

The New Century

APRIL 19, 1995. At 9:02 on Wednesday morning, April 19, 1995, Linda Harmon waited to do business at Cashion's Community State Bank, some twenty-two miles northwest of downtown Oklahoma City. Suddenly the building in which she stood shook with a loud noise that sounded like thunder — but it was a clear day.

Brian Jester, co-owner of the Bricktown Brewery Restaurant, parked his car at the Galleria and walked toward the Oklahoma County Courthouse where he planned to do business. As he crossed Harvey near Park Avenue, a “huge concussion” knocked him to the pavement. At the same moment he saw “the top fly off” the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, just a few blocks away. *That had to be a bomb*, he thought immediately.

Jester was right. A homemade bomb inside a rented Ryder truck parked in front of the Alfred P. Murrah building had exploded, destroying the front half of the building, killing 168 people, including nineteen children, and injuring more than 800.

The Murrah building housed most of the federal offices assigned to Oklahoma City and a daycare center for the children of federal workers and others in the area. It had been hit by a terrorist attack, something that people had thought would never happen in America's *heartland*.

Within minutes, Oklahoma City went into action, implementing procedures that hospitals, police officers, firemen and others had practiced repeatedly and recently in anticipation of any large emergency that might occur. Amid the dust, smoke and debris, *volunteers* located victims, stabilized them as much as possible, and sent them to waiting hospitals. They took care of immediate tasks swiftly and effectively as they tried to



Rescue workers stand in the crumbling ruins of the Murrah Federal Building.

deal with the emotions inspired by the grisly scene in which they worked.

Because of modern communications technology, the bombing story made it around the world in minutes. A few hours after the explosion, Linda Cavanaugh, KFOR news anchor, woke up in Vietnam, where she was on *assignment*. She tuned in to a morning news show. She was surprised to see her KFOR co-workers on Vietnam television. Thousands of miles away from home, she heard the story of the Oklahoma City bombing, the worst terrorist attack in the history of the United States.

Brave men and women from around Oklahoma and all across the country came to help. Many of them picked their way through the remains of the shaky, dangerous structure, looking for survivors. One selfless *volunteer* nurse from Moore was killed by falling debris as she searched for victims.

Injured victims were also brave. Daina Bradley who was trapped in the basement of the building, pinned under hundreds of pounds of debris which rescuers could not move, suffered the amputation of her leg with primitive surgical tools and no anesthetic. The surgeon stood in water up to his waist while performing the operation. With the loss of her leg, the woman was freed to be removed from the building. As a result, she lived.

In the next few days, a photograph snapped by Charles H. Porter, IV, a downtown bank employee, became the international symbol of the tragedy — Fireman Chris Fields carrying the body of one-year-old Baylee Almon. The emotional pain on the fireman's face reflected the feelings of the world, and especially the state of mind of the citizens of Oklahoma. *Who could have done such a thing?* they wondered.

At 10:30 a.m. on that same day, Timothy McVeigh was stopped by highway patrolman Charlie Hanger on Interstate 35 near Billings because his car had no license tag. The patrolman discovered that McVeigh was carrying a gun. Shortly thereafter, McVeigh found himself in the Noble County jail. Within days, he was charged in the bombing deaths of the eight federal officers who died in the attack.

An *extensive* investigation ensued, resulting in the arrest of Terry Nichols, a former army buddy of McVeigh. The state charged that the two men had conspired not only to blow up the federal building, but to do it at a time when a large number of people would be killed.

McVeigh and Nichols apparently believed that the American government had gone too far in an incident in Waco, Texas, on April 19, 1993. In an attempt to arrest cult leader David Koresh, a lengthy standoff occurred between several federal agencies and the occupants of the Branch

Davidian compound. As a result, eighty-one people died, including several children.

Attorney Stephen Jones of Enid agreed to represent McVeigh. The federal trial was held in U. S. District Court in Denver, Colorado. On June 2, 1997, a jury found McVeigh guilty of the deaths of the eight federal officers who died in the bombing and three weapons or explosives counts. On June 13, he was sentenced to die by lethal injection. McVeigh was executed at Terre Haute, Indiana on June 11, 2001.

