

George ODell dies suddenly in his home

One of Oklahoma's most admired and loved archeologists, George H. ODell, 69, died suddenly at his home Oct. 14 in Tulsa.

He is survived by his wife, Frieda, also an archeologist, and brothers Allan Evans Odell of Redding, Calif. and Clinton (Carol) Odell of Edina, Minn.

George and his wife were long time members and frequent contributors to the Oklahoma Anthropological Society. He was preparing to speak at the 2011 OAS Fall Meeting at the time of his death.

A Commentorative Service was held Oct. 27. Memorials were directed to Doctors Without Borders in care of All Souls Unitarian Church, Tulsa.

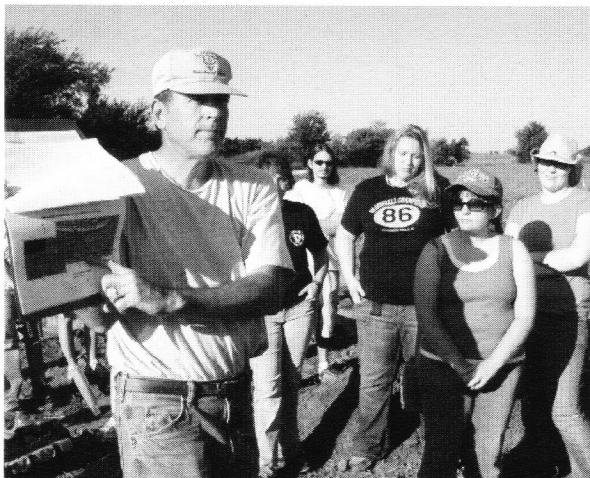
A native of Minneapolis, Minn., George ODell graduated in 1960 from the highly-respected Edina East High. He received his BA and MAT from Yale. He followed with a PhD in Anthropology/Archaeology at Harvard.

He taught in Beirut, Lebanon; Zug, Switzerland; Winchester, Mass.; University of Vancouver, British Columbia; and Brown University.

Odell was an anthropology professor for 25 years at the University of Tulsa. He led studies of historic and prehistoric sites in and outside Oklahoma.

The university has

(See ODell Page 6)



NORMAN ARCHEOLOGIST Richard Drass explains his findings to school visitors in this 2009 photo at Bryson-Paddock. Next spring OAS will dig again at the 18th century Wichita Indian village. See Story Page 7.

On Your OAS Calendar

Dec. 9-10 OAS Lab Days
Jan. 28 OAS Winter Board Meeting
May 25 - June 3 OAS Spring Dig

New chair named

Membership effort showing results

An effort to boost OAS membership is getting results, Interim chair Cathy Compton said at the Fall Meeting.

Held Oct. 29 in Tulsa, the early morning session mixed good news and bad. While the OAS membership is growing again and nears the 400 mark, board members were saddened to hear of the death of Dr. George Odell.

The 8 a.m. OAS Board meeting was held at the home of Tracy and Nancy Foster, parents of Treasurer Cari Foster. The session preceded the 10:30 a.m. Fall Membership Meeting at Gilcrease Museum.

Treasurer Cathy Compton reported balances in the General Fund of \$11,907, General Savings Fund of \$30,532, and Dig Fund, \$3,162.

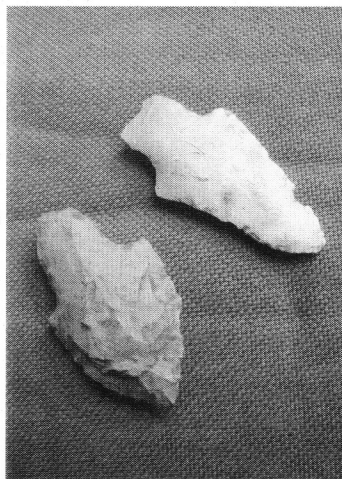
Perhaps the best news was
(See Fall Meeting Page 3)

Foundation outline of Rose Hill Plantation yields after OAS, History Society dig in

The foundation puzzle at the Rose Hill mansion is starting to come together, lead archeologist Amanda Regnier said.

