

BARTLESVILLE AREA HISTORY MUSEUM

PROTECT. COLLECT. PRESERVE. SHARE.



BAHM PRESENTS *END OF THE LINE: THE SHORT HISTORY OF BARTLESVILLE'S INTERURBAN RAILWAY*

DELANEY WILLIAMS, MUSEUM COORDINATOR

Each season brings a new and exciting exhibit to Bartlesville Area History Museum's Pioneer Gallery. While each exhibit is special in its own right, the current exhibit is something not to be missed: The History of Bartlesville's Interurban Railway.

Many Bartians may be unaware that Bartlesville used to have its own streetcar system. The Bartlesville Interurban Railway Company began construction in 1908 and made traveling across town easy for community members. The line traveled out to Smelertown, made a loop around Bartlesville, crossed the Caney River, headed up to the then-separate community of Tuxedo, and found its final stop on E. Don Tyler, near the Dewey Hotel.

"The Interurban is a fascinating chapter in Bartlesville and Dewey's history," says Collections Manager, Debbie Neece, "We are so excited to present this part of our story to the community. We highly encourage everyone to come to see the exhibit."

The exhibit features artifacts from the trolley as well as a fun photo opp in the "Theodore G. Barlas Candy Shop," and an interactive model Interurban map for kids to play with.

The exhibit will be on display through February 25th. The Museum is open Monday through Friday 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM. For more information, contact the Museum at 918.338.4290 or history@cityofbartlesville.org.

OSAGE COUNTY MOVIE... IT'S A WRAP!

DEBBIE NEECE, COLLECTIONS MANAGER

Phyllis E. Grann's list of accomplishments is extensive including being a former book editor and the former CEO of the Putnam Penguin Publishing. So, her son, David Grann came by his journalistic mastery naturally and is no stranger to researching and writing. He earned his master's degree in creative writing at Boston University and even taught courses on the subject there. His love of writing has brought him the title of American journalist but his work is much richer than the title. He has received six prestigious journalism awards including the George Polk Award. He is a staff writer for The New Yorker magazine and has written for The Atlantic, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, and more. At this point, he has four books to his credit and has achieved his goal of developing a career as a novel artist. Among his most profitable endeavors has been "Killers of the Flower Moon: An American Crime and the Birth of the FBI."

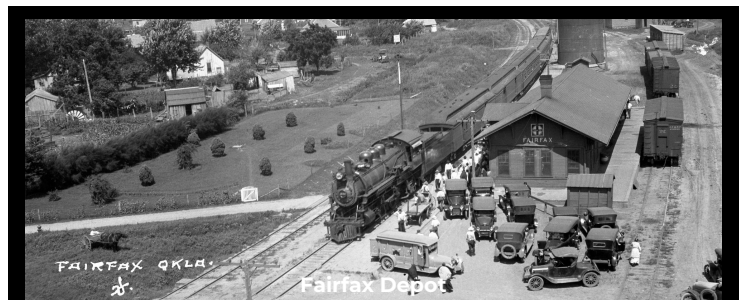
But how did this all happen? When David Grann arrived at the Bartlesville Area History Museum in 2014, he was a little disheartened. He had visited the Osage County Tribal Museum in Pawhuska in search of answers to questions that were floating in his head with a plan of telling



Bill Hill Trading Company, 1926



Bill Hill Trading Company reconstructed for filming, 2021



Fairfax Depot



Fairfax Depot reconstructed for filming, 2021



The panoramic photo mentioned in *Killers of the Flower Moon*



the story of the Osage people. However, generations ago the Osage were deeply injured as a tribe by greed and murder and David found the Osage were not willing to speak to him about the “devil man,” Bill Hale

My knowledge of the subject centered around the Foster Blanket Oil Lease and the riches of the Osage but I was limited past that timeframe. However, my dear friend George Weston of Fairfax served on boards and knew the people David needed to speak with, so I offered to introduce him should he return to Oklahoma. Several weeks later, David called upon the favor and we spent the better part of the day with George who shared his massive knowledge and extensive collection of Osage County photos. From that point, David was introduced to the Redcorn family and others. He then came to Oklahoma for three weeks at a time researching, learning, and dining with his new Osage friends.

On April 18, 2017, the book was released. David sent me a copy of the book and asked me to visit with him at a book signing at the Water Bird Gallery in Pawhuska. The Water Bird conversation lasted 45 minutes as he continued to greet people, sign books and talk about the three-year adventure that brought him to the book signing day. He signed a book for George Weston as well, giving George



enormous credit for helping bring the book to reality. The following Monday morning, David arrived at the Bartlesville Area History Museum and introduced his publicist on their way to the airport. Shortly thereafter another signed copy of his book arrived for me, thanking me again for all of my help. Then came the movie announcement!