Terry Nichols was also found guilty; however, the jury could not agree on a sentence. Judge Richard Matsch sentenced Nichols to life in prison without parole. Appeals began for him. District Attorney Bob Macy of Oklahoma County vowed to bring Nichols back to Oklahoma to stand trial for killing those who were not federal agents. Eventually Nichols was tried in McAlester, found guilty and sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. Oklahoma spent more than \$10 million on the controversial prosecution, and Nichols received the same sentence he was already serving on federal charges.

In addition to McVeigh and Nichols, McVeigh's friend, Michael Fortier of Kingman, Arizona, convicted of a felony and sentenced to prison because he had previous knowledge of the attack and did not tell police so that the incident could have been prevented. Fortier was released from a federal prison in January, 2006 after serving about 85 percent of a 12-year sentence.

Following the bombing, people around the world responded with money, gifts, and letters for the victims and their families. College funds were *established* for children whose parents had been killed; trust funds were set up to help pay for individual costs of the tragedy.

Truckloads of equipment and supplies to be used in the search or to be distributed to victims' families rolled in from other states. Local restaurants donated meals for workers and businesses gave materials.

Celebrities such as Kirstie Alley, Troy Aikman, other Dallas Cowboys, and Oprah Winfrey came personally to give comfort to victims and their families and *encouragement* to rescuers and other *volunteers*. Reba McEntire, Vince Gill, and Garth Brooks, all native Oklahomans and country music stars, combined their efforts to raise money for those affected by the disaster. These and many other celebrities contributed money to emerging causes and expressed sympathy and admiration for the people of Oklahoma.

Volunteers came from everywhere, and Oklahomans were grateful.

Oklahoma became known for its *hospitality* and its spirit of appreciation. Even the crime rate went down markedly in Oklahoma City during the weeks in which *volunteers* searched the area for survivors and then for bodies.



*Governor Frank
Keating*

Crowds gathered outside the *established perimeters* to watch the search, but the people were quiet and respectful. Oklahomans felt *profound* sorrow for their loss and great pride in the rescuers and officials who risked their own lives to help the injured, to find the deceased, and to gather evidence. Searchers displayed courage and bravery far beyond *expectation*. Police officers, firefighters, doctors and nurses, other officials, and private citizens – they all came to help, without regard for the risk to their own lives and health.

Seventy-five buildings in downtown Oklahoma City suffered damage from the blast. Most were closed for a period of time until repairs could be made and the buildings inspected. A fence was erected around the bombing site, and it became the medium by which the world expressed its grief. People left flowers, toys, notes, pictures, clothing, and innumerable other items to honor the dead and to tell the world of their *mourning*.

The site is now called the Oklahoma City National Memorial Museum. It has become a popular destination for visitors to the Oklahoma City area. The Symbolic Memorial opened on April 19, 2000. One year later, the Memorial Center Museum opened in the Journal-Record building. Also included in the memorial is the Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism.

The memorial included the “survivors’ tree.” Gnarled and heavily damaged by the blast, a lone tree across the street from the Murrah building found the strength to live. It seemed to mimic the survivors in its unwillingness to give up life in the face of heavy personal loss and injury.

President Clinton met with victims’ family members and others on the first anniversary of the tragedy. He had met with many of those same people when he visited the state shortly after the bombing and expressed his sorrow and concern.

As a result of the *devastating* event, the federal government built bar-



riers in front of its buildings and have taken other precautions to prevent future incidents.

Some Oklahomans are saddened by the fact that the event which brought Oklahoma to international attention was a deliberate, man-made tragedy in which 168 people died. Most are proud that Oklahomans and others showed courage and strength of character in dealing with the death and *devastation*.

GOVERNOR FRANK KEATING. Frank Keating, born February 10, 1944, was Governor from 1995 to 2003. He won two consecutive terms and was only the second Republican governor to do so.

He was born in St. Louis, Missouri, and his family moved to Tulsa when he was six months old. He was graduated from Cascia Hall School in 1962 and received a B.A. in history from Georgetown University in 1966. He earned a law degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1969 and became an FBI agent the same year. In 1972, he was an assistant district attorney in Tulsa.

He won a seat in the Oklahoma State Senate in 1974 and served seven

*On a sunny day, the
inside of the new
Capitol Dome is alive
with varied colors.*

years rising to the level of Senate Minority Leader. He was appointed U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Oklahoma in 1981.

