



The Museum Page

Sand Springs Cultural and Historical Museum

Connecting the Past, Present, and Future

MARCH

2026

XX

The following is taken directly from the book “Sand Springs, Oklahoma A Community History Volume I,” Copyrighted 1994 by the Sand Springs Cultural and Historical Museum Trust Authority – Library of Congress Catalog Card Number 94-75377

SAND SPRINGS IN THE 1910s

The decade between 1910 and 1920 was a period of tremendous growth for Sand Springs. Farm families lived on both sides of the river, and grew corn, potatoes, wheat, alfalfa, small grains, and garden crops. They planted fruit trees and raised hens, cows, and pigs. Not only did they supply most of their own needs, but they sold excess produce, milk and eggs to the grocery stores in the new community of Sand Springs.

On the south side of the river several families raised cattle. Charles Page’s Page Antle Ranch, which was created about 1917, extended from the river to what is now 51st Street and from Highway 97 to 47th Steet West. There is a story that outlaw Frank James stayed at the ranch in 1923.

During this decade Page and others explored this area for oil and gas. Some wells were productive, but little was found here. Because of the production in nearby Glenpool and Tulsa, though, the Phoenix and Pierce oil refineries in Sand Springs were very busy. Located on the east side of town near the river, these companies had storage tanks, warehouses, and supply depots for oil and gas.

The town itself was formally incorporated on May 21, 1912. The Sand Springs Townsite Company, one of the Home interests, soon was busy building, selling, and leasing houses to all the new families moving into town. By 1914, the population was 1,200. Most streets were still unpaved, but there were streetlights and concrete sidewalks on the main roads. A telephone system was in place as early as 1913.

The Sand Springs Home continued to grow with the addition of several small buildings, including a boys' dormitory and a music cottage. In 1918 a new three-story brick dormitory, designed by Daniel Eichenfeld, was completed and the event was celebrated by a Christmas Dinner in the new dining hall. The Home Greenhouse was full of prize-winning flowers and vegetables. The Home even had its own canning factory and cotton gin nearby, and a refrigeration plant, bakery, dairy, hospital, orchards, and farms.

Earlier, school on the north side of the river had been held on Andy Scott's allotment in a small log schoolhouse/church where the box factory was located in the 1990s. School was held only during the three winter months. Volunteer teachers included Frank Olspaugh and Clem Brown. In 1910-1911, school was held in the community church on the hill across from the Home. In 1912 John Hall built a bungalow for school children on the northeast corner of Lincoln and Sixth, and the original Central School was completed in 1913. Booker T. Washington School grew out of a frame structure which opened in 1912, and expanded tremendously during the next decade.

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE MARCH NEWSLETTER

XX



Readin', and
Ritin' and
Rithmetic

Taught to the tune
of a hickory stick

The City's First School - by Helen Woods - The Sandtonian - April 1928

In 1908, the cake-eaters and flappers of the community were attending a one room school. No buzzing of electric bells, as in the modern school, called the children to recess. An old fashioned bell with a rope served the purpose.

The Old School House stands on a hill opposite the site of the Sand Springs Home founded by the late Charles Page. The orphan children went to this school. The city of Sand Springs then consisted of a small store at the point where the county highway crossed the Katy railroad tracks.

Dr. A. R. Trimble, local dentist and one of the 60 pupils of this first grade school, said, 'All the classes were held in one room. One class would recite and then another. Mr. Ashbrook, our teacher was a well educated man. I think he is now teaching in an Indian school at Muskogee, Oklahoma. He was especially good at drawing.'

In the State Fair held at that time in Oklahoma City, Dr. Trimble's drawing of a map received the blue ribbon. First in the state of Oklahoma.

Teachers were very strict in those days according to Dr. Trimble. 'Harder subjects were taught in the first Sand Springs grade school in 1908 than the ones now taught in the city grade schools,' remarked the dentist. 'When I went to college I received credit for high school work done in the eighth grade. All the subjects now taught in the grade school were taught then.'

