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**Oklahoma Heritage Association releases
Broken Bow: The First Century, author Bob Burke's 100th book**

OKLAHOMA CITY – Author Bob Burke has a lot to celebrate. His hometown of Broken Bow is celebrating its 100th birthday this year, which Burke recognized by writing his 100th book, *Broken Bow: The First Century*.

Born in 1910 to capitalize on the plethora of timber surrounding the town, Broken Bow was named after Broken Bow, Neb., the native land of its founders, Hans and Herman Dierks. The Dierks brothers' vision was to expand the once tiny Choctaw village, called Con-Chito, that existed in Broken Bow's present downtown into a city filled with businesses and homes to support a new lumber mill.

Broken Bow and its Choctaw Lumber Company prospered, exporting lumber and other wood products to growing markets in the region. When timber industry jobs began to decline, city leaders looked toward tourism to provide employment for their citizens and diversify the economy.

Through the Great Depression, two world wars, conflicts in Korea, Vietnam and the Middle East, Broken Bow has flourished in its first century, thanks to the people who call it home.

"The real story of this city's first 100 years is about its people," said Burke. "Those who call Broken Bow their home have overcome hardships and obstacles to create a better life for future generations."

Burke co-wrote his 100th title with three other authors: Harriett Burris Martin, Kenneth Hamilton and Paulette LaGasse. Martin has lived in Broken Bow her entire life and taught in Broken Bow Public Schools for 18 years. Born in Broken Bow, Hamilton began a 54-year career in the newspaper business at the *Broken Bow News* in 1949, spending most of the next half century working at newspapers in McCurtain County. Also a lifelong resident and 27-year educator in Broken Bow schools, LaGasse is currently the program curator at the Museum of the Red River in Idabel.

In addition to writing more historical non-fiction books than anyone else in history, Burke practices law and serves as an adjunct professor at the University of Oklahoma. His books have received awards from the Oklahoma Center for the Book, Oklahoma Historical Society and the Oklahoma Museum Association, and he has been named to the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame and the Oklahoma Hall of Fame and has received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Oklahoma Center for the Book. Burke recently received the Oklahoma Heritage Association's new Lee Allan Smith Oklahoma Legacy Award, which was created to recognize

individuals who have demonstrated volunteer and civic efforts that grow pride in their community and created a legacy of pride for future generations.

“One hundred books written in his ‘spare’ time and at his own expense,” said Oklahoma Supreme Court Justice Steven Taylor. “This is truly one of the greatest volunteer efforts ever undertaken by an Oklahoman.”

Published by the Oklahoma Heritage Association, *Broken Bow* retails for \$29.95, and along with the Association’s other publications, is available for purchase in the Gaylord-Pickens Museum Store at NW 13th Street and Shartel Avenue in Oklahoma City, by calling the Museum Store at 405.235.4458, at www.oklahomaheritage.com and in bookstores statewide.

Considered the leader in publishing Oklahoma’s history, the Oklahoma Heritage Association is celebrating its 35th year of sharing and teaching history through its publishing arm. Through each of its programs and the Gaylord-Pickens Oklahoma Heritage Museum the Association strives to tell Oklahoma’s story through its people. For more information about the Association or Museum, visit www.oklahomaheritage.com or call 405.235.4458.

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