




## THE PONCA CITY NEWS

PONCA CITY, OKLAHOMA

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### Oklahoma Heritage Association Moves to Mid-Continent Building

 OKLAHOMA CITY — After undergoing five years of renovations and refurbishment, the Mid-Continent Life Insurance Building at 1400 Classen Drive is now home to the Oklahoma Heritage Association.

The OHA left its home of 30 years, the Hefner Mansion, and will open the Edward L. Gaylord–Boone Pickens Oklahoma Heritage Center at its new home later this year.

"This new building will help us ensure that the diverse and rich history of our state's people will be preserved and told to future generations of Oklahomans," said Shannon Nance, OHA president.

The building will house exhibits that tell Oklahoma's history through the lives and accomplishments of its people. The museum will center around five characteristics of Oklahomans — individuality, perseverance, pioneer spirit, optimism and generosity.

Northern Light Productions, one of the country's premier film and video production companies, is developing innovative, interactive visitor experiences for the Center.

"The cutting-edge hologram technology Northern Lights is developing for us will truly make visitors feel like they are part of the exhibits," said Nance.

The museum also will feature Oklahoma Hall of Fame inductees from the past 80 years. The OHA also plans to host student field trips and day camps.

"We want children and adults alike to come to the museum and learn to embrace and take pride in their heritage," said Nance.

The OHA acquired the historic Mid-Continent Life

Insurance Building from the American Fidelity Assurance Company in September 2001. The purchase was made possible through a generous \$3 million donation by the late Edward L. Gaylord, former chairman and chief executive officer of the Oklahoma Publishing Company. Holdenville native Boone Pickens matched the \$3 million contribution to launch the renovation of the historic structure.

The OHA plans to open the building to the public in spring 2007.

The Oklahoma Heritage Association preserves Oklahoma's history and inspires pride in the state by supporting education, celebrating the accomplishments of Oklahomans and leading the publishing industry in publishing books on Oklahoma history. The OHA is dedicated to promoting Oklahoma's living history through its people. For more information about the OHA, visit [www.oklahomaheritage.com](http://www.oklahomaheritage.com) or call 405-235-4458 or toll free 888-501-2059.

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