

Three Rivers Historian

Summer 2021

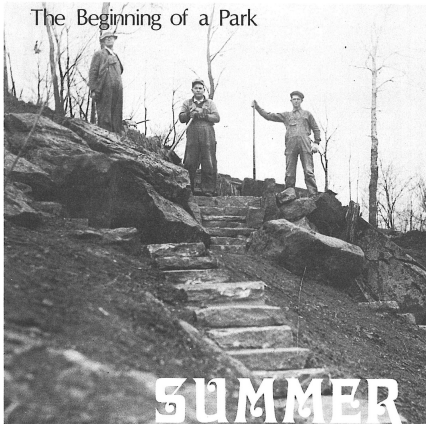
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The meaning of Summer

The word *Summer* is derived from English speaking countries and is a time generally associated with outside activities and is also known as the summer solstice. Many enjoy the carefreeness, the water, just being outside and fun in the sun activities. Summer is the prime vacationing time for most families. Summer also provides benefits to our health and wellbeing by providing natural vitamins our bodies need to stay healthy.

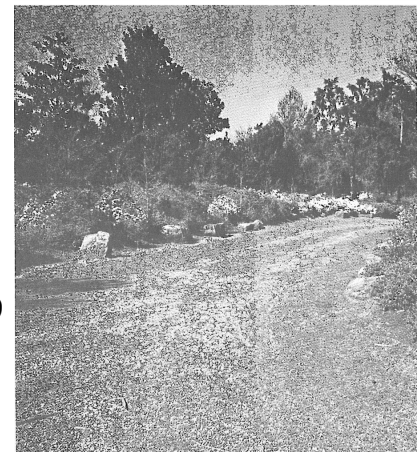
Honor Heights Park and Spaulding Park are two of those enjoyable places that has long provided recreation and enjoyment for many generations, along with the many other parks in our area. They all have provided fun and relaxation for many years and though there have been many changes at the parks, they all continue to thrive, grow and bring many from around the world to our area for reunions, outings, trails, flowers, fishing, relaxation and much more.

Did you know that Honor Heights Park was formerly known as Agency Hill and Spaulding Park was originally a Tourist camp on the Jefferson Highway?



Honor Heights Park, 1929

Honor Heights Park, 1979



Honor Heights Park was purchased in 1909 by the City of Muskogee from the Creek Nation.

The park's old English style of flowing, terraced landscape were designed on paper by Chicago landscape architect Myron West in 1919. George Palmer, an English gardener, prepared the roads, walks and flower beds during the 1920's and 1930's.

Henry Bresser, a pioneer Muskogee Florist and owner of the Bresser Greenhouse and Nursery, had a hand in the growth of Honor Heights Park too. Every time Henry would introduce a new plant to Muskogee, he always wanted to plant one in the park. Thus, there are many trees that could not be found anywhere else at that time. Such as Libocedrus, Cedrus special, Old Sugar Maples, Chamaecyparis and more.



**Henry Bresser
1862-1957**

Robert Bebb started the Bebb Floral Co. on South 4th street with 10 blocks of Greenhouse range in June 1910. When Honor Heights Park was in its beginning stages, the Bebb Floral Co. donated thousands of forced flower bulbs to the City Park Department to start the planting at the foot of the hill and around the rock garden.



**Robert Bebb
1910**

In the 1950's, azaleas were first introduced into the park and in 1967, the Muskogee Parks and Recreation Department, alongside the then park Director; Arthur C. Johnson, started a promotion known world wide now as The Azalea Festival.



Located at the bottom of Agency Hill, Honor Heights once had Stem Beach. Here, you could boat, swim, hear Jazz music and more. The lake is currently surrounded by the Stem Beach Trail.

The swimming pool was constructed in the 1930's and used for many years. The pool is no longer there and has been converted to a Gift Shop, Cafe and picnic area.



Honor Heights Park waterfall



The new children's play area



Splash Pad at Honor Heights Park



**April 1, 1909
Building a lake at
Spaulding Park**



Spaulding Park Lake 1976



Spaulding Park Swimming Pool

What's Happening at the Museum

Melony Carey and the museum Board of Director's presented Doug Buse with a President's award for the work he has done as President of the museum Board of Directors. Doug will continue on as an officer of the Board, attributing to his dedication to the museum.

We thank you Doug!



The museum Board of Director's presented Angie Rush with a Director's Award in recognition of her dedication and continuous service to the museum.

We thank you Angie!



