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The

American Scene

A GILCREASE QUARTERLY



THE NEW SCHOLAR

SPRING, 1961

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The American Scene

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Art Editor Richard Muno

Associate Editor Charles Proctor

Photography Glen Lawrence

Staff Bruce Wear,
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COVER: "The New Scholar" was painted by Jeanne Brownscombe in 1879. An excellent full size (18"x23 1/2") color reproduction is available from the Institute for \$5.00.

THE OLD FRONTIER

John F. Kennedy, the new President of the United States, has outlined a program which he calls The New Frontier. This New Frontier implies certain things among which is a spirit of human endeavor that willingly seeks to overcome difficulties in order to attain new achievements within the framework of a humanitarian and democratic society. This is actually the same spirit that has always animated the American people and enabled them to build a rich and varied heritage from a land of wilderness. Our national progress did not just emerge. The radical technical innovations which have transformed American civilization in the twentieth century are the results of a myriad of human dramas enacted again and again in our country for more than 400 years. It is trite but true that we are but the product of our own heritage, of our own parental way of life, of the culture that existed here before our own birth. We have grown to greatness as a nation because of the loyal and zealous manner in which our forefathers pursued the frontier spirit—that spirit of pioneering which preferred danger to safety, experimentation to conformity and freedom to security.

This was the spirit of the Old Frontier. That frontier is now gone and almost forgotten but the American spirit yet prevails inspite of insidious forces that try to corrode and dissolve it. It is the purpose of the Gilcrease Institute to preserve and study the distinctly American aspects of our frontier culture. Much of the Institute's collection was created in that very period as a part of the vital pulse of the frontier spirit. The paintings, books, manuscripts and artifacts thus not only form a physical link with our past but are also the most inimitable expression of the spirit of that past. There is much to learn from this precious legacy and much to enjoy in the visual evidences that remain of a simpler and more homely way of life.

The American Scene, A Gilcrease Quarterly, endeavors to contribute to an understanding of the American heritage by publicizing the activities and holdings of the Gilcrease Institute. In doing so it believes that the American Spirit can continue strong only to the extent that the American people appreciate and are devoted to the pioneering spirit of the Old Frontier.



BOUND FOR OKLAHOMA

The Frontier Dream of a Navigational Arkansas River will soon become a reality.

By Glen R. Ames.

When Oklahoma entered the Union in 1907 Muskogee was a thriving city of more than 14,000 population. It had been founded in 1872 when the Kansas, Missouri and Texas Railroad was constructed through Oklahoma along a route closely paralleling the old Texas Road. But even in 1872 the region around Muskogee had long been a center of commercial, military and government activity. The first trader is said to have settled here in 1806 and before the Civil War river boats regularly made their way to Fort Gibson with freight and passengers.

The real expansion and growth of the city came however after the turn of the century when Charles N. Haskell moved there from Ohio to spearhead a development program that turned the little town into a bustling city. His promotions led to the construction of a fine modern hotel, of the Midland Valley Railroad, the interurban line from Fort Gibson to Muskogee and other businesses. An oil pool was discovered within the city limits and the Pioneer Oil and Gas Co. drilled the first well in October of 1903 and by 1905 Charles Madison had organized the Muskogee Oil and Refining Co. to build a refinery. Business was good, bond issues for civic improvements were passed easily and real estate sales flourished.

Now one of the things which was pretty evident to the to the alert and able business men of Muskogee was the fact that the Arkansas River was no longer being utilized to its navigational advantage. It was indeed river transportation that had made this Three Forks region the hub

of Eastern Oklahoma and the supply depot for the military operations of Texas and the southwestern frontier for many years. Why not put it to use again? True there was the railroad, but then there was the high railroad rate too. Thinking along these lines, seven prominent Muskogee business men were inspired to raise a fund of \$3,000 for the purchase of a little steamboat at Ft. Smith called the Mary O. These men organized the Arkansas Navigation Company and put the Mary D into service plying the river between Ft. Smith and Muskogee.

By comparing the freight rates on merchandise brought up the river on the Mary D and similar loads that arrived by train it was discovered that the goods could be delivered in Muskogee by boat for about half the railroad cost. This set the men to thinking and being good business men they decided to do something about it. The Muskogee Commercial Club published a study entitled "Commercial Value of the Arkansas River Improvement" by Theodore Gulick. Then A. C. Trumbo and John R. Dudding were authorized by the club to go to Jeffersonville, Indiana, and enter into a contract for the construction of a large steamboat that would engage in the riverboat business on a grander scale.