Under her direction and the efforts of volunteers, the 2011 Fall OAS Dig revealed an L-shaped building. A stout rock foundation outlines a structure 50 feet wide and about 15 feet deep. It faces south. The east wing is about 70 feet long and 12 feet wide.

"We have photos and also accounts from the 1930s," said Regnier at her Oklahoma Archeological Sur-



Among flint points found at the OAS Fall Dig at Rose Hill are these beauties.

vey office in Norman. "They pretty much match what we've found in the ground."

It hasn't been easy. Several foundations, some from a fill trench and others simply piles of stone and brick, have emerged over four excavations.

Volunteers from OAS and the Oklahoma Historical Society gathered Oct. 6-10 at the site near Hugo. Although finally getting past the buckets of glass and nails unearthed in earlier digs, they still fell short of finding signifi-

(See Rose Hill Page 4)



Trowel Marks Newsletter

is a quarterly publication
of The Oklahoma Anthropological Society

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Membership

An application to join the Society or renew your membership for the year, and information about OAS activities, publications and its contribution to Oklahoma archeology, is in this OAS Newsletter and on the OAS Website www.okarcheology.org.

OAS offers varied memberships. All members receive the Society's annual *Bulletin of Oklahoma Archeology* and the quarterly *Trowel Marks Newsletter*. Contributing, Sustaining, Life, and Institutional members also receive all OAS Memoirs. For more information, contact Dorothy Linn, OAS Membership, (405) 202-5366.

Publications

Order handbooks, point guides, memoirs, and other publications of The Society from Mary McHard, OAS Publications, 812 NW 42, Oklahoma City, OK 73118 or by contacting her via email at dmmchard@flash.net. Publications are listed on the OAS Website.

Contact the OAS Newsletter

Editor Jon Denton and Co-Editor Diana Denton
(405) 376-0074 or jonrdenton@aol.com.

Opinions in this publication, unless otherwise identified, are those of the editor and contributors and do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society.

~ Events of Interest ~

Standing Exhibits

Black Mesa Exhibit new in Hall of Natural Wonders; a 2,000-square-foot diorama on ecosystems in western Oklahoma with dozens of mounted and cast animals. Sam Noble Museum of Natural History, Norman.

Artifacts from the Holy Lands, Novak-Ginnings Biblical Artifacts Collection, new permanent exhibit, Beam Library, Oklahoma Christian University, Oklahoma City.

The Bison: An American Icon interactive buffalo game in conjunction with national traveling exhibit. Appears through Jan. 7, 2012, Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center, Lawton. Call (580) 353-0404.

December

9-10 OAS Laboratory volunteer days, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. Rose Hill Plantation artifacts. Earns Certification Program hours. Oklahoma Archeological Survey, University of Oklahoma South Campus, Norman. Call (405) 325-7211

10 Fort Gibson Candlelight Tour of 1864 life of soldiers, refugees and citizens, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., Historic Gibson. Reservations available. Call (918) 478-4088.

17 Fort Reno Post Cemetery Wreath Laying, 1 p.m., Daughters of the American Revolution join National Wreaths Across America campaign by laying handmade wreaths on military graves in the old Post Cemetery. Fort Reno, El Reno. Call (405) 262-3987.

18 Fort Reno Christmas Guns Celebration, 2-4 p.m. Celebration from German and American folklore on the Post Parade Grounds. Fort Reno, El Reno. Call (405) 262-3987.

21 Spiro Winter Solstice Walks, 11 a.m., 2 and 7 p.m., Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro. Handicap accessible tours. Learn history and story of the mounds and why they align with the solstice and equinox sunsets. Call (918) 962-2062.

31 OAS nomination deadline for annual awards. Contact Mary McHard at dmmchard@flash.net.

January

8 Wolf to Woof exhibit ends, interactive exhibit on the nature and history of dogs, Sam Noble Museum, Norman. Contact www.snomnh.ou.edu.

28 OAS Winter Board Meeting, (tentative) 1:30 p.m., Oklahoma Archeological Survey, University of Oklahoma South Campus, Norman. Call (405) 325-7211.