He was the highest ranking Oklahoman in the Reagan and George H. W. Bush Administrations, serving in the Treasury, Justice, and Housing and Urban Development Departments.

Keating became Governor of Oklahoma in 1994. He had returned to Oklahoma just prior to his run for governor. In 2000, he was being

considered for U.S. Attorney-General but was rejected when it was reported that over a ten-year period before he was governor, Keating had accepted gifts of almost \$250,000 from Jack Dreyfus, a mutual fund pioneer. Keating said that the gifts were fully disclosed and were approved by the Federal Office of Government Ethics.

Governor Keating's accomplishments included overseeing the largest road construction project in Oklahoma history, the first cut in the state income tax in 50 years, and a dramatic decline in the welfare rolls.

He also led a successful effort to make right-to-work the law of the land in Oklahoma. He raised more than \$20 million in private money to build a dome on the Oklahoma State Capitol. The building was originally designed for a dome, but state funding for it ran out during World War I.

Governor Keating won national recognition for his leadership during the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing of the Murrah Building. He and first lady Cathy Keating raised six million dollars in bombing relief money, which went to college scholarships for children left by the attack with



A dejected man sits on a pew amid the ruins of a Tulsa church which has been blown away by a tornado.

no parents.

Keating returned to Washington, D. C., after his second term was over and accepted a position as president and CEO of the American Council of Life Insurers, the trade association for the retirement security and life insurance industry.

In 2002, he wrote a children's book about Oklahoma humorist Will Rogers. In 2006, he wrote a children's book about Theodore Roosevelt. Keating serves on the boards of the National Archives and George Wash-

ington's home in Mount Vernon, Virginia.

OKLAHOMA CITY MAPS PROJECT. The Oklahoma City Metropolitan Area Projects plan led the country in renewal projects of its kind. Launched in December 1994, when voters approved a special five-year, one-cent sales tax, the project proposed construction or *renovation* of nine major developments – a Triple-A baseball park, the Civic Center Music Hall, the convention center, a sports arena, the downtown canal, riverfront areas, a trolley system, the library, and the fairgrounds.

The canal opened for traffic in 1999. Despite the fact that one of the *excursion* boats sank the first day, the canal quickly became a popular attraction. Patterned after San Antonio's Riverwalk, the canal flows through the downtown area, beginning at Bricktown, a former industrial area that was refurbished to house fine restaurants and unusual shops. Clever landscaping and modern *renovations* of old warehouses provide interesting and beautiful sites for passengers on the canal.

The Chickasaw Bricktown Ball Park became the home field for the Oklahoma City Redhawks, formerly the Oklahoma City Eighty-Niners, a farm-level baseball team for the Texas Rangers. The ballpark opened for the 1998 season, replacing All-Sports Stadium near the fairgrounds.

In December, 1999, voters approved an extension of the five-year sales tax to cover a 3 percent cost overrun on the project. Planners were certain that, with the extended tax, the project would be paid in full by completion. At that time construction had begun on the other developments.

TULSA REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. In 1996, Tulsa Mayor M. Susan Savage urged the application for an EPA brownfields grant on behalf of the city. The Tulsa Industrial Authority wrote the grant proposal, and the Environmental Protection Agency awarded Tulsa a \$200,000 Brownfields Assessment Pilot Grant.

Previously undeveloped lands are called "greenfields." "Brownfields" grants support the revitalization of abandoned, idled or under-used industrial and commercial properties, especially where environmental complications might exist. Tulsa was Oklahoma's first brownfields pilot city and one of 30 cities nationwide to receive grants in 1997.

Real estate agents and developers were the key to getting the project on its way. They found people interested in moving into the finished projects, thereby giving incentives to owners to reclaim and refurbish the lands and buildings. Forty-six brownfields locations were identified in the

beginning of the project.

The need to “rebuild Tulsa” came out of industrial expansion in the 1970s and 1980s. Companies left the downtown area and built new factories and buildings on what had previously been farmland. This left several properties that had environmental problems. The area was described as an eyesore, and Mayor Savage said it began to look more like the “rustbelt instead of the sunbelt.”

One Chamber of Commerce official said that rebuilding Tulsa would not be easy or inexpensive. He did believe that it would be easier and cheaper than dealing with declining property values, displacement of residents and businesses, growing blight, and other problems accompanying the creation of brownfields.