A steamboat 125 feet long with a 25 foot beam and a draft of three and a half feet was now constructed at cost of \$15,000 and named the City of Muskogee. On July 2nd a group of Muskogee boosters went aboard and it made its maiden voyage down the Ohio and Mississippi and up the Arkansas Rivers. When the City of Muskogee

arrived at Muskogee July 18th, a large banner with the words **BOUND FOR OKLAHOMA** hung from its upper deck. Blaring bands and a large crowd in festive mood were on hand to watch it dock. On this trip it had carried a cargo of 41 tons of nails and barbed wire. Commercial navigation on the Arkansas was a fact!

But not for long! The City of Muskogee made only one other long trip and then limited its travel to as far as Ft. Smith. Some four years later even those irregular runs were ended. The difficulties of the river proved too much for the boat and it was transferred to the White River where ended its days as a gravel barge.

Yet the experiment was not a failure; neither for the people of that day nor for us today. The placing of the City of Muskogee into actual operation on the Arkansas caused the railroad company to lower its freight rates substantially. The Arkansas Navigation Company did prove that river navigation was possible, that it could be economically feasible and attractive, and that there were only certain engineering problems which prevented the dream from becoming a fact.

Nothing more was done in behalf of commercial travel on the Arkansas until about thirty years ago. Then the idea of making the river truly navigable began to be considered. At first it received little encouragement but under the leadership of such men as Newton Graham, P. H. Stephens, John Dunkin and Gary Vandever the idea caught on and a feasibility study was made. The report was gratifying and the formation of the Arkansas Basin Development Association followed.

After the Arkansas River leaves Kansas conditions are favorable for navigation provided three engineering feats could be accomplished. The first was the construction of reservoirs to permit a steady and ample supply of water, the second was the construction of locks to raise the loads to the proper elevation level and the third was the construction of jetties and revetments to control the vagaries of the channel of the old and meandering stream. The Association, composed of leading business men, civic and legislator or leaders of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Kansas, publicized the program and its goals. It made technical studies and

in general undertook such actions that would overcome the obstacles and established the financing required to get the project under way. It was of course a long range program requiring vision and faith on the part of the people actively concerned with it. The program has now moved forward by the construction of reservoirs and locks to the point where there is now a good possibility that Catoosa, fifteen miles from Tulsa, will be a navigation port by 1970.

This will be the realization of the long time dream of citizens of Oklahoma, Kansas and Arkansas. It provides the means for unlimited industrial growth for Tulsa and the entire Arkansas Valley. But commercial advantages are not the only values offered by the Arkansas Basin Development Program. In addition great values will be achieved by flood control, water power, improved soil conservation conditions and by recreational opportunities for everyone. Indeed the value of this latter service is now recognized as a very important reason for the program. Grand Lake, Ft. Gibson Lake and Sequoyah State Park are only three examples of how this project has already given Oklahoma recreational benefits not previously known to us. The many beautiful resorts already developed indicate something of what is yet to come.

The vision of the Muskogee citizens of an earlier day was a clear sighted one but the engineering requirements were too tremendous for the economic resources of those times. Today however we have those resources and we are making use of them in such a manner that the time will come when the frontier dream of a navigable river will become a reality. Such legislative leaders as Senators Bob Kerr and Mike Monroney and Representatives Page Belcher, Ed Edmondson, Karl Albert and Tom Steed together with the earlier work of Senator Elmer Thomas and Representative Wesley Disney are to be honored and remembered for the invaluable work they have done in behalf of this project. The Gilcrease Institute salutes the pioneers in his project and all the people now engaged in this great effort to get the project completed. If the Muskogees of a previous generation could look down upon us now they would see that river commerce is Bound for Oklahoma after all!



EARLY DAY
BARGES ON
THE ARKANSAS
AT WEBBERS FALLS



WALKS-IN-SLEEP



OSAGE CHIEF



LONE WOLF



QUANAH PARKER

Indian Portraits

By H. H. Cross

The Special Exhibit at the Gilcrease Museum for April 13 to May 16 features the Indian portraits of H. H. Cross. These colorful paintings of noted western Indians have always proven popular and a selection from the large Cross Collection owned by the Institute is now presented in its first H. H. Cross show. Henry H. Cross was born in 1837 and died in 1918. He traveled on the western frontier and some of the portraits were done from life. However many were commissioned by Thomas Walker, a Minnesota lumberman, after 1900. Four of the portraits which are representative of the more than 200 that he painted are illustrated here.