2021-2023 Board of Director's

Dennis Wilhite, Chairman

Doug Buse, Vice-Chairman

Roger Bell, Treasurer/Historian

Melony Carey, Secretary

Tim Harris, Member

Jason George, Member

Jack Reavis, Member

Camille Sain, Member

Drew Saffell, Member

Janey Cagle-Boydston, Member



**Meet Amanda Honeycutt
Front Desk Attendant**



Winnie Cooper provided music



Travel OK



Inspired the children at the Martin Luther King Center

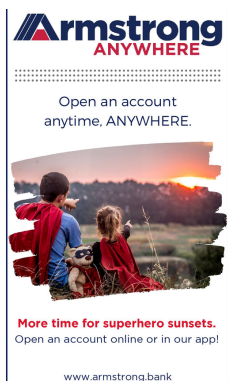


Vaunda Micheaux Nelson Speaker

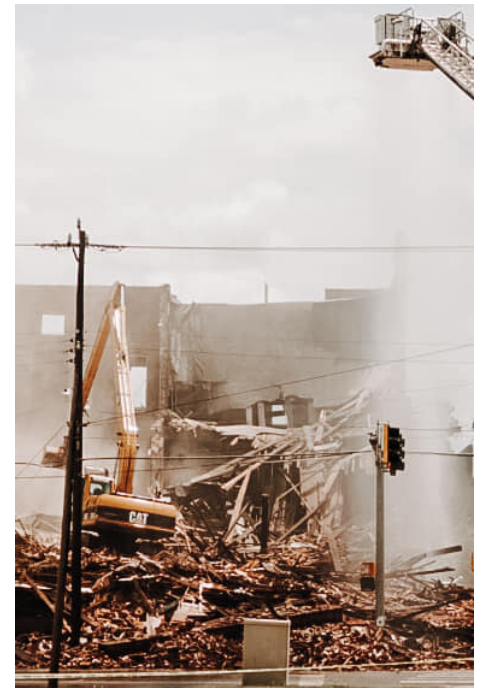
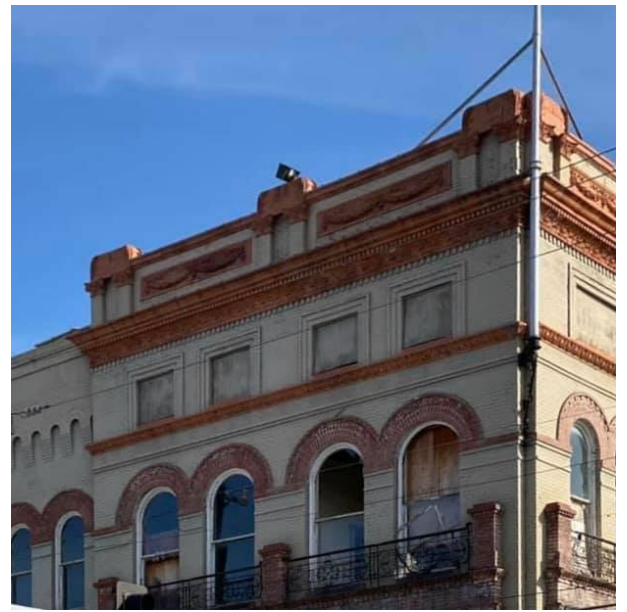


Visit Muskogee

Saturday, July 24, 2021



Thank you all for making the 11th Annual BRWHC a success!



Muskogee lost a piece of it's history on August 14, 2021
The building located at Main and Court street which was originally Maddin Hardware and was rebuilt after the 1899 fire on a dirt foundation, then later turned into the YMCA in 1914 before becoming Royal Casket Company as we all know it today, has collapsed.

Events Coming up



**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER
18, 2021 AT 10 AM CDT –
9 PM CDT
Localmotion - Fall
Festival of Arts**

The Localmotion is a new fall street festival in the Depot District of historic Downtown Muskogee. The event will offer the best of the area's culture showcasing local artists, musicians, art education, vendors, and sponsors. Plan to join us for this inaugural event!

Haunted History Tours

are in the planning stage so please watch our website and Facebook pages for the information to come as we are planning a Special Limited Tour

The 5th Annual event dates are
Friday, November 27th,
Friday and Saturday, December 3rd & 4th and
Friday, December 10th, 2021
Tickets are on sale soon through [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)



Experience the Magic of Christmas! Come dressed in your PJ's or bring your favorite blanket. Enjoy the Polar Express Movie while sipping hot cocoa in a souvenir cup and eating a cookie with Santa's Elves at your service. Popcorn and soda are purchased separately. Then climb aboard with the engineer and head over to the North Pole where you will visit Santa, have your picture taken and receive a special gift.

Tickets must be prepaid and will be given upon arrival at the Roxy Theater on the designated event date.

Masks are required for everyone above age 2 upon entering and exiting the theater, transportation and while at the North Pole (exceptions are for photographs with Santa).

(By purchasing a ticket, you are agreeing to sign a waiver upon check-in the date of your event due to COVID). (Tickets are non-refundable).

We are looking for Sponsors and Supporters for the 5th Annual Polar Express Pajama Party.

Please contact us at 918-686-6624 if you would like to donate, be an Elf, or just help out in general.

Please remember that we are still an active organization and have several ways you can make a gift or renew your membership:

Three Rivers Museum Membership

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$45 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainer \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Builder \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Historian \$1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate \$2,000 | |

**For information on the benefits of each level, visit our website at
www.3riversmuseum.com**

Your contribution may be tax deductible.

We graciously accept donations or endowments of your choosing. The museum relies on private donors and members like you to support our exhibits, programs, and collections care along with daily operations.

Donations can be made through mail, over the phone with a credit card, or online at our website: www.3riversmuseum.com.

Donation

Three Rivers Museum **Thomas-Foreman Home**

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

Amount Giving _____

Make checks payable to Three Rivers Museum. Your contribution is tax deductible.

Any amount is greatly appreciated.

Please include your zip code and send the form of your choosing to:

Three Rivers Museum

**220 ELGIN ST
MUSKOGEE, OK 74401
918-686-6624**