Rebuilding brownfields was named a key component in Tulsa’s planned economic development for the future.

OKLAHOMA AGRICULTURE. As the 20th *century* came to a close, some 84,000 farmers and ranchers operated in the state. The agriculture industry experienced many ups and downs, but it was still one of the major contributors to the state economy. Agriculture provided \$6.1 billion to the economy annually.

Oklahoma agriculture underwent dramatic changes during the last five years of the *century*. Perhaps the most notable change was the rapid increase in the production of hogs. Actually, the previous all-time high in numbers of hogs produced was 1.6 million in 1911, after which production dropped significantly. Only in 1998 did current production exceed the 1911 record.

Hog farms are both farmer-operated and company-operated, and they are located all across the state. However, northwest Oklahoma has most of the largest operations. Large corporate farms, such as Seaboard Foods and Murphy Family Farms, have received much negative publicity.

Although the farms have provided many jobs, nearby residents complain of noxious odors that they say make living in the area very unpleasant. They also fear that the waste from the hog operations will pollute ground water. This is a serious charge in a part of the state where water is scarce. By December, 1999, no long-term solution was approved.

Wheat is still the Number One cash crop in Oklahoma, although production has declined because of weak prices and drought. Most Oklahoma wheat farmers grow hard red winter wheat. Planted in the fall, it grows during the winter and is harvested in the summer. It can provide

winter pasture for cattle, and after harvest, the straw is sometimes baled for feed. Wheat production and the cattle industry are interrelated in Oklahoma.

The state's wheat history overlaps with that of the Santa Fe Railroad. The government gave the railroad companies every other square mile of land for ten miles on either side of the planned rail route, so that they could recover the money they would spend in building the lines. Railroad companies hired land agents to sell lands beyond the amount reserved for each railroad right-of-way where the tracks would be built.

One adventurous land agent traveled to Russia and found Mennonites who had moved from Germany because they were promised religious freedom, but the promise had not been kept. They were looking for a new home. The land agent approached a miller named Bernard Warkentin and convinced him to go to Kansas to see the situation for himself.

Warkentin encouraged his fellow Russian Mennonites to *emigrate* to Kansas, where they could buy cheap railroad land that would grow wheat. He advised them to load their travel trunks with the Turkey hard-red wheat seed for their first wheat crops in America.

From Kansas, many Mennonites moved to central and western Oklahoma and spread the production of wheat.

The raising of chickens is also a major cash industry for farmers in Oklahoma, particularly in the eastern part of the state. The long, low chicken houses are easily recognized by travelers in the area. About 245 million USDA broilers are raised in Oklahoma every year.

Forestry and its related industries continue to grow in southeastern Oklahoma. The continuing *demand* for paper and for lumber needed for construction has greatly increased the importance of forestry products. Weyerhaeuser Corp. has become the major corporation involved in the lumber industry and in tree farming.

Other cash crops provide *revenue* for Oklahoma and its citizens. Peanuts, cotton, soybeans, and even flowers go from farm to market in the state. Cannas are the primary flower crop, but Dream Valley Farms near Cache F many poinsettias for the Christmas season.

PRIVATE INDUSTRY IN CORRECTIONS. Major changes in the Oklahoma Department of Corrections (DOC) occurred in the last five years of the *century*. The DOC had experienced lawsuits based on overcrowding, at times bringing about the early release of some convicts. These early releases were not popular with the people or lawmakers. One

suggestion to relieve the problem was to allow the construction of privately run prisons in the state.

Officials signed the first contract for a private prison in January 1996. This contract provided for the construction of the Great Plains Correctional Facility. Space may be leased by any state, but primarily it is leased to house Oklahoma inmates.

Since the first private prison was built at Hinton, others have been built on other sites: Diamond Back Correctional Facility at Watonga, Lawton Correctional Facility at Lawton, North Fork Correctional Facility at Sayre, Cimarron Correctional Facility at Cushing, Davis Correctional Facility at Holdenville, and Central Oklahoma Correctional Facility at McCloud.

Controversy preceded the establishment of private prisons in Oklahoma. Governor Frank Keating was one of the strongest boosters of the private enterprises. The DOC had estimated that it could build and operate a new 1,000-bed prison more cheaply than paying private prisons to board 1,000 Oklahoma inmates. Governor Keating disputed the DOC figures.

