

DOCENT NEWS LETTER
JUNE '95

Marty Marina

Schedules

Judy Roberts did the June and July scheduling and the results are enclosed. Having the July schedule in advance is a real plus. After several months on this assignment, I fully appreciate how difficult it is to complete the schedule before the first of the month. You are a busy group, and blending so many schedules can be difficult. If you are scheduled to work the first few days of the month, you will want to rely on your calendar and not wait to receive one from us. Because of Judy's hard work and good fortune, all you need to do next month is confirm your work day.

"Reality"

Robert Burns said, "the best laid schemes of mice and men often go astray." My plans did not go astray, they crashed head-on into reality. Under the present circumstances, I have abandoned the concept of using split shifts to extend weekend hours. It seems almost no one wants to work the late shift and, despite having several new recruits, docent vacations and work schedules are keeping us short-staffed. Fortunately, we were able to add Friday to our schedule. Our summer hours are 10-4 Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

You will notice that on most days, there are only two docents scheduled. Until recently this was our staffing level, and it seems that most of you prefer the busier pace. Who am I to question--especially when we are short staffed. Having only two docents on duty makes it imperative that you find a replacement and notify your partner, if you cannot work. Monsoons put more than a damp spirit on prairie visitation in May, but I am confident that will change soon.

The following docents have expressed a willingness to substitute: Barbara Marashi, Anne Johnson, Dorothy Buck, Dick Baker, Liz Medley, Joan Fuller and Bill Johnson. You may want to try them before calling the others.

Osage Heritage Day

Osage Heritage Day is Saturday, June 17. This is a fun event to work and to attend. Stories told by old time cowboys, Sean Standingbear's discussion of Osage culture, and the ecology tours will add to your knowledge about the preserve. I have always thought Oklahoman's lucky to be able to talk with their history and Heritage Day is the perfect opportunity.

We need people who are willing to work a shift that day, either a morning or afternoon shift. Please leave me a message at 918-585-1117, extension 22, if you plan to be there.

Manuals

I am mailing updated Docent Manuals to veteran docents. These are being sent under separate cover at book rate. The revisions were included in all new docent manuals, so this year's class will receive only the new sections--the roster and Chapman Barnard history. Liz

Medley, with the help of Jim and Jeanne Ronda, did an outstanding job of collecting information about Chapman, Barnard and the Ranch. Liz and Jeanne spent hours on this piece and the result is interesting and informative. Veteran Docents, be sure to notice the section Sean Standingbear prepared about Osage History. Sean is Director of the Osage Tribal Museum. Your new docent roster is in its appropriate section as well.

Maintenance

Jeremy Collins, who has been responsible for cleaning the restroom and stocking trail brochures, is away at camp for two months. The cowboys are filling in, but the system is less than perfect. Will you give extra attention to checking and restocking the restroom along with the trail head brochure rack when you arrive and when you leave? Thanks!

NEW Stuff

The docent office is now equipped with a small refrigerator and microwave. I hope this will give you more and safer options for food storage and preparation. To accommodate the more than seventy docents, please take home any leftover food or drink.

The new ladies restroom should be functional by Osage Heritage Day. This restroom, a 3-holer, was built by the Pawhuska High School Vo-Tech class. Once the new facility is functional, the restroom that once served only cowboys will return to being a men's room. Having two restrooms should speed service when the tour buses arrive.

The City of Pawhuska and the Pawhuska Foundation have purchased property for a Visitor's Center and Chamber of Commerce Office. The property, formerly a car dealership, is located on the west end of Main Street, next to the Blacksmith's House. By late July, the City expects to have restroom facilities for tour buses. This should alleviate the line at the Circle K. It will be next year before the facility is completed with exhibits in place.

I have a proposal before the Oklahoma Heating and Air Conditioning Contractors Association to provide central heat and air for the docent office and gift shop. The proposal is moving through channels and everything looks positive, although there is no guarantee we will get it. Sue and I are wanting to hold out for their decision. A central unit will free valuable floor space and provide more uniform climate control than a window unit. In the meantime, I have purchased two box fans to circulate the air. Now that it is starting to warm up, you may be more comfortable wearing walking shorts or loose fitting cotton clothes. We promise not to let you suffer all summer, just give us a few weeks.

Patches

Sue has been diligently working with a company to provide patches for the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve. After several valiant, yet aborted attempts, she is starting over with a new supplier. She will be staying with the same specialty representative because she has given us good service in the past and because she has invested a lot of her time and money trying to get a quality product for us. I tell you this so that you will understand why you have not received the free patch I promised for your shirt. We are holding out for a quality product and know the result will be worth the wait.

Glenn Miller Orchestra

The Oklahoma Chapter of The Nature Conservancy is hosting the Glenn Miller Orchestra as a fundraiser for the Chapter. This ever popular group has sold out the last few times they were in Tulsa. Auditorium seating for \$20 or \$25 can be purchased at the Brady Theater Box Office. Table seating for \$50 a person can be purchased at the Conservancy's Tulsa office from Lorre Troyer at 918-585-1117. Table seating includes two free drinks and table service. The cost of the show is underwritten and all ticket sales go to the Conservancy.

Closing

As always friends, we are more than grateful for your service. Your caring, good work is paying dividends. You can never know the full value of time you spend with a visitor. A few times each week, I answer a call that begins, "I was talking to a docent," then expands to an idea that sparked their interest. Your enthusiasm and commitment is contagious, you are bringing this subtle landscape to life for our visitors. Bless you!

Sweet Sue Answers You

Comments from Sue Wheeler, Gift Shop Manager

1. Yes, the white shopping bags with handles are free. These are provided for people who need or want one. Some customers are traveling and want to have their merchandise packed securely for the trip. We have found that most of our customers do not want a bag, especially for the small purchases, and we are happy to save the trees.
2. I really appreciate your notes, concerning low stock. Be sure you include any notes with the yellow sales tickets. I quite often don't see the other reports and when I do it is much later.
3. Please use one yellow ticket for each customer rather than putting a full day's sales on one ticket.
4. Whoever lost the newspaper clipping concerning the family nudist park, the Tolsons found it on the floor and said to tell you, "Thanks, but we're too old."
5. Send both deposit slips to the bank with the deposit. If a teller is still there when you arrive, ask her to leave the extra ticket with the deposit rather than give it to you. Someone in the bank's auditing department mails it to Kay at our Pawhuska office.
6. The petty cash amount is \$150. Try to leave that amount, or as close to it as possible, in the cash box.
7. For those who have forgotten, the cash box combination is 123. It is posted on the bulletin board.