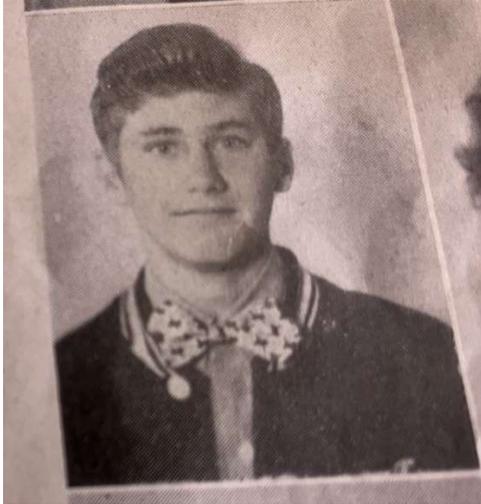
Comparing the mode of travel to school with then and now one finds that while the modern day school boys and girls ride to school in automobiles the pupils then walked or rode horseback. Dr. Trimble lived near Lawnwood and had to walk two and a half miles to school every day.

'The morale of the school then was good and as to the social life of the school we had box suppers, picnics and parties.'

As there was no high school in Sand Springs at this time the students, when they graduated from the eighth grade, were required to go to Tulsa high school if they wished to continue their education. County examinations were given in the eighth grade.

Dr. Trimble went to Tulsa high school. 'That year I went to Tulsa high school the tracks for the Sand Springs interurban street car railway were just being laid.'

Now the very latest style of clothes are worn to school while in those days back in 1908 the pupils wore overalls and long calico dresses. Bare feet were always in evidence and on cold mornings the boys had to feed a hungry old-fashioned stove with wood. Quite different from our modern day steam-heated school rooms.



WILLIAM REID "BILL" POGUE

ASTRONAUT

By Dalton Cason

Bill Pogue was born in Okemah, Oklahoma, on January 23, 1930. During his childhood he attended Lake Elementary School, then attended Sand Springs High School and graduated in 1947. His senior quote read, "Whose little body lodged a mighty brain," and he was absolutely right. Pogue continued his education at Oklahoma Baptist University and graduated in 1951 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education. He then later received a Master of Science degree in Mathematics at Oklahoma State University in 1960.

Pogue, after graduating from OBU, enlisted in the Air Force. His first few years he flew fighter bombers in the Korean War, then from 1955 to 1957 he flew with the elite Thunderbirds. After graduating from OSU, he started teaching at the Air Force Academy. Along with his many feats, he was also a test pilot with the British Royal Air Force and became an instructor at the USAF Aerospace Research Pilot School. According to the National Air and Space Museum, "Pogue became proficient in 50 types of American and British aircraft and logged 7,200 hours in flight (4,200 hours in jets)."

In 1966 Pogue was chosen for the astronaut program and was then on mission support for Apollo 7, 11, and 14. Then in 1973 Pogue hit the sky with two other astronauts in Skylab 3. They set out on an 84-day flight starting in November 1973 to February 1974. According to the Air and Space Museum, "Command module pilot Bill Pogue logged 13 hours and 31 minutes in two spacewalks and, with Commander

Gerald P. “Jerry” Carr and science pilot Dr. Edward G. “Ed” Gibson, spent a total of 2,017 hours in spaceflight.”

After retiring from NASA in 1975, he still stuck around as an aerospace consultant. Pogue also had a passion for teaching and reaching out to young learners. Bill wrote four books, one novel, and several videos were made on his life and space. One of his most known books was “How Do You Go to the Bathroom in Space?” a book focused on answering all questions about living in space.

Bill Pogue passed away on March 3, 2014, at his home in Cocoa Beach Florida. His ashes were sent into orbit using Celestis, a company that launches ashes to space with rockets. Now, in Sand Springs in his honor, we have the William R. Pogue Municipal Airport, and we share his story on display at the museum.



WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE MUSEUM

What has been going on and still going on in the museum.....

The past few weeks have been busy for Sweets Innovative Painting, Inc.-- Eddie Sweet, Shekinah Sweet, Joed Crabtree, and Jordan Hobbs. This group of artistic artisans that are not afraid of heights have been working diligently returning the crown molding and walls into what library patrons saw when visiting the Charles Page Memorial Library so many years ago.

The museum Trust Authority and Association Board have been planning this for a long time and it is exciting to see this project come to fruition. There is still quite a bit of work to be completed but the sound of the machinery that is used is music to the ears of those that love the museum.

Here are some photographs of some of the before and after work that has been and ongoing with this project.

There will be information on the museum Facebook page about what is in the works, and when the task is completed.

The staircase is also getting some care, and turning out to be like it was years ago when it had a special shine.



