



LIFE/TRAVEL Travel:
Texas & Neighbors

Oklahoma Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City worth a stop

Oklahoma City site also has something for architecture buffs

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By **MARTHA SHERIDAN** / Special Contributor to The Dallas Morning News

OKLAHOMA CITY – The high-tech exhibits of the Edward L. Gaylord-Boone Pickens Oklahoma Heritage Museum make it a great rainy-day destination for school-age children.

History buffs of any age can benefit from visiting, too.

The circa-1927 Mid-Continent Life Insurance Building houses the Oklahoma Heritage Association's technology-driven presentations celebrating the state's history. Interactive exhibits introduce Oklahomans who have made an impact in a variety of fields, including business, sports and entertainment.

The Oklahoma Heritage Association and the Oklahoma Hall of Fame were founded in 1927 to honor Oklahomans for outstanding service. The longtime museum opened here with new exhibits in May after several years of refurbishing the building.

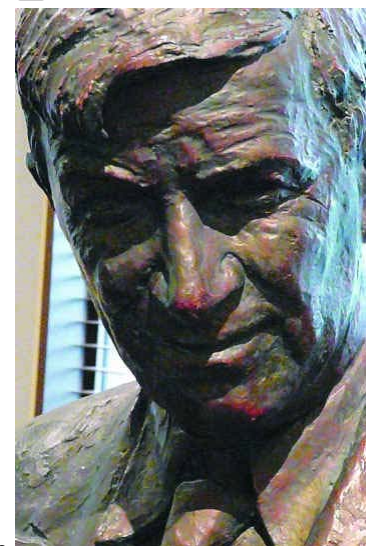
The museum's Oklahoma Hall of Fame Gallery is a searchable database of 613 inductees dating to its beginning. Among the eight names being added to the list Nov. 8 are country-music star Toby Keith, former Miss America Jane Jayroe, conductor-composer Linda K. Twine and Choctaw Nation chief Gregory E. Pyle.

The center gives visitors a chance to tell their stories of life in Oklahoma and record them on video. These remain available to museum visitors for two weeks.

Architecture buffs will benefit from a trip to the boardroom to see exhibits about the building's history. Understanding what it took to update the venerable old building increases appreciation for the artistry of adding high-tech exhibits and ultramodern updates.

No educational museum trip is complete without a stroll through the gift shop. A friendly volunteer treated my 13-year-old daughter like her new best friend. The gift shop features books published by the heritage association. There's also a good selection of well-made Oklahoma-theme merchandise for tabletops. The range of small items was an unexpected pleasure, especially the selection of \$2 Watt's Family Farm chocolate bars, which the wrapper notes is an enterprise of the Chickasaw Nation.

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MARTHA SHERIDAN/
Special Contributor
A bronze statue of
Oklahoma-born humorist
Will Rogers

Martha Sheridan is a Dallas freelance writer.