Walks-in-Sleep—was a Navajo scout with federal troops in the Geronimo campaign.

Osage Chief—The Osages are of the Siouan family and lived in Missouri before being moved to northeastern Oklahoma where they still reside in the beautiful Osage Hills near Tulsa.

Lone Wolf—played a key role in the last efforts of the Kiowas to remain free of reservation life. He signed the Medicine Lodge Treaty of 1867 and died near Fort Sill in 1879.

Quannah Parker—a stalwart leader of the Comanches who was born of a white mother, Cynthia Ann Parker, and a Kwahadi Comanche father, Nocona. In later years he became a rancher and helped his people adjust to the white man's way.



BUFFALO HUNT

Carl Wimar

RUNNING BUFFALO

Although the mounted hunt was a sportsman's dream, it was a necessity of life for the Plains Indians.

By Charles Proctor

Romantic figures abound in western history, in fact, the whole concept of the settlement of the western frontier has become so bound up with symbols of excitement and adventure that it is sometimes difficult to separate the dream from the reality. One of the symbols that recurs most consistently is the Plains Indian warrior—he stands for a kind of personal independence and gaudy bravado that most of us envy but cannot experience in our own society. The Plains Indian appeals to the contemporary mind for many reasons. Among the most important is the fact that he “made his living” in an incredibly dashing manner. Practically every white man who tried it described running buffalo as the ultimate in sheer physical excitement—this is what the man of the Plains did to provide for his family. “Bringing home the bacon” was the same necessity it is in any society, but the manner in which it was done had no element of routine or boredom.

Archeology shows that there were buffalo hunters on the Plains long before the arrival of the first European. When Coronado traveled across the Southern Plains in 1541 he found groups of Indians who subsisted mainly on the buffalo, but with a major difference from their descendants, for these were horseless Indians. Although they were nomads they were relatively immobile because

they were limited to walking distances and to loads of baggage they or their dogs could carry. Their buffalo hunting was done either by individuals stalking animals on the fringes of the herd, or by well organized drives where the animals were driven into a corral or over a cliff by the concerted effort of the men of the tribe. Although many animals must have been taken when one of these drives was successful, it is obvious that it would require a great deal of hard work and planning plus some very good luck to make one work properly. The early hunters probably had a feast or famine existence.

It was an inadvertent gift of the Spaniard that changed the hunting pattern on the Plains. In fact, the acquisition of the horse by the Indians revolutionized their whole way of life. Sometime shortly after the year 1600 horses became available to the Indians in the Santa Fe region and by the 1650's some of the tribes of the Southern Plains had become true horse nomads. The horse and the changing pattern of life that went with it diffused northward so that by the early 1700's the Plains were occupied by the highly mobile buffalo hunting tribes that we now tend to think of as the typical American Indian.

So far as buffalo hunting is concerned, the horse obviously made a great difference even to the people who

had always been hunters. The bands could now range much further and move faster, they could transport large portions of meat, and most important they could pursue the herds rather than hoping the herds would come near their impounding areas. In actual practice, early horse-hunting techniques had overtones of the older methods in that the idea of the surround was still used. The hunt of this sort was a communal operation. Scouts were sent out to locate a likely herd and as soon as they reported, the band was placed under the equivalent of martial law. The men of the military fraternities assumed absolute control. They were empowered to severely punish those who broke the hunting regulations, particularly those who frightened the herd by individual hunting before the surround signal was given. A respected and experienced man was chosen as leader.

The hunters left camp before dawn and frequently camp was broken shortly after and moved in the direction of the proposed surround. The hunters moved as a group toward the herd being careful to stay downwind from them. As they approached the buffalo, the men spread into a line which gradually extended itself until the herd was surrounded except for the downwind side. When the leader felt he was as close as was possible without disturbing the herd he would give the signal. The hunters would ride ahead, those on the ends of the line making a particular effort to close the gap of the half moon into a circle. If this maneuver was successful the hunters would be riding around the herd in a ring which had the effect of making the buffalo run in an ever tightening circle. The hunters would close in and kill the animals on the outside. Sometimes as the ring tightened the herd would become so confused it would stop running altogether, which would mean the slaughter would be total. Usually a few animals would manage to break through the line, but even so, this was a method that insured a large percentage of animals killed. Also the meat was apt to be in good condition as a long run raised the body temperature of the animals to the point that the meat was apt to spoil quickly.

