

## OUR HERITAGE

Published By  
SAPULPA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
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membership or donations.

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Mike Jeffries

### OFFICE ASSISTANT

Shanna Rutledge

[shannarutledge@tulsacoxmail.com](mailto:shannarutledge@tulsacoxmail.com)

Midtown Mini Storage Available

### SAPULPA HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Admission: FREE. Donations accepted.

Hours of Operation:  
Monday - Thursday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tour Groups by appointment

Handicapped Accessible

## **OUR HERITAGE** Today

Volume XXXXIII No. 1

March & April, 2011

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Larry White has joined our SHS board replacing Ted Fisher.  
Larry will be a valuable asset to our board.  
Thank you, Ted for your years of service and good advice!

Sapulpa Historical Society will be hosting NECOMA (Northeast Central Oklahoma Museum Association) Meeting May 2, 2011.

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THANK YOU! TO ALL SAPULPA HISTORICAL MUSEUM  
VOLUNTEERS for putting in 6,592 hours of service in 2010

The MUSEUM Had 1,271 VISITORS in 2010

*Welcome New Volunteers*  
*Larry Lawrence and Christy Jeffries*

### **NEW LIFE MEMBERS**

Mrs. Johnnie Curry, Sean Downs Law Office, David Riley

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### **GIFT SHOP ITEMS FOR SALE**

*History Book 2010: "Sapulpa OK! The Greatest City in the Known World" by Peter D. Egan - \$35.00 plus \$5.00 S/H.*  
*We have lots of gift items: T-shirts, Games, Books, & Jewelry.*  
Come in and have a look around.

### **MIDTOWN MINI STORAGE**

114 EAST LEE AVENUE IN SAPULPA  
Fenced & Gated Storage units with controlled access  
Convenient Downtown Sapulpa Location  
Call Shanna at 918-224-4871



Early Day Sapulpa

*If you have any suggestions for OUR HERITAGE please respond to this Email. We also want to hear your Family stories of Sapulpa. THANK YOU for your contributions!*

# *OUR HERITAGE* Today

## MUSEUM UPDATES

The last few months have been very eventful for the Society. We had 140 people attend our annual banquet in November. The banquet committee did a wonderful job with the table settings, the Sapulpa High School Jazz band entertained us, and Gary Box provided a very pleasant musical background for the evening. Our Master of Ceremonies, Ron Gibson introduced our guest speaker, Phyllis Logsdon, a Gilley from the Gilcrease museum, who gave an illustrated presentation on "From Sage Brush to Statehood".

The members voted to accept Judge Richard Woolery and Bob Langston as new board members, and Mike Jeffries as the new vice president. Members also voted to changes proposed to the Society's by laws making them gender neutral and a change to the Declaration of Trust allowing the trustees the right to transfer a limited amount of money to the Society if it should be needed to cover the expenses of daily operations.

Doris Yocham's retirement was covered in the last newsletter but I would like to add my personal appreciation for her help and advice. She is feeling better and has been working with other volunteers on Wednesdays and assisting in the office while Shanna has been out on medical leave. Doris' next project is to create a brochure for the museum, as we have not had one for some time.

The Foundation purchased the building that used to be Standard Auto Parts at 124 E. Lee and the building at 122 E. Lee where Jack Young has operated for many years. They have included them with the mini storage operations to help provide income for the Society. Trustee President Russell Crosby will update us on that project in our next newsletter.

Treasurer David Beyer has prepared budgets for the next 3 years and we are currently working on a strategic plan guided by the local Vo-Tech Business Center. We hope to be able to present our suggestions to the board in April for review. The committee includes volunteers from the different areas of the museum. We will give you an update once the plan has been finalized. We have also started work on a documentary of the history of Sapulpa and vicinity. This is a long process and we have only just begun. We will not be using any of the museum operating funds for the making of the documentary so if anyone wishes to donate to this project please note on the check that it is for the documentary. I will provide updates on this project next month.

