



March 28, 2007

Since 1903, the best source of Oklahoma business news and information

Search Editorial Content:

[About Us](#)[Contact Us](#)[Advertising](#)[Subscriptions](#)[Newsstands](#)[Advanced Search](#)

- [Home](#)
- [News](#)
- [Columns](#)
- [Focus](#)
- [Calendar of Events](#)
- [Drilling Reports](#)
- [Editorial Calendar](#)
- [Special Publications](#)
- [Journal Record Events](#)
- [Book of Lists](#)
- [Legal Notices](#)
- [Legislative Report](#)
- [Custom Publishing](#)
- [Back Issues](#)

Welcome
Erin Page

My Account
[Acct Info](#)
[Change Username](#)
[Acct Options](#)

Around Town: Mad Hatter's Tea

by Joan Gilmore
 The Journal Record
 3/28/2007

Big brims won out over cloches at the Mad Hatter's Tea hosted by the Oklahoma Heritage Association for former members of the committees who planned the annual summer garden parties for OHA. Shannon Nance, president of the association, welcomed guests and introduced the co-chairs of the upcoming garden party on June 1. They are Melinda Johnson, whose husband, Glenn, is new chairman of the board for OHA, and Brenda McDaniel, whose hubby, Tom, is chairman-elect.

The party took place in the new Edward L. Gaylord-Boone Pickens Oklahoma Heritage Center, 1400 Classen Dr., built in 1927 as the offices of the Mid-Continent Life Insurance Co.. Guests were asked to don their spring bonnets for the "delightful afternoon of friends, food and frivolity," and the ladies certainly did just that. Most of the bonnets were wide-brimmed picture hats, done in white, wheat or black and swathed in matching organza. Linda Barnett, wearing an apple green, "Southern Lady" hat, won the prize for prettiest chapeau.

On the third floor of the former insurance company building where the lovely space will be available for special events like this tea, square tables covered in bright pink satin, topped with wide bands of white satin dotted in big black circles, were centered with 4-foot-tall paper mache flowers, reminiscent of those of Munchkinland in Wizard of Oz. Tea was served, of course – along with wine and cheese and cupcakes of various types of cheesecake.

Among the guests were Sally Burpee, Betsy Daugherty, Susan Amis, Jane Harlow, Joy Richardson, Lil Ross, SoRelle Fitzgerald, Vicki Gourley, Lois Salmeron, Kay Cook, Betty Crow, Joan Frates, Mary Price, Wanda Swisher, Debbie Dudman, Patsy Hunzicker, Polly Nichols, Annie Bohanon and Jean Harbison from Lawton.

Most fun for the ladies was having the opportunity to tour the historic

building, which is under renovation and to be completed soon. Stacked in corridors were impressive pieces of furniture original to the building, which was owned by R.T. Stuart Sr. and his family for many years. Interestingly, they lived on the top floor because neighborhood restrictions required that a structure be classified as a residence.

The main goal in refurbishing/renovating the building was to preserve as much of the historic quality as possible, while choosing new materials that were compatible but modern to show a clear contrast between the historic elements and the new.

Although the building had to be brought up to code in many areas, the historic look of the building had to be maintained. A basement was dug underneath what is now the garden to house mechanical, electric, plumbing and heat and air equipment.

The garden area, now named the Edith Kinney Gaylord Gardens, is 10,000 square feet to exactly match the length and width of the building.

The outdoor "room" is framed by the building on the south side with a row of shrubbery (to hide the parking area) on

shrubbery (to hide the parking area) on the north side and the 40-foot waterfalls/catering kitchen/restrooms on the east and west ends. What is called the Meinders Firefly Garden features two light boxes on either end of the lawn at the front of the gardens where light shimmers through tiny holes in the light boxes, giving the illusion of fireflies.

We could tell you more, more, more about this renovated building, but we'll save it for another time. The Oklahoma Heritage Association will have an open house for tours when renovation is complete.

Bits and pieces

The Oklahoma City Zoo's annual Ostrich Egg Breakfast will be from 8 until 11 a.m. May 5 at the zoo. Tickets, which include admission to the Fin and Feathers shows, are \$8 for adults and \$5 for children of zoo members and \$10 and \$7 for nonmembers.

The seventh annual Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon will take place April 29. Volunteers are not only welcome but needed. Call Stacey Weddington at (405) 235-3313 if you want to help.

[\[go to home page\]](#) [\[previous page\]](#)

Copyright © 2007 The Journal Record All Rights Reserved
101 N. Robinson Ave., Ste. 101, Oklahoma City, OK, 73102 | P.O. Box 26370, Oklahoma City, OK, 73126-0370 | (405) 235-310
415 S. Boston Ave., Ste. 101, Tulsa, OK 74103 | (918) 295-0098

[E-mail Our Editors](#)

[Terms & Conditions of Use](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)