The idea of the surround on horseback was an obvious holdover from the days when the tribes did their hunting on foot. It was an idea that gradually went out of fashion as the pattern of life on the Plains changed to more and more reflect the importance of the horse. The technique of hunting most popular after the 1830's was the straight-away chase. Like the surround, the chase could be made by a large number of men under strict leadership with a definite plan. On the other hand the chase could also be engaged in by an individual or small number of men. If the chase was a large group effort the beginnings were very much like the surround except that the leader's responsibilities were simply to get the men as near to the herd as possible and prevent any individual from getting the jump on the others. After the beginning signal was given any real organization ended, for in the chase the hunters were on their own. The herd simply ran, usually in a fairly straight line and the hunters rode along side singling out and killing the animals they wanted. In this situation the hunt never slowed down. The hunter and hunted traveled at breakneck speed until the horses could go no more. Each individual would choose his animal, fire until it dropped and then move on to the next. Except for a short season in early summer when the bulls were prime, cows were by far the most desirable as a source of meat. Cows were faster runners than the larger bulls and for this reason were usually in the front of a running herd. A hunter who had confidence in the speed and stamina of his horse would take the gamble of catching and passing the body of the herd in order to reach these prime targets, those with slower horses would shoot what they could catch. An outstanding marksman on a good horse might kill as many as five animals, but the average kill was one or two.

The chase had certain advantages over the surround in that it could be engaged in by any number of men, it

was less dangerous for the hunter, and it was easier for a hunter to get a good shot at the particular animal he wanted. Another, and perhaps more important reason for the shift to the chase was that it was more compatible with the developing culture pattern of the Plains. Although it might have been less efficient, the chase gave the individual warrior an opportunity to display his skill and courage—it conformed to his notion of the honorable way to hunt.

In either kind of hunt, the principle weapon was the bow and arrow until the advent of the breech-loading rifle in the 1870's. A small minority of hunters preferred to use a stout, metal pointed lance which they wielded with short but powerful overhand strokes. It seems possible that the fire power of a rifle would have had a certain appeal for the buffalo hunter, but the problem of reloading a muzzle-loader while riding at top speed in the midst of a herd apparently cancelled any advantage. Some few white hunters are known to have used guns effectively, but for the Indians their short, springy bows and a quiver of twenty to thirty metal tipped arrows could not be effectively replaced. The Indian could fire very rapidly without greatly changing his position on his horse or removing his attention from the prey, and since a buffalo was seldom killed with the first shot, the speed with which the second or even third could be gotten off was important. At the point blank range from which the hunter worked the bow was entirely adequate in terms of accuracy and power. The fact that arrows were occasionally driven entirely through an animal would attest to sufficient velocity. The fact that the arrow killed at all would attest to the accuracy. A buffalo was an extremely difficult animal to kill, and a shot had to be well placed to be fatal. Accounts differ as to where the exact spot of aim was; some say behind the shoulder, and others say between the last rib and the hip bone with the arrow traveling down and forward, but all agree that the spot was small and that the buffalo could survive a tremendous number of wounds that did not strike the fatal zone.

The highest compliment that anyone could pay to a hunter's marksmanship was to say that he could kill buffalo from any kind of horse, because in the last analysis the horse he rode to a very great extent determined the

AN EPISODE OF THE BUFFALO HUNT

Remington



hunter's success. Each man had a favorite hunting horse which was his prize possession. This fact was so outstanding that one old Comanche man in reminiscing about the days of the buffalo once revealed that he felt many men really loved their favorite horse more than their wives or children. Fortunately, there were probably few times when this was actually put to the test, although it is true that many of these horses were considerably more pampered than the average wife. A man began the training of his horse when it was about four years old. It had to meet a rigid set of specifications in order to be considered for this training. The horse had to be able to maintain high speeds over a distance of several miles, learn to respond instantly to commands and act on its own initiative, be very agile and sure-footed, and not fear buffalo. The horse to be trained would be chosen on the basis of its speed and agility, but some never overcame their innate fear of these great animals and had to be rejected as hunters. The goal was to train the horse so that it could more or less act on its own during the chase. At the beginning of the run the rider would guide his horse to the animal he wanted. Once he was along side, the horse had to maintain the hunter in a good shooting position with a minimum of instructions, leaving the hunter free to concentrate on his shooting. When he heard the twang of the string the horse had to be prepared to swerve if the buffalo turned to charge when wounded, but at the same time get quickly back into position if another shot was necessary or possible. A good horse responded to a slight shift of body weight or pressure of knees on the part of the rider, but the quality that would make an outstanding buffalo horse would be largely inherent.

