

Space wanted

BA Historical Museum planners looking for temporary quarters

By **TIM STANLEY**
World Staff Writer

To volunteer space for donated artifacts until the new Broken Arrow Historical Museum is ready, call 258-2616 or 808-7871.

For brochures detailing the Broken Arrow Historical Society's Leave a Legacy fundraising drive, call 258-2616.

Several individual and corporate donation packages are available, with some donors to have their names included with permanent exhibits.

The planned Broken Arrow Historical Museum won't open to the public until spring 2007, but work on planning several proposed exhibits has already begun in earnest.

Without the museum, though, planners need storage space to house new contributions related to future exhibits and other incoming items.

Broken Arrow Historical Society President Gary Gerber says the group is asking for interested residents to donate temporary space.

"I think about 300 or 400 square feet would be ample," he said.

"We're getting lots of calls from people wanting to donate items. And we don't want to have to turn them away. We'll have plenty of space when the museum is ready, we just need some temporary storage for now."

The society's museum currently occupies a 2,300-square-foot space in a city-owned facility.

Voters approved \$1.5 million in the 2004 city bond election for construc-



Gary Gerber

tion of a new museum, which will occupy a site at El Paso and Main streets in downtown Broken Arrow.

Society officials kicked off a fundraising campaign in May to raise an additional \$1 million.

Campaign organizers expect to announce a big donation from a new corporate sponsor later this week, Gerber said.

"We're hoping to attract more corporate sponsorships," he said. "This should get the ball rolling."

Officials are in contract negotiations with a design firm for the facility, which will offer around 9,000-square-feet of space, likely divided between three floors.

Original plans called for a two-story museum, but a consultant's

report on downtown revitalization recommended making it three to optimize available space.

As recommended in the same report, Gerber said, campaign organizers expect to receive \$200,000 out of the \$4 million in Vision 2025 sales tax funds allotted for downtown projects.

"We anticipate that being a significant part of our fundraising," Gerber said.

Money raised through the campaign would also help furnish the museum and fund restoration of historical acquisitions.

Arkansas Valley State Bank donated the property, next door to the bank's headquarters, for the museum.

Information needed for special exhibits

Members of the Broken Arrow Historical Society are looking for information on early Broken Arrow to include in special exhibits for their planned museum.

The society would especially like to hear from individuals with items reflective of the town's early business era — photos, furniture, equipment, along with any information that might prove helpful in compiling brief histories of the town's early businesses.

Information and items are also sought in reference to the community's early coal mining, farming and ranching industries.

Call 258-2616 if you can help.

Heartland Antique Radio Association preserving history

By **SARA PLUMMER**
World Staff Writer

Some of Andy Anderson's favorite memories involve radios.

"When I was growing up, I listened to Bob Wills' Cains Academy," Anderson said. "It's where I took my wife on our honeymoon."

He built his first radio, a crystal radio, when he was 15.

"You could get KVOO, and it was the only station," he said.

Anderson, 82, still has that radio — and more than 100 others.

He is not alone in his love of radios.

He and 47 other men are members of the Heartland Antique Radio Association.

"It's a nice hobby. It's one of those hobbies you can put as much or as little into as you want," said Wes Eaton, club president.

Eaton said his interest in radios started 55 years ago, when he was a radio operator in the Navy.

"All the dials and needles fascinated me. All the knobs and switches," he said.

Eaton has rebuilt and restored



more than 75 radios dating from approximately 1915 to the 1970s.

"Some are easy to fix, and others just drive you crazy," he said.

Dan Weilacher caught the radio bug when he inherited his grandmother's 1936 Zenith radio.

"I remember as a kid looking up and playing with the knobs," Weilacher said. "I completely restored it and got interested that way."

Like many of the club's members, Weilacher has seen his radio collection in Catoosa grow.

"I went from one radio to about 20, which isn't much compared to some of the other guys," he said.

Weilacher, one of the youngest members of the group, said the older members are great resources.

"They all really help you a lot. They have an incredible knowledge on the history and restoration," he said. "There's a lot a newbie like me can learn."

Eaton said the primary goal of the club is the preservation of antique radios.

"We try to cover all aspects of restoring old radios," including aesthetic aspects such as wood restoration. "We usually have a subject for each meeting, like how to fix this or how to repair that."

Weilacher said there are a few radio stations in the area that play music and radio programs from the early part of the 20th century.

"I enjoy a radio a lot more when you play something that was originally played on it," he said.

Anderson and Eaton are like the people who restore classic cars, but never drive them: They rarely listen to the radios they rebuild, but they enjoy the process of bringing something back to life and making it look like new.

"Most of the members are a lot like myself," Eaton said. "They like having something to tinker with in their spare time."



SARA PLUMMER / Tulsa World

Andy Anderson demonstrates how one of his crystal radios works before the July meeting of the Heartland Antique Radio Association. Radios of all shapes and sizes line the wall during a recent meeting of the Heartland Antique Radio Association. The 48-member group meets every third Thursday of the month at Hale Library.

CLUB

What: Heartland Antique Radio Association

When: 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month; the next meeting is scheduled for Aug. 18.

Where: Hale Library, 6038 E. 23rd St.

For more: Visit www.hlara.org.

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