Trowel Marks

OAS President Debra Baker

This has been an extremely busy six months since I have taken over as President. It seems that within a week of that moment, I have had one thing after another. October was a whirlwind of activities.

The Fall Dig was Oct. 6-10 at Rose Hill Plantation near Hugo. It was extremely beautiful weather and we had a great turnout, especially with the addition of 12 college students to our OAS membership.

The annual Fall Meeting was Oct. 29 at Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, with another excellent turnout. The autumn time of year and the change of the trees and their leaves added just the right touches to make an extraordinary day set in the Osage hills.

I want to give a special thank you to Andy Slaucaitajs and the Tulsa Archaeological Society for making this happen. Andy and the chapter did such a great job, they could not have done it any better.

Also a thank you to the Gilcrease Museum for having us.

* * *

In addition to the Fall Meeting, the OAS board had the quarterly meeting early that morning. In reviewing some of the bylaws, it was determined that there might need to be a little updating.

One bylaw in particular concerns the time we have the fall meeting. In the OAS By-laws, it states that the meeting is to be held in October. This year, and in previous years, we have had several conflicts.

We have the OAS fall activity, and then an addition of several archeological conferences that month, including the Plains Conference that almost all of the archaeologists in the state attend.

Therefore, it was suggested that we put more flexibility in the fall meeting. Most likely the by-laws will give a time frame of mid-September to mid-November to try to free up a very busy month. Charles Cheatham is preparing a bylaws change for a vote of members.

* * *

The OAS has now set up a gmail account, okla.anthro.society@gmail.com to communicate important information to members.

We will be able to send out information between quarterly newsletters. Also, we will be able to send out reminders about



OAS Annual meetings, including an agenda of events, information about Spring Digs, Fall Activities and Chapter Meetings held in your area.

Emails have already been sent to our members. If you have not received one, then we do not

Fall Meeting

(Continued from Page 1)

Compton's membership report. It showed a 2011 growth of 67. Adjusted for loss, the membership total stands at 394. Last year at the same time, OAS reported membership at 356.

In other financial decisions, after Past President Charles Cheatham noted rising costs, the board raised Contributing Membership to \$35, Sustaining Membership to \$45. Effective immediately, the raise of \$5 for each category will help offset printing and mailing costs.

The board also authorized the Treasurer, with approval of the Executive Committee, to spend up to \$200 for memorial expenses recognizing the death of an OAS member who has significantly contributed to the Society.

Dot Linn, Edmond, a Central Chapter member, was ap-

have an email listed for you.

If you would like to start receiving emails about current events, or need to contact us for any reason, please let us know. We would love to hear from you.

My email contact is baker1994@sbcglobal.net

* * *

A memorial for George Odell is under way. The month of October left us with a loss of a significant figure to our society, and our state, in the field of archaeology.

George passed away without warning Oct. 14 at the age of 69.

He was a big supporter of the OAS, and he truly will be missed. In the immediate future we are planning a page or link on the OAS website as a tribute to him.

A fund has been set up at the University of Tulsa in George's name. If you are interested in donating, please contact Michael Whalen at michael-whalen@utulsa.edu.

* * *

Exciting things are in the works for the next year, so keep up to date on the OAS website and the emails. Renewals for next year's membership are going out, so please keep that in mind as well.

Thank you for being loyal members of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society.

pointed new Membership Chair, relieving Treasurer Cathy Compton of the interim duty. Dot was welcomed to the board.

Dig Committee Chairman Andy Slaucaitajs, Tulsa, recommended OAS join Richard Drass at Bryson-Paddock for the 2012 Spring Dig.

President Baker is studying several bylaw changes to be considered at the January Board Meeting. The board will address changing the Fall Meeting date to avoid meeting conflicts, expanding the number of At-Large board positions, and limiting board members to one office at a time.

Limiting service to one office at a time will expand the board and the important volunteer base needed to operate the Society, President Baker said.

The issues will be discussed at the Winter OAS Board Meeting, tentatively set Jan. 28 at the Oklahoma Archeological Survey in Norman.