During the short, crucial period of the chase the life of the owner as well as his reputation as a hunter depended on his horse. It is small wonder that an Indian man could feel very sentimental about a good hunting horse. There

is an excellent parallel for this in our own society. The cow pony, like the buffalo horse, was a very highly trained and carefully selected animal that to a large extent determined the success or failure of his rider's activities. Literature is full of the cowboy's tributes to his faithful horse.

Even with the best mount buffalo hunting was an incredibly dangerous occupation. The most sure-footed hunter was apt to stumble in a rough spot or prairie dog hole, and a man who went down, even if he survived the fall, was in danger of being trampled by the herd that followed him. Although we tend to think of it as an ungainly animal, a buffalo, particularly a wounded one, was capable of some very swift and powerful movements. Contemporary accounts contain many descriptions of poorly trained or unlucky horses that were caught and gored by a swerving buffalo, the horse and rider being thrown into the air and then perhaps attacked again as they lay on the ground. From the time he started chasing the calves that brought up the rear of the herd when he was ten or twelve years old, the Indian hunter was constantly reminded of the danger inherent in his means of livelihood.

The period of the mounted buffalo hunt was a comparatively short one to have achieved such an important place in the history of the western frontier. Primarily as a result of the activities of the white hide hunters the buffalo were completely destroyed by 1880. The tribes, which in many cases had never been defeated in battle, were defeated by hunger. Without the buffalo the Plains Indian's way of life was gone. The disheartened bands that straggled into the reservations signaled the end of a singular part of the American experience. In 150 years a culture based on a unique use of the horse and buffalo sprang up, flourished, and then almost overnight passed away. With it passed one of the most exciting figures of our Western Frontier—the mounted buffalo hunter.



HUNGRY MOON
Frederic Remington

A Rediscovered Russell



By Bruce Wear

An unusual painting by the noted western artist, Charles Russell, was recently found in the crowded storage area of the Gilcrease Museum. It was unknown to the staff and therefore not included in the Russell catalog of 1960. Furthermore it happens to be the earliest work of the famed painter in the Gilcrease Russell Collection. It was done in 1884 when Russell was twenty years old and about four years after he first arrived in Montana from his home in St. Louis.

The unique nature of this painting is that it was done in oil on a composition fruit bowl. The measurement in diameter is fifteen and a half inches. The picture, reproduced above for the first time, is a scene in the mountains

of Montana showing in the foreground a stately lead elk in a pool amid the trees and a few of the herd are seen in the distance. The colors are dark as befits such a scene in the deep forests of the Rockies. It clearly reflects young Russell's intense love for nature and animal life. Russell frequently painted similar views of western animals in their habitat.

This rediscovered Russell entitled THE LEAD ELK came to the Gilcrease Collection by way of the Nancy Russell Estate. It was purchased by Mr. Gilcrease directly from the estate. It is in a gold frame and makes a splendid addition to the outstanding Charles Russell Collection of the Gilcrease Institute's Department of Art.

Building Expansion Program Urgent

Tulsa's future greatness will be measured by its cultural development. Certainly the Thomas Gilcrease Institute of American History and Art plays a pre-eminent role in this sphere. In trying to meet the most urgent, immediate needs of the Gilcrease Institute, adequate space to display the great collection of American History and Art and expansion of our museum facilities becomes an urgent necessity. Our museum serves as a reservoir of Americana and a treasure house of Indian and Western history and art. Its influence is being felt increasingly in this country and elsewhere. Life magazine, American Heritage Magazine and many American and foreign museums including the Metropolitan of New York, and the Smithsonian of Washington have called on us for permission to show, write about and reproduce items that can be found only at Gilcrease.

