

HISTORY OF MUSEUM OF THE PLAINS

1975 The Museum was founded on the third floor of the Ochiltree County Courthouse.

1975 Museum of the Plains becomes name of Museum in a contest. Scott Haigler received a \$25 savings bond for his winning entry.

1976 The Museum is awarded non-profit status from the Internal Revenue Service under Chapter 501(c)(3).

1978 The Museum is given 3 acres of land facing Hwy. 83 North by Percy and Lois Powers as a site for the Museum.

1979 The Santa Fe Depot from Fargo, Oklahoma (c.1899) was moved to the new Museum site.

1980 Construction of the Main Building was started. Another tract of land was donated bringing the total to 4.132 a

1981 A formal grand opening was held on August 28th. Mrs. Sam Judice donated a flagpole to the Museum.

1982 A General Store building from Gray, Oklahoma (c. 1908) was moved to the Museum grounds. It was originally the McLain & Thomas real estate office from 1919-1948.

1983 Construction was started on the "Machines of Time" Building. The floor of the building is constructed of the bricks from Perryton's main street.

1984 "Machines of Time" Building completed. The County accepts the deed to the Museum grounds. The Hawk plane was donated to the Museum in March.

The 1929 Seagraves fire truck, & a collection of stationary engines were donated to the Museum. The 1912 Metz was donated in June.

1985 A Victorian home (c. 1906) was donated to the Museum. The History Books arrived in November.

1986 The Victorian home was restored and opened to the public as a part of the Sesquicentennial Celebration. The house was originally the J. H. Norwood house. The Hawk plane was restored.

1987 April 26th hosted a Grand Opening for the Norwood House.

1988 The Museum suffers an 80% cut in funds from Ochiltree County due to the fall in oil related income. A Museum fund drive brought in \$9,143.00.

The 1925 Chevrolet fire truck was donated to the Museum.

1991 A storage building was donated to the Museum.

1992 There was a fresh coat of paint for: The Depot, General Store and Wooden Storage Tank. A Railroad Cart Building was added as a companion building to the depot.

1993 A Peace Pole was placed in our flower garden in honor of Earth Day.

1994 A new building (with 7740 sq. ft.) was started in the spring and completed in early 1995. This structure connects the Main Building and the Machines of Time Building. Bricks taken up from our Main Street were used to lay walkways to each building.

1995 New Building was completed in March and the Museum held a fund-raising dinner theatre as a part of the grand opening of the new wing of the Museum. An Earth Day Celebration was held in conjunction with the local Recycling Coordinator that included a "Then vs. Now" exhibit throughout the Museum in relation to recycling. The west wing of the new building held a quilt exhibit that drew over 1200 visitors in a 6 week period. The annual Pioneer Day Celebration drew more guests than any other year. Current count for visitors for the year of 1995 is 8,150.

1998 Ten thousand square feet was added to the "Machines of Time" Building. This new structure was renamed the "Great Hall." The "Machines of Time" exhibit was designated to the north end of the new "Great Hall" in 1999.

2001 Installed the peace pole.

2002 The new entry canopy was finished. The new entry landscaping was finished in memory of Dean McLain.

2003 The Courtyard Landscaping was completed with burr oaks, a very hardy, an extremely long lived shade tree.

2003 Gray Community Church is moved to the Museum grounds.

2003 Added the Listening posts.

2005 Oil & Gas Exhibit added in Natural History
Made possible through private donation

2008 Air conditioning and heating added to Great Hall—Matching Grant w/Amarillo Area Foundation

2008 Gazebo constructed in the Courtyard made possible through private donation (Lena Mae Brillhart).

2011 New Storage building added on SE side of museum—made possible through private donation

2011 Caboose purchased, restored and relocated to the museum—through many private donations.

2012 Sent work cart to get refurbished. Got new program for accession called Past Perfect. Started a few accessions in December.

2013 Painted the General Store. Updated security system. Got the cart back on August 22 of this year.

2014 March 30th Ground breaking on the Great Hall expansion. April 9th the tractors were moved to their new home.

Building finished in May. Moved Fire trucks into the new building June 12th.

2015 January 12th started putting the siding on the General Store.

June finished General Store, Started Livery Barn, Finished Flying Cowboy, and Started Flying Farmers. Painted inside of Land office.

July sanded floor in Land office. Started on Taylor Drug.

August Medical, Taylor Drug & School display almost complete.

2016 Had stools restored for Taylor Drug. Finished Taylor Drug.

2017 added horse to Livery Barn & finished it. Finished Bank. Completed the branding iron display. Completed the service station. June 1st broke ground on new restrooms. June 7th started on new lighting. June 16th new lights done. June 23rd exit door & bathroom doors in. June siding up on bathrooms. Finished bathrooms middle of AUGUST. September 11th started painting Depot. Finished Depot & Cart Building September 22nd. October 16th Got the Minneapolis Moline sign back from the sign people. 2018 April 19th & 20th got a new Heater & AC unit in the back room of Main Building. August 2018 Painted Norwood House. 2018 September New roof on Norwood House & New skylights in Great Hall & oil & Gas. Replaced roof on the Thomas & McLain building. New roof on Depot in October. November New wood floor in Brillhart Room.

2019 January Painted Gift Shop & New carpet in Brillhart Room, Office, Entry & Gift Shop.