Monday night, March 28<sup>th</sup>, the Waite Phillips Station (we finished last year) won a statewide award at the Oklahoma Main Street award ceremony. Our thanks to Chief Eaton for his vision and many hours of hard work to complete this project. What was once an eyesore across the street from the museum is now a beautiful museum of it's own. We intend to utilize this asset to draw visitors to the museum and to the Sapulpa area.

I've run out of room for this letter and have much more to talk about regarding the many projects on which the volunteers are working. If you haven't been to the museum lately, come see us. If you have a reunion planned, let us know so we can have volunteers available to give you a tour. If you have a story for the newsletter, send it along. ....Till next time .....

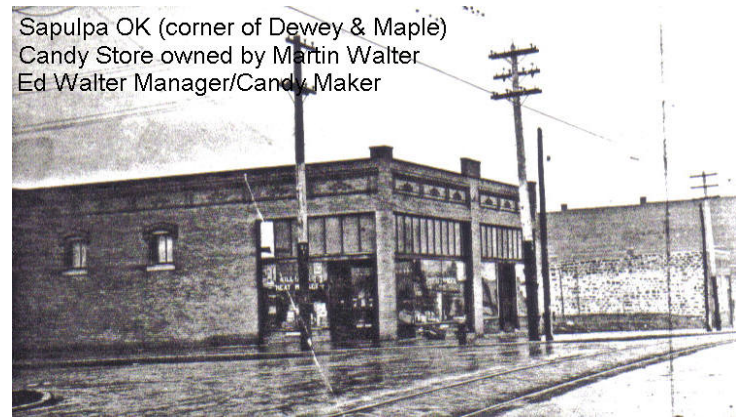
Mike Jeffries, Vice President

P.S. If you have any information or questions about the articles in the "OUR HERITAGE" Newsletter, please submit to Sapulpa Historical Society Email at [sapulpahistsoc@tulsacoxmail.com](mailto:sapulpahistsoc@tulsacoxmail.com)

Martin V. Walter



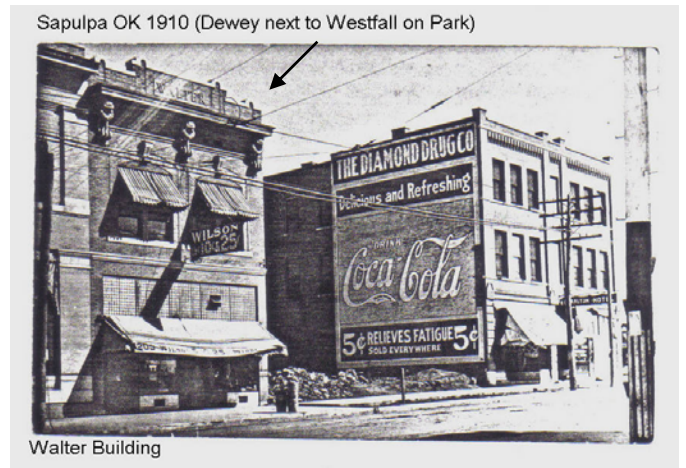
WALTER Building Today



Sapulpa OK (corner of Dewey & Maple)  
Candy Store owned by Martin Walter  
Ed Walter Manager/Candy Maker



Sapulpa OK Bank building owned by Martin Walter



Sapulpa OK 1910 (Dewey next to Westfall on Park)

Walter Building

## ONCE UPON A TIME . . .

In 1906 four Walter brothers left their home in Mt. Vernon, Indiana to explore America. Martin, Fred, Edward and Henry came to Sapulpa and found an exceptional healthy community environment and possibility for successful business interests and decided to make this their home.

Article excerpt taken from the Mt. Vernon Democrat, Indiana, 1907:

### MARTIN WALTER

#### Speaks Glowingly of Oklahoma; Sees Wonderful Opportunities in New State

"Sapulpa, which city will be my home, is a sturdy youngster of 7,000, which will be 10,000 by Jan. 1st next. So firmly do I believe in the future of this city, I am investing my money in her real estate. It is the most promising place I was ever in and I would like to see some of my friends get in on the ground floor."