In December, 1999, the *Tulsa World* reported that 26 percent of the state's prison population was housed in private prisons, costing almost \$100-million a year. Much of the cost was in payroll.

In 1998, Tulsa citizens voted to fund a privately-operated Tulsa City/County Jail. The issue created a **controversy**, particularly between Tulsa Mayor Susan Savage and Tulsa County Sheriff Stanley Gantz. The sheriff said private companies cut costs and took risks for profit. He said that a private facility would not provide adequate protection for those people housed in the jail.

Mayor Savage supported the private industry; it was endorsed by the *Tulsa World*; and it was approved by the Tulsa Criminal Justice Authority.

Unlike private long-term prisons, the Tulsa facility would be owned by the county and run by a private corporation. The operation could be redeemed and run by the county, if necessary.

The Tulsa County Criminal Justice Authority signed a three-year contract with Corrections Corporation of America to operate the jail. On August 2, 1999, Tulsa County's new jail began accepting inmates at the 1,400-bed David L. Moss Criminal Justice Center.

Three lawsuits were filed in an attempt to stop privatization of the jail, including one by Sheriff Gantz, but none had been successful by the end of 1999.

TWISTER, MAY 3, 1999. Many Oklahomans were reminded of the popular disaster movie *Twister* on May 3, 1999, when the most powerful tornado in recorded history and a host of smaller tornadoes struck central Oklahoma. The big funnel reached at least 318 miles per hour in strength. Scenes in the movie, which had previously been labeled as ridiculous or impossible by some people who lived in Oklahoma's "Tor-



nado Alley,” became fact in the May 3 aftermath.

Experts said no one expected that a Category Six tornado would ever occur, that Category Six had been created in theory only to define the strength of a Category Five tornado.

On May 3, Oklahomans experienced Category Six. As a result, nearly four dozen people died, nearly a thousand were injured, and 5,200 homes were destroyed or damaged. Thirteen thousand people moved temporarily into hotels and motels because their own homes were no longer livable.

Dozens of tornadoes touched down, wreaking havoc and *devastation*,

Almost everything in the path of the 1999 tornado in the Oklahoma City area was either damaged or destroyed, from furniture to cars to houses. Damage was in the millions of dollars.

but the Category Six cut a swath of destruction more than a half-mile wide, and it stayed on the ground, making its way across the state for ninety minutes. No previous storm had ever traveled at ground level for so long.

The town of Bridge Creek, southwest of Oklahoma City, all but disappeared. Part of the school survived. Every business in the Tanger Factory Outlet Mall in Stroud was damaged or destroyed, and the mall never

reopened. The funnel carried away or pummeled ten thousand cars, many of them brand new and on dealership lots.

President Bill Clinton visited the area on Saturday, May 8. He comforted victims and called the storm damage “the biggest and most intensive I’ve seen.” The president named sixteen counties “disaster areas” — Caddo, Canadian, Cleveland, Craig, Creek, Grady, Kingfisher, McClain, LeFlore, Lincoln, Logan, Noble, Oklahoma, Ottawa,



Maj. Dan Crouch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mosul, Iraq along with other U.S. Army Corps of Engineer employees traveled to two schools located in the northern Iraq province of Dohuk to deliver school supplies and candy donated from Missouri residents.

Pottawatomie, and Tulsa.

President Clinton expressed admiration for the “Oklahoma standard,” as he noted American flags flying over piles of rubble that had once been homes or businesses. He congratulated the people on their spirit of survival and community. He praised the hundreds of **volunteers** who came immediately following the tornado to help search for missing people and to prevent further disaster.

The 1995 bombing, still fresh in the minds of Oklahomans, had prepared the state for handling many aspects of the new disaster. The American Red Cross had a long list of people who were experienced in search and rescue and willing to be called. Jon Hansen, assistant Oklahoma City fire chief, pointed to “an incident management system” that had come out of the earlier tragedy. He said that because of that experience, emergency teams responded more smoothly and methodically than ever before.

Citizens of Oklahoma and around the country rose to the event, donating not only time and effort in the cleanup but food, clothing, furniture and money. They were so generous that several receiving locations asked that donations cease for a while. They had more than they were able to give away or store.

