



THE PONCA CITY NEWS

PONCA CITY, OKLAHOMA

Extra-Special Day for 101 Old Timers



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OKLAHOMA CITY — Sounds of the past glory days of the 101 Ranch rode again Wednesday when the 101 Old Timers Association accepted the Award for Preservation of State and Local History at the Annual Awards luncheon in Oklahoma City. Association Vice President Al Ritter accepted the award on behalf of the 101 Old Timers group. The award is presented annually by The Edward L. and Thelma Gaylord Award.

The event was held at the prestigious Oklahoma Heritage Association Gaylord-Pickens Museum. Prior to the award presentation a video of some of the historic ranch was shown to a packed house crowd. The introduction and recognition to the association was by Oklahoma Heritage Association Chairman Tom J. McDaniel.

McDaniel in the introduction said that the organization began in 1968 dedicated to preserving and promoting Oklahoma's 101 Ranch and International Wild West Show. In addition to the history of the Ranch and Wild West Show the video recognized Bill Pickett, who invented the rodeo sport of bulldogging. The video also mentioned the Ponca City Main Street organization had partnered with the 101 Old Timers Association by providing a mural in downtown depicting the ranch and wild west show.

Ritter, in accepting the award said "We are truly honored to receive this extremely prestigious award and to be recognized by such a group. The ranch is a remarkable Oklahoma historical asset that influenced the world's perception of the American West. We are very pleased to be a part of the preserving. Our club motto is 'Preserving the Past for the Future,' and that our goal from this point forward as it has been in the past. I accept the award in behalf of our board of directors."

Ritter introduced members of the association represented at the awards ceremony. Attending were R.C. Whiting, Joe Glaser, Steve Little and Bill Balcer "We appreciate their work, their diligence, I am just the focal point to accept the award and say thank you," Ritter said.

The featured speaker for the event was O.U. President David L. Boren, former Senator and Governor of Oklahoma. Boren's message was geared to the importance of teaching history in school and college. He said that this needs to be corrected. His speech was entitled "Our Oklahoma, Our Responsibility."

Prior to the luncheon, Boren signed copies of his book "Oklahoma Statesman: The Life of David Boren."

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Published Thu, Apr 1, 2010, On Page 7 0

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