"Sapulpa is the County seat of Moman County (now Creek), which contains 912 square miles, or 583,680 acres, more than twice as large as Posey County (Ind.). It abounds in untold agricultural and mineral wealth. The soil is fine for all kinds of farming, and there is room for thousands, who can get in on easy terms. The climatic conditions are ideal."

"The Frisco Rail Road Company runs twenty-seven heavy passenger trains through Sapulpa daily, each of which stops there twenty minutes to change crews, etc. You can imagine what a bustle that makes. New oil wells are being sunk every day and new industries of all kinds appear as if by magic. It is estimated that half a million dollars will be spent in improvements this summer and that from 2,000 to 3,000 workmen will be employed in the work. Public improvements keep apace with the times and asphalt streets, electric lines and the like are being built."

"This is no 'boom country', the kind that goes up like a sky-rocket and comes down like a stick. It is just a healthy, substantial growth, incidental to the opening of a comparatively new country. Realizing that there is enough in our family to justify our branching out, and as you know, I have spent considerable time and money in traveling over the country in close observance, in search of an 'El Dorado', I now believe I have met my opportunity and I intend to grasp it and risk my all on it. It is the coming country, and there are openings there in all lines--business, professional, skilled and unskilled labor and farming. Everybody who goes there and does right is given the glad hand. The country must be seen to be appreciated. Words cannot do it justice."

Submitted by Christy Jeffries –Martin Walter's Granddaughter



## KUDOS

Oklahoma Main Street's "Starry, Starry Night" 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Award Banquet on March 28, 2011 in Oklahoma City at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum was attended by 37 Sapulpan.

Sapulpa Historical Society won the "Premier Partner" Award for the renovation of the Waite Phillips Station at the corner of Lee and Water.

*The following story was printed in the OMA brochure:*

[The Sapulpa Historical Society is a great asset to this community and especially to Sapulpa Main Street. They keep impeccable records, an amazing archive of documents and beautifully preserved pictures. The Sapulpa Historical Society renovated the three-story museum building downtown and continues to make improvements. They decided to purchase the old Waite Phillips Filling Station across the street from the museum (100 E. Lee), a dilapidated eye sore that they took on as a Centennial project. Director Doris Yocham (recently retired) approached Sapulpa Main Street for guidance and requested design assistance from the Oklahoma Main Street office. The State Main Street office had their architect do a drawing and make suggestions about what could be done. It was decided to make the Waite Phillips Filling Station look as much as it did in the 1920's as possible. It took three years, two façade grants from Sapulpa Main Street and several fundraisers to complete the project. It cost \$200,000 to complete the project and is a monument to tenacity. The Sapulpa Historical Society is very proud to contribute such a wonderful project to downtown. Part of their history destined for demolition has been saved.]

Sapulpa Main Street also won three outstanding awards for their beneficial assistance for the renovation of the Well's Building. Congratulations Main Street, and thank you for your support of the historical preservation of Sapulpa!



## WE GET LETTERS . . .

Sapulpa had a definite impact on my journalism career. When I was a teen-age cub reporter on The Tulsa Tribune, I was assigned to follow veteran reporters to learn the business. One day there was a major fire in downtown Sapulpa. Our police reporter was Roy Hanna, quite a wild man in some ways, and I remember riding with him as he was doing 92 mph and passing people on the shoulder of the "New" (but still two-lane) U.S. 66. We made it back with photos by deadline, but I never rode with Hanna again.

The next year I covered Sapulpa and Sand Springs, driving to each daily to see what news tidbits and occasional more substantive stories I could dig up. If you remember the awful summer temperatures of the mid-'50s, you'll know it's true when I say I could see my tire tracks etched into the softened asphalt of old Highway 97. I also remember that there were few air-conditioned businesses at that time, and those that were there seemed to draw this newsman's attention quite often.