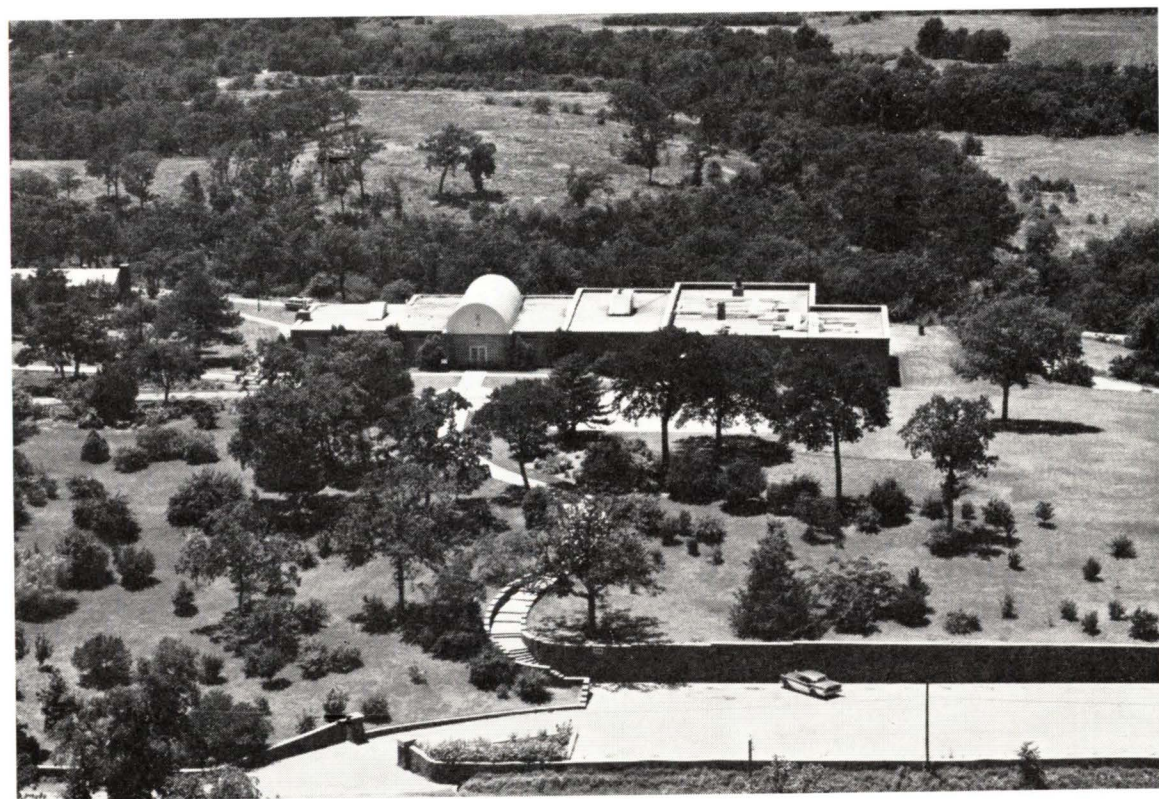
When Tulsa acquired this treasure

in 1954 Mr. Thomas Gilcrease permitted the City the use of his museum building for a period of five years at no cost. The plan was that before the end of this period a building would be constructed in downtown Tulsa to house the collection. The favorable reaction of the public to the beauty of the site in Blackdog Township on which the museum building is located, high on a knoll overlooking the beautiful, unspoiled Osage hills to the North and in the opposite direction the impressive skyline of downtown Tulsa, inspired Mr. Gilcrease to give this property to the City of Tulsa without cost in 1958. The present museum building consists of thirteen galleries and permits the display of less than ten per cent of the paintings, artifacts, ethnological materials, books, manuscripts and other items in the collection.

It is not fair to the public that so many of its treasures should be kept

in storage and be displayed only once in four or five years. This condition can now be remedied by expanding the size of the building Mr. Gilcrease has given us at a fraction of the cost that would have been required if it has been necessary to move the collection downtown. The Building Committee of the Gilcrease Institute is working on plans to expand our present building to take care of our needs for the next ten years. An expanded building will provide facilities for better display and care of our great collection of Americana and for thorough research by scholars of the treasures it contains. People who may be inclined to give art objects to the museum will be encouraged to do so knowing that they will be displayed instead of being buried in storage. Our reputation as a great city will be enhanced by the creation of these building improvements.