Soon the History Museum was receiving calls from the movie crew and we were Osage County escorts showing the crew the sites pertinent to the book locations. I have to say, although my friend George Weston was in failing health, he enjoyed every minute of his involvement.

The financial benefits have been huge for Osage and Washington Counties and our residents have enjoyed seeing Martin Scorsese, Leonardo DiCaprio, Robert De Niro, Barry Corbin, and other rich and famous on the streets of Pawhuska. Facebook has been alive with photos capturing the actors and daily movie happenings. The last of the movie crew left this area at the end of October. The “word on the street” is the \$200 billion budgeted movie will be titled “Gray Horse” and be released (if all goes well) in late 2022. It’s a wrap, so now with great anticipation...we wait.



BAHM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

END OF THE LINE: THE SHORT LIFE OF BARTLESVILLE'S INTERURBAN RAILWAY

DECEMBER - FEBRUARY | 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM MONDAY - FRIDAY

The special exhibit "End of the Line: The Short Life of Bartlesville's Interurban Railway" is on display through February 25, 2022.

INTERURBAN RAILWAY SCAVENGER HUNT

DECEMBER - FEBRUARY | 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Bring your kids to BAHM to enjoy exploring the exhibit "End of the Line: The Short Life of Bartlesville's Interurban Railway" through a free scavenger hunt. All children who participate will receive a "History Hero" sticker.

ALL ABOARD THE INTERURBAN RAILWAY

THURSDAY 1.20.2022 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM MONDAY - FRIDAY

Join the Bartlesville Area History Museum for the first Third Thursday event of 2022. The Museum will be open from 6:00 - 8:00 PM for visitors to tour the permanent gallery and the special exhibit "End of the Line: The Short Life of Bartlesville's Interurban Railway". Rudy Geissler will deliver a presentation about the Interurban Railway at 6:30 PM. Light refreshments will be provided and kids can enjoy a trolley-themed coloring station.

DATE NIGHT ON THE INTERURBAN

THURSDAY 2.17.2022 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Bring your sweetheart to the Bartlesville Area History Museum for a special Valentine-themed event. Enjoy dinner in Pioneer Gallery and explore BAHM's permanent gallery and special exhibit "End of the Line: The Short Life of Bartlesville's Interurban Railway." Preorder dinner tickets at bartlesvillehistory.com. More details will be announced on the BAHM Facebook page.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH TEA

TUESDAY 3.15.2022 | 1:30 PM

Join the Bartlesville Area History Museum for a special tea celebrating Women's History Month. All ages are welcome to attend. Enjoy snacks, tea, and a presentation on women's history. Please RSVP by March 12 by calling 918.338.4290 or emailing history@cityofbartlesville.org.

THE WOMEN WHO SHAPED BARTLESVILLE

THURSDAY 3.17.2022 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Join the Bartlesville Area History Museum for a special Third Thursday event in honor of Women's History Month. Enjoy a presentation about the women of Bartlesville's history at 6:30. Light refreshments will be served and kids can enjoy a Women's History Month coloring station.



Education Coordinator Betty Keim gives a tour at the November Third Thursday event



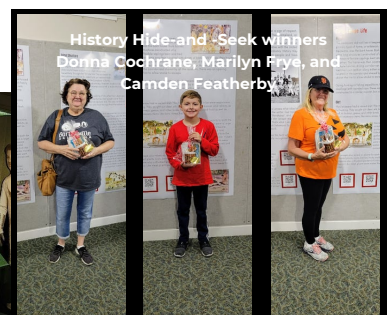
(L - R) Curtis Zunigha, Chief Brad Killscrow, Delaware Princess Morgan Messimore, Anita Mathis, and Tim Renner at the November 30 Delaware Livestream event



Mr. and Mrs. Claus visit BAHM on December 2nd



CynDy Parker, granddaughter of CynDy and Bill Parker visits BAHM



History Hide-and-Seek winners Donna Cochrane, Marilyn Frye, and Camden Featherby

MR. WILDCAT, JIM HESS

BETTY KEIM, EDUCATION COORDINATOR

The passing of Jim Hess marked the loss of a Bartlesville icon. A Col-High wildcat through and through, Hess took pride in Bartlesville and left our city a better place.

Hess began his lifelong education at Garfield Elementary. Many classmates gravitated toward his fun-loving and outgoing personality and he had many friends. At Central, his mischievous behavior continued, as evidenced by his name appearing on shop teacher Mr. Ward's infamous paddle that Ward required all students to sign following their consequence. (Eventually said paddle was "liberated" by fellow troublemaker R.H Crook and presented to Jim Hess in 1996. The paddle now makes its home at the Bartlesville Area History Museum thanks to Hess's generous donation.)