Rose Hill

(Continued from Page 1)

cant 19th century material.

So far the antebellum evidence consists of nails and glass, scattered ceramics, door knobs, pig bones, and possibly partial horse head skeletons, tack included.

Perhaps just as significant, the mansion's fabled "marble walkway" has been discovered leading from the house to an old military road.

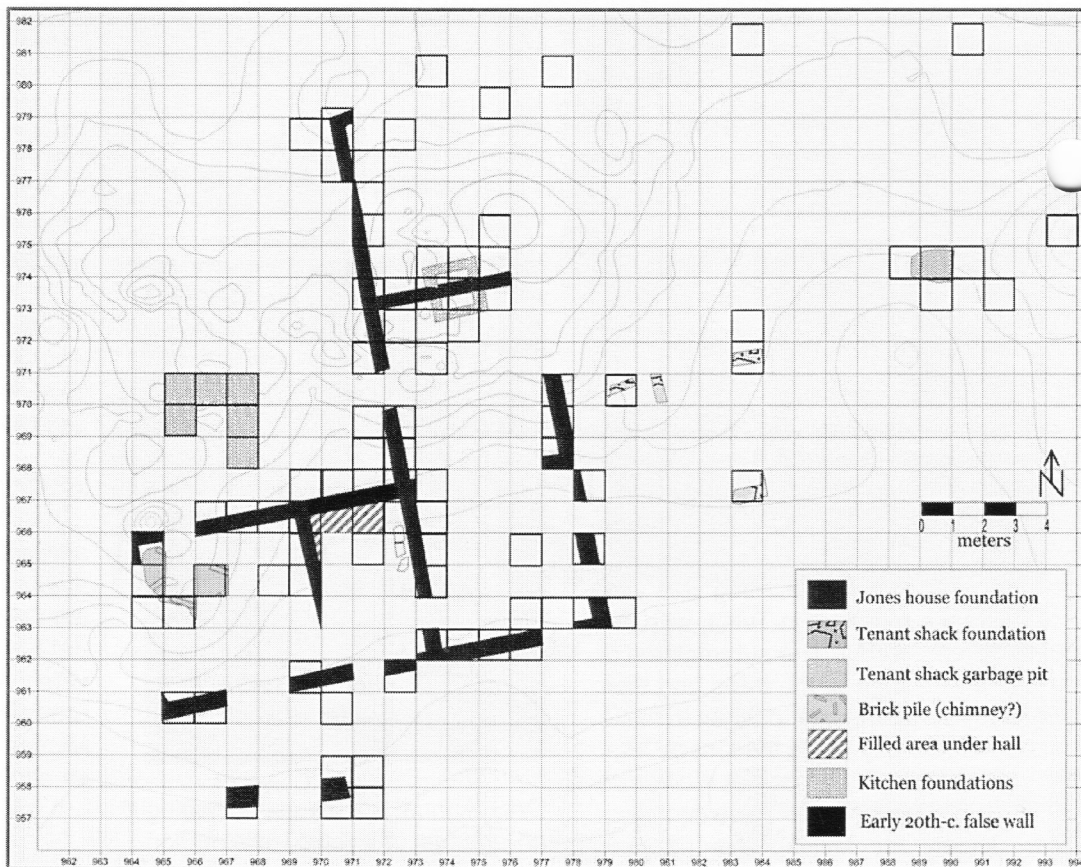
"It's not marble, however. It's limestone," Regnier said. "It's in fine shape."

Just mapping the foundation offers some measure of satisfaction, said OAS Vice President Ed Mayfield.

"Rose Hill has been a test of patience," he said after the Fall Dig.

"What we're finally seeing is a building that was well-planned and well-built. But there have been times when I doubted if the foundations were still in place. I think most of us did."

Built in 1843-1847, the two-story mansion was erected by wealthy Choctaw cotton planter Robert M. Jones. Today only rubble remains. It sits on 40



Archeologist Amanda Regnier's dig map of the Rose Hill Mansion shows varied structures.

acres owned by the state Historical Society. Plans are to make the site a tourist destination with a guided path and historical interpretation.