Alfred E. Aaronson



Courtesy of Industrial Photography Co.—Tulsa

MUSEUM NEWS



E. Fred Johnson being congratulated by Alfred Aaronson, Thomas Gilcrease, and Wm. S. Bailey Jr.

E. Fred Johnson, popular civic leader of Tulsa and President of the Fourth National Bank, was elected President of the Gilcrease Institute Board of Directors at the annual meeting in January. Mr. Johnson was born at Cleburn, Texas, but was raised in Oklahoma. He came to Tulsa in 1912 and has been active continuously in civic affairs since that time. He has served twice as President of the Chamber of Commerce, was a founder of the Tulsa Community Fund and is currently on the Board of Trustees of Tulsa University. Mr. Johnson has an abiding appreciation of the American heritage and a special interest in the history of Tulsa, much of which he himself has seen enacted. Under the leadership of Fred Johnson the development program for the Gilcrease Institute will move forward significantly.

James T. Forrest resigned as Executive Director in January to become director of the fine arts division of the Museum of New Mexico, Santa Fe. Mr. Forrest had the honor of serving as the first Executive Director of the Gilcrease Museum and Library under its administration by the City of Tulsa. He established the staff, set up the monthly Special Exhibits, inaugurated the publication of The American Scene of which he was editor, directed the first National Representational Art Show held at Gilcrease in May, 1958, established a school education program and made the materials of the collection available for public use. To Mr. Forrest largely goes the credit of having transformed this excellent private collection into a public educational institution. Such a task is always a difficult one and James Forrest is to be congratulated on the suc-

cessful manner in which he accomplished his primary undertaking at Gilcrease. The staff and his many friends in Tulsa extend best wishes to him in his new position.

Glen R. Ames, genial and capable retired executive of the Phillips Oil Company, was appointed Acting Executive Director in February to succeed James Forrest and his appointment has proven a popular one. Mr. Ames has insight into the problems and endeavors of the museum and has qualities of leadership which has made him an outstanding civic leader in Tulsa for many years.

"Osage Orator," a portrait of Chief Charles Whitehorn, was dedicated to the Full-Blood members of the Osage Tribe in ceremonies at the museum on the evening of April 13th. The painting by Charles Banks Wilson was commissioned for that purpose by James A. Kennedy, a member of the Osage Council. Mr. D. E. "Bill" Martin gave the dedicatory remarks which included a short history of the Osage and other appropriate background material and Miss Marlene Goode then unveiled the portrait. Chief Paul Pitts accepted in behalf of the Full-Blood members of the Osages. Chief Charles Whitehorn himself explained the ceremonial dress in which he appears in the painting. He is one of a very few persons now living able to speak the native Osage tongue with fluency. Other talks were made by Charles Banks Wilson and James A. Kennedy who owns the painting.

Attendance at the museum during the month of March was very good. Total Sunday attendance for the month

averaged well over 500 and on March 19th the all time high for an afternoon was attained when 750 people visited the museum.

Blossom time has been very beautiful on the museum grounds this year. A colorful array of blooms burst forth beginning in early March. First to come were the Chinese magnolia followed by forsythia, the japonica, Chinese and native redbud trees, peach and apple blossoms, and lilac of white, blue and violet hues and dogwood. Warm sunny days added to the attractiveness of the Osage Hills setting.

Mrs. Minnie Kennedy Mannion is serving as Chairman of the 1961 Hospitality Committee and Mrs. John Cassidy is in charge of publicity. Members include: Mrs. Alfred E. Aaronson, Mrs. Robert W. Allen, Mrs. Lane R. Baird, Mrs. Marion Blake, Mrs. Roger Devlin, Mrs. Elmer Ferneau, Miss Julia Francis, Mrs. Jack Hayes, Mrs. Ben Henneke, Mrs. D. K. Holway, Mrs. E. Fred Johnson, Mrs. Joseph O. Kremer, Mrs. Edward C. Lawson, Mrs. Ed Ligon, Mrs. Murray McCune, Miss Barbara Miers, Miss Eileen Simpson, Mrs. H. B. Smith, Mrs. Robert L. Stone, Mrs. Bill Tandy, Mrs. Russel Tarr and Mrs. G. H. Westby.

Charles Lamb, original member of the Gilcrease Oil Company and an associate and personal friend of Thomas Gilcrease, died in Tulsa March 27th at the age of 86. Mr. Lamb, one of the founders of Clinton in western Oklahoma, had contributed valuable materials to the Library. He watched the growth and development of the Gilcrease Collection from its beginning and his loss is greatly felt by friends of the Institution.