Sapulpa even came to my rescue. I had driven to Tulsa with three Colorado friends, and we were going down to see the university at Norman. Between Tulsa and Sapulpa on the Turner Turnpike a water hose blew in the vintage car we had. We took the hood off and held it atop the car to help cool the engine, then limped to the Sapulpa exit. A short distance from the toll gate was a garage, which had us back up and running -- or at least moving -- within an hour and something. We easily could have been stranded in the middle of one of the longer stretches on the turnpike.

Journalism took me to Colorado, Minnesota and Alaska before returning to Oklahoma to put in 30-plus years at The Tribune. I was the editor when the paper was purchased by the World in 1992 and The Tribune eased publication. That career made me one of four members of my family (grandfather, dad and uncle) to be inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame. I have to thank Sapulpa in no small way for putting my feet on that path. - Jenk Jones, Jr.

[The *Sapulpa Daily Herald*, "Creek County's Only Daily Newspaper," is a six-day (Sunday through Friday) daily newspaper published in Sapulpa, Oklahoma, United States. It is owned by the Sumner family, owner of four other Oklahoma papers.

Founded in September 1914 by John W. Young and O.S. Todd, the *Sapulpa Daily Herald* later merged with the older *Sapulpa Evening Light* -- the city's oldest newspaper, founded in 1896 as a weekly, and relaunched as a daily in 1908 -- when the *Light's* publisher, Oren Miller Ireland, entered a partnership with Young. By the time the two sold the *Herald* to R.P. Matthews in 1944, it was one of only two newspapers in the city (there had, at one point, been six).

The Matthews family sold to Ed Livermore in 1959; he bought out his only competitor, the weekly *County Democrat News*, in 1965. Livermore, a Sapulpa resident after whom the University of Oklahoma journalism chair is named, was the last local owner. He sold the *Herald* to Roy H. Park in 1979; Park sold to Community Newspaper Holdings in 1997. The *Herald* changed owners again in October 2007, when CNHI sold it and two other papers to the Sumner family.]

Excerpt taken from the Sapulpa Daily Herald Website



## INTERESTING VISITORS

On March 25, 2011, a busload of Comanche came to visit the Museum. Several mentioned that they wanted to know more about the Native Americans that live in the area. They had heard of the Creek but the mention of Euchee puzzled most so we are sending them the following information.

Submitted by Susan Johnson, Sapulpa Public Library [susan@sapulpa.lib.ok.us](mailto:susan@sapulpa.lib.ok.us)

### Euchee History

Tsoyaha, "Children of the Sun" were called by the Cherokee in Tennessee, "the people who were here before us." The English who arrived in the early 1600's found the people who spoke like no one else. Anthropologists today still can not figure out where the language came from. No other tribe speaks the Yuchi language.

The Yuchi in the Southeast built their villages and building totally round. They were mound builders, also. Present day Tybee Island, near Savannah, Ga., was the site of a large brine drying facility. The Yuchi then sent the salt crystals to other Yuchi towns.

Yuchi villages were scattered across a large area, from the Ohio River to the South Atlantic Coast to the Gulf Coast.

In the 1700's many Yuchi people were taken and sent as slaves to other countries. Their lands were taken and given to the Cherokees. The government grouped the Yuchi in with the Muskogee Creeks, and were sent with them to Oklahoma in the 1830's.

Today, Sapulpa, Ok. is the headquarters of the Euchee Tribe. Chairman Andrew Skeeter is the head of the tribe, and there is a Chief of each Stomp Ground. A few years ago, five people spoke the language, but due to a grant, The Euchee Language Office is teaching the children and adults of the Tribe.

They celebrate the Green Corn Festival, and each year there is a Euchee Festival. At this time, due to another grant, the Tribe is submitting a plea to become a Federally recognized Tribe. The Sapulpa Library received a grant and began researching the history of the Yuchi people. To date, photos, histories of the people, and the research is available to read and study.