Several outbuildings, a sprawling front veranda, at least two water wells, brick piles and assorted debris have confused earlier attempts to accurately measure the building's architectural footprint. Add to that the remains of a 1930 squatter's cabin, the area's use as a Hugo dump site, rubbish burning, and buckets of debris.

Even so, it's starting to resemble another important Oklahoma Civil War edifice, the Murrell Home in Park Hill, Regnier said.

Several challenges remain at the Rose Hill site. With her two dig co-leaders, Scott Hammerstedt of the Archeological Survey and John Davis of the Historical Soci-

**Rose Hill
Lab Dates**

**Friday Dec. 9
8 a.m. -- 5 p.m**

**Saturday Dec. 10
10 a.m. -- 5 p.m**

**Oklahoma
Archeological
Survey**

**OU South Campus
Norman**

**Murrell, Rose Hill:
something in common**

In each case the builders had ties to Indians. The mansions were L-shaped, clap-boarded, two story homes with big verandas and chimneys.

According to the Oklahoma Historical Society, the Murrell Home was completed in 1845. George Murrell followed his Cherokee wife, Minerva, to Indian Territory on the Cherokee Trail of Tears. They built the home after George Murrell established a successful mercantile business.

Minerva was the niece of Principal Chief John Ross, who led the Cherokee Nation through turbulent years Park Hill was devastated from repeated raids during the Civil War.

Today the Murrell property is Oklahoma's only surviving antebellum plantation house.



What is it? A bone hairpin? A sewing tool? Found at Rose Hill last fall, it remains to be identified during lab work at the Survey office in Norman.

ety, Dr. Regnier wants to find the mansion's trash dump, cellar, slave quarters and overseer home.

As volunteers discovered, those goals will have to wait until rain ends the area's severe drought.

"Right now it's so dry, it's hard for people to dig," she said.

Small exhibit at Fort Towson shows Rose Hill

Nearby Fort Towson presents a small but informative display on Rose Hill plantation.

Along with photographs of the owners and the site, the display offers a concise summary of the antebellum plantation. Here's what the text says:

"Mixed blood Choctaw Robert M. Jones arrived from Mississippi during the Removals of the 1830s. He ventured into the mercantile business, eventually owning interest in numerous stores on both sides of the Red River. He also established plantations of an estimated 10,000 acres worked by 500 African American slaves.

"A prominent figure in Choctaw politics, he was elected Choctaw and Chicklaw representative to the Confederate Congress during the Civil War. Jones offered his plantation as a refuge for the many displaced families of the Indian Nations during the war between the states.

"Jones' Rose Hill Plantation was located south of present-day Hugo, Oklahoma. The two story, fifteen-room mansion was finished in maple, walnut and mahogany woodwork with furniture imported from Europe. The house boasted imported crystal chandeliers in nearly every room. It held an extensive library and portrait gallery.

"Jones died in 1873 and was buried in the family's Rose Hill Cemetery. The mansion burned in 1911.

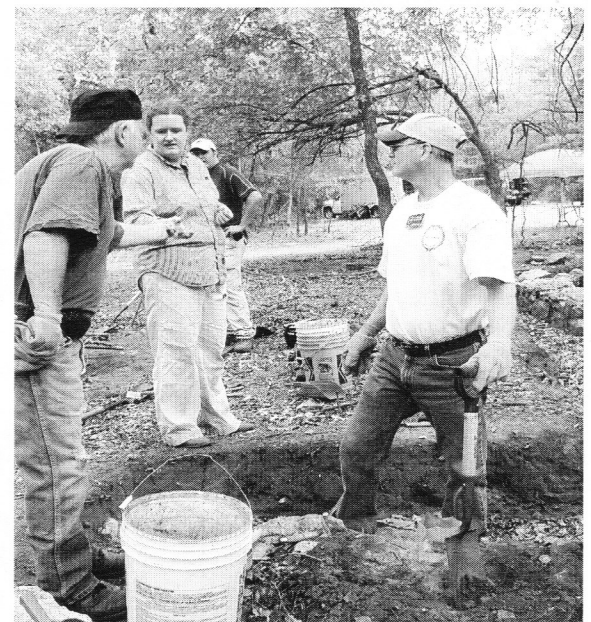
"The Oklahoma Historical Society acquired the site in 1941. Since that time it has served as an archeological resource and silent testimony to life in antebellum Indian Territory."



