the lecture. The presentation will take place in Philbrook’s Patti Johnson Wilson Hall and is free with museum admission.

For more information about this, call Philbrook Museum at 749-7941.

- Reporter of Native Arts -

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