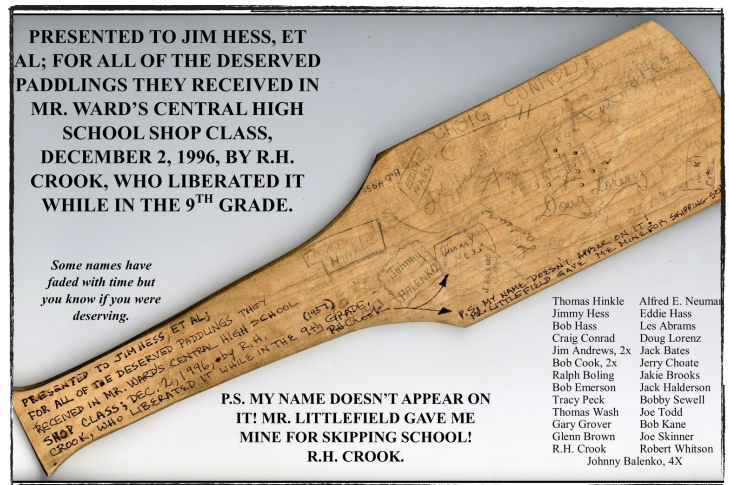
Hess was a devoted College High Wildcat. He thoroughly enjoyed his time there and left with many happy memories. When the Col-Hi Alum would get together to reminisce about the good old days, Hess would take the lead in organizing the celebrations. At one of these reunions, a full nine-block area of downtown had to be closed to traffic for the festivities.

Hess continued to honor his memories of Col-Hi by helping the next generation. In what he described as a "God whisper" that came to him during his morning shower, Hess came up with a plan for the College High School Scholarship to help kids who did not have the means to attend college on their own. He described the plan as "Truly the greatest idea I've ever had. I've had a lot of great ideas that benefitted me, but this idea truly benefits everyone."





(L - R) Carl McCullough, Jim Hess, and Jan McCullough



Nothing benefits humanity like education.” Each alumni participating in the program is asked to make a yearly donation in the amount of their graduation year (\$19.66, for example), a fun way to honor their legacy at the school and help the community. The scholarship fund has helped 141 graduates attend college since its creation in 1987 and handed out 224 awards.

In addition to being an active Col-Hi Alumni, Hess was President of the Bartlesville Historical Society for three terms and was passionate about preserving and sharing history. Hess was involved in the establishment of the Bartlesville Area History Museum, specifically the replica 1800s one-room schoolhouse that sits in the corner of the facility. Hess searched high and low to find authentic furniture and other furnishings to make the schoolhouse feel real for the countless students who would go on to visit it. The College High School Scholarship fund, keeping with its mission to benefit the community through education, paid for the construction of the schoolhouse. Local students continue to enjoy the Nelson Carr One-Room Schoolhouse as a part of field trips to the Museum.

From all of us here at the Bartlesville Area History Museum, thank you Jim for all you did to make this world a better place. Your legacy lives on through the lives you’ve touched.



Col High Alumni at the BAHM's Coffee with Carl Event, July 2021

MUSEUM STAFF

DIRECTOR - SHELLIE MCGILL
DAILY OPERATIONS MANAGER - DENISE GOFF
COLLECTIONS MANAGER - DEBBIE NEECE
DELANEY WILLIAMS - MUSEUM COORDINATOR
REGISTRAR - KASEY WERTS
EDUCATION COORDINATOR - BETTY KEIM
MUSEUM CLERK/TEMP - TAMRA ROGERS
MUSEUM CLERK/TEMP - NAOMI SEAVER

VISITATION STATS

VISITORS FOR 2021: 1660

STATES: AL, AR, AZ, CA, CO, FL, NY, GA, IA, IL, KS,
KY, LA, MD, MI, MN, MO, MS, MT, NC, ND, NE, NJ, NM,
NV, NY, PA, OH, OK, OR, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, WA, WI

COUNTRIES: CANADA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF
CONGO, ENGLAND, MEXICO, PORTUGAL, USA

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401 S. JOHNSTONE AVENUE, 5TH FLOOR
BARTLESVILLE, OK 74003

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PAST PERFECT ONLINE DATABASE:
BARTLESVILLEHISTORY.PASTPERFECTONLINE.COM

MUSEUM HOURS
MONDAY - FRIDAY: 8:30-4:00
CLOSED SATURDAY, SUNDAY, AND HOLIDAYS

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THE BAHM NEWSLETTER IS GOING VIRTUAL! JOIN OUR MAILING LIST TO STAY UP TO DATE ON WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE MUSEUM. SCAN THE QR CODE WITH YOUR CELL PHONE CAMERA TO BE TAKEN TO A FORM TO SIGN UP FOR THE E-NEWSLETTER. YOU'LL GET REMINDERS ABOUT SPECIAL EVENTS, GUEST SPEAKERS, AND MUCH MORE!



AASLH

American Association
for State and Local History

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