Above, the dig crew pauses for a group shot during the 2011 OAS Fall Dig. About 35 volunteers traveled to the OAS dig at Rose Hill Plantation near Hugo.



At left, plantation owners Sharon and Robert Jones are shown in an historic Oklahoma History Society picture.



Above, Ed Mayfield and Phil Marshala hand something found to archeologist Amanda Regnier with a familiar question: What is this?

At left, OAS President Debra Baker and the dig crew that joined her at Rose Hill, her family.

(Continued from Page 1)

received notes of condolences worldwide from colleagues who were touched by Dr. Odell during the course of his travels.

In his memorial post, archeologist colleague Don Wyckoff, recently retired at the University of Oklahoma, said of ODell, "This is an individual who will be so greatly missed by all who knew him. He graced my life through our shared concerns with archeology and making sure students learned to do it right."

ODell moved to the University of Tulsa in 1984 as an associate professor, then became a professor of anthropology in 1997. He was preparing for retirement in 2012.

His geographic area of research was the North American midcontinent. He conducted archeological surveys and excavations in Oklahoma in a variety of time periods.

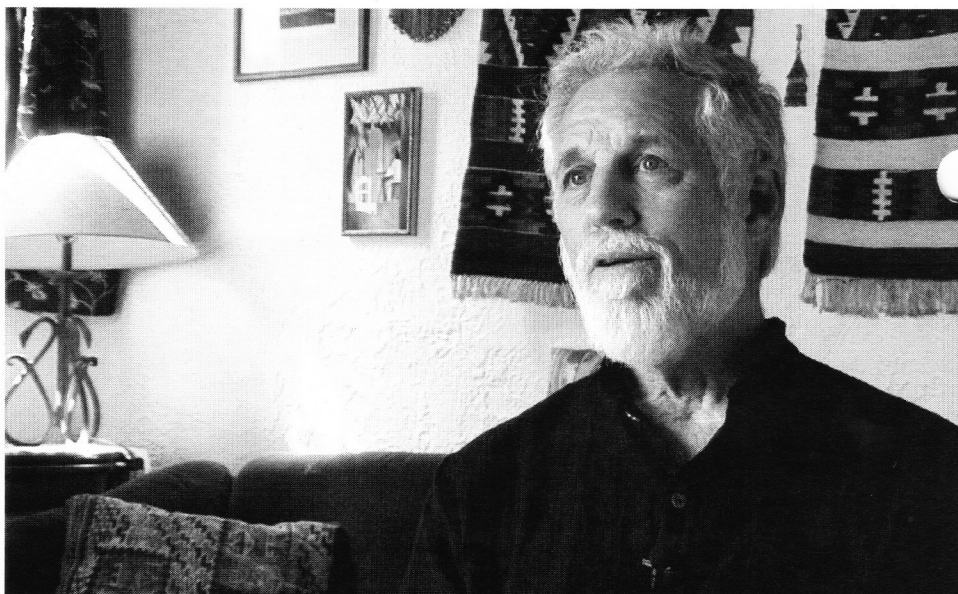
His primary research interests were archeological stone tools. He was noted for his knowledge of use-wear on tool edges and surfaces. Although he focused on Oklahoma sites, he continued to analyze collections from other parts of the world.

He spent two years excavating Stone Age sites in the Netherlands. He analyzed stone tools from South Africa, Yugoslavia, Romania, Bulgaria, France, Mexico, and the American Southwest. Widely published, he enjoyed an international reputation in his field.

He was widely known regionally for his help excavating artifacts from a site near Jenks in the late 1980s. There he learned Plains Indians had dealings with Europeans in the area three centuries earlier.

His book, "La Harpe's Post," published in 2002, reflects that finding. It is a tale of French-Wichita contact on the eastern U.S. plains.

His professional affiliations included the Society for American Archaeology (Treasurer-Elect/Treasurer, 2004-06), American Anthropological Association, The



George Odell 1942 - 2011

Photo by Andy Slaucitajs

Oklahoma Anthropological Society, The Tulsa Archaeological Society, and Plains Anthropological Society, and Southeastern Archaeological Conference.

Among his many honors are the Citation of Merit for Preservation of Oklahoma's Heritage, Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, 1992 and 2007; Citation of Service, Oklahoma Anthropological Society, 1999; and Robert E. Bell Award for Distinguished Service to Oklahoma Archeology, Oklahoma Anthropological Society, 1999.

According to the Tulsa World, Dr. Odell's grandfather and father also were well known. They founded a brushless shaving cream company called Burma-Shave.

The company's witty roadside signs were popular with motorists crisscrossing the United States from 1925 to 1963.

In an article on Dr. Odell, the Tulsa World said he was not only a wonderful teacher but an excellent athlete, a Renaissance Man the day.

He loved music and had a superb singing voice. Yet his greatest attribute was his ability to relate to his students, family and friends.

OAS Membership Subscription Form

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To become a member or renew membership in The Oklahoma Anthropological Society, fill out this form and send it with a check or money order to Dorothy Linn, OAS Membership, POB 1091, Edmond OK 73083.

OAS heads northeast for 2012 Spring Dig

OAS will return to an early 18th century Wichita village for the Spring Dig 2012.

Set tentatively for May 25-June 3, the research will call volunteers to the Bryson-Paddock site near Ponca City over Memorial Day.

Richard Drass of the Oklahoma Archeological Survey will direct the dig. Since 2003, Dr. Drass, Dr. Susan Vehik of OU and Dr. Stephen Perkins of OSU have lead efforts to excavate the area.

OAS volunteers worked at the site in 2004, 2007 and 2009. Field schools from OU and OSU also have joined the effort.

Excavation will continue to seek evidence of interaction of the Wichita with French trappers and traders. The Europeans canoed up Arkansas River to obtain

meat to supply New Orleans and bison hides for Europe.

Historically the Wichita lived as far north as central Kansas. Pressure from Europeans moving west drove Indian tribes before them into Wichita territory. The Osage and Comanche, and later the Cheyenne, roamed the area.

Dr. Drass said magnetic surveys at the site show several concentric linear features. He identifies them as ditches related to site fortification. Previous work suggests some ditches may have surrounded ramparts with stockades on top.



Volunteers and professionals track linear features at the 2009 OAS Dig at Bryson-Paddock.

However, other ditches contained underground structures that lined the interior of the fortification. These structures were constructed of wood poles placed in the flat floor of the ditches.

Emerging artifacts include trade materials. Excavators have found French flint lock gun parts, kettle fragments, knives, tinklers and glass beads. Also appearing are native tools --

scrapers, points, bone hoes, and pottery.

As in the past, Dr. Drass will be at the site earlier in the week to set up the grid and prepare excavation units.

Anyone interested in helping grid the site for excavations is welcome to come early, he said.

Camping is available at the Corps of Engineers campgrounds on Kaw Lake.

Motels can be found in nearby Ponca City and Newkirk.

Dr. Drass can be reached at rdrass@ou.edu.

Nightshade: Lovely but deadly

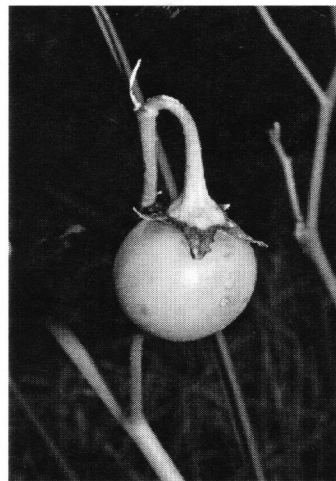
By Neil Garrison

About this time of the year, an exploration of the outdoor world hereabouts will almost always turn up a most unusual plant.

It is a non-woody plant, less than knee-high. You often see it along roadsides, ditches, in alleys and vacant lots. It has short flora with bright-yellow fruit suspended from the branches.

The fruit is about the size of a man's thumbnail. As autumn slides into winter, these canary-colored beauties hang freely as the rest of the natural world mutes into dull shades of tan and brown. The globes are quite an eyescher.

Most everybody remarks that the fruits look not unlike small tomatoes ... not in color, of course, but in reference to their general shape.



Beware the tempting nightshade.

The fact of the matter is this: The superficial resemblance of these wild plants to garden-variety tomatoes is no mere accident. The small wild plant with the yellow fruit is the Carolina Horse Nettle, or Belladonna.

It is a member of the Solanum family, which is bet-

ter known as Deadly Nightshade. Almost all of the members of this plant family are notorious for their lethally poisonous fruit.

I say "almost" because there are exceptions. Backyard garden variety tomatoes are members of the Solanum family. So are potatoes and eggplants. Go figure!

Tomatoes, potatoes and eggplants are some of the most important plants in the gardeners' vegetable plot.

You would hardly think that these three important edible plants are members of a notoriously lethal plant family.

I would guess nobody is going to blunder into eating a big bowl of Carolina Horse Nettle fruit. Although they look like miniature tomatoes, they have a very repulsive taste and smell.

Despite this culinary

fact, the attractively-colored fruit of the Carolina Horse Nettle helps brighten up an otherwise-somber color pallet in the end-of-the-year outdoor world.

I would suspect that you could gather up a bouquet of these attractively-colored wild plants and display them prominently on your dining room table, although I would venture to guess that few do.

Maybe it is best to leave them where Ma Nature intended them to be.

-- Neil Garrison, Yukon OAS member, is a nationally known naturalist and the retired director of Martin Park Nature Center.

Pioneer plants

Trowel Marks
Autumn 2011

7

Trowel Marks

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ARKOMA CHAPTER, Ft. Smith, Ark.

Meetings 7 p.m. 3rd Thursdays
Echols Building, University of Arkansas, Ft. Smith
Contact Tim Mulvihill (479) 788-7812)

BYRDS MILL CHAPTER, Ada

Meetings 7:30 p.m. 2nd Tuesdays
Valley View Hospital Conference Room, Ada.
Contact Carl D. Gilley (580) 332-3812

CENTRAL CHAPTER, Oklahoma City

Meetings 7 p.m. first Thursdays
Will Rogers Garden Center, 3400 NW 36
Contact Ed Mayfield (405) 808-8324

CLEVELAND COUNTY CHAPTER, Norman

Meetings 7 p.m. 1st Tuesdays
Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, Norman
Contact Tom Thompson at thomas.j.thompson-1@ou.edu

GREATER SOUTHWEST CHAPTER, Lawton

Meetings 2 p.m. 4th Saturdays
Museum of the Great Plains, 601 NW Ferris Avenue, Lawton
Contact Francie Sisson franciesisson@tds
See WebSite at Greater Southwest Chapter OAS

KAY COUNTY CHAPTER, Ponca City

Meetings 6:30 p.m. 3rd Thursdays
(no meetings June, July and August)
Public Library 5th and Grand, Ponca City
Contact Gary Bracken arkriverguy78@sbcglobal.net

MCALESTER ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, Krebs

Meetings 7 p.m. 2nd Thursdays
Krebs City Hall, Krebs
Contact Connie Masters samok56@yahoo.com
See the McAlester and Tahlequah Chapters Website

TAHLEQUAH ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, Tahlequah

Meetings 7 p.m. 4th Thursdays
Tahlequah Public Library, Tahlequah
Contact Thomas Purdin (918) 284-2410
See the McAlester and Tahlequah Chapters Website

TULSA ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, Tulsa

Meetings 7 p.m. 4th Mondays
Aaronson Auditorium, Central Library, 400 Civic Center, Tulsa
Meet before meetings 5 p.m. Baxters Interurban
727 S Houston
Contact Andy Slaucitajs (918) 237-6501 or email at
slostus1@cox.net