Many of those injured or killed had done everything that they had been told to do. They huddled in closets or in bathtubs, covered by pillows or mattresses. Nevertheless, they felt the wrath of nature.

Carolyn Lamb, who sought *refuge* with her husband and daughter in a closet in the center of their house in Moore, was hospitalized for her injuries. Seven months later, she had not fully recovered. The Lamb family decided to rebuild in another location. They didn't want to be reminded daily of the fear and destruction they experienced.

Many people lost everything they had. Most people found at least a few items that they cherished or could use. At the Edward Evett home in Del City, President Clinton found a 1976 copy of *Movie Mirror Magazine* with a picture of Elvis Presley on the cover. "I'm glad you saved Elvis," he wrote on the cover, returning it to Sherrill Evett. The cherished magazine was one of very few items that the Evetts were able to salvage from the rubble.

James and Beverly Grove moved into a motel for a brief time. The first day, Beverly went to a local store and purchased toothbrushes, toothpaste, necessary clothing, and other items essential to daily living. She later observed that she had not given a thought to these items before, taking them for granted. The Groves lost all of their house except one room. The only room left fully intact was the room that the Grove children had called "Mom's museum." Beverly had kept the family photographs, heirlooms, and other memorabilia in that room. The storm had spared the family all of those things that other people mourned as irreplaceable. The Groves are rebuilding in the same location.

The "safe room," a new type of storm shelter that is built inside the house, has become popular among homeowners who are rebuilding. The memory of the overwhelming noise, the intense fear, and the heartbreaking losses have left citizens not wanting to repeat their experience.

Seven months after the dark day, cleanup efforts were still underway. In other areas cleanup was finished and rebuilding had begun. Everywhere that damage occurred, strange-looking, splintered, and bare trees reached upward, looking eerie and unreal. They stood as grim testimony to the worst tornado in recorded history. The spirit of Oklahoma and its

willingness to band together for those who suffered will forever stand in memory to the people who lost their lives.

GOVERNOR BRAD HENRY. Brad Henry was officially sworn in as Oklahoma's twenty-sixth governor on January 13, 2003. At age 39, he was the youngest governor in the country at the time. Henry had served 10 years in the state Senate and was chairman of the Judiciary Committee before deciding to run for governor in 2002. He finished second to Vince Orza in the Democratic primary. Even though it is unusual for a candidate to come back from placing second in a primary, Henry won



Governor Brad Henry

the runoff election and went on to defeat the favorite, Steve Largent, a Republican. Many thought Largent was unbeatable because not only had he served in the U. S. House of Representatives, he was a professional football Hall-of-Famer who played for the Seattle Seahawks after playing at the University of Tulsa.

During Henry's first year in office, the state budget was cut 5.1 percent from the previous year. This meant that budgets would have to be cut \$235 million. The areas hit the hardest were education, health and prisons.

Henry supported an "Education Lottery" which was one of his most important campaign promises. The lottery was approved by voters in November 2004, and the first tickets were sold on October 12, 2005, at 5:05 a.m. A "Pick 3" game was introduced on November 10, and the multi-state Powerball game was added in January 2006.

In May 2006, the state's budget was more than \$7 billion, which included \$1.1 billion in new *revenues*. The economy was strong because oil and natural gas prices were at an all-time high.

An agreement was not reached by the end of the session in May, and a special session was planned to complete the budget. Republicans wanted large cuts in state tax rates, and the Democrats wanted funding increases in education, health care, roads and bridges.

Brad Henry said his goals are "strengthening the state public education system and making health care more accessible and affordable to the citizenry."

REPUBLICAN MAJORITY. For the first time in 83 years, the Republican Party had a majority of members in the House of Representa-

tives during the 2005 session. There were 57 Republicans and 44 Democrats. Republican candidates took advantage of open House seats resulting from term limits that forced incumbents from office, as well as the popularity of Republican President George W. Bush, who won Oklahoma with 65 percent of the vote.

GOVERNOR MARY FALLIN. Governor Mary Fallin was elected November 2, 2010, during a historic election in which she became the first-ever female governor of Oklahoma. She was inaugurated as the state's 27th governor on January 10, 2011.

She was elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives in 1990 which began her career of public service.

In 1994, Fallin would made history by becoming the first woman and first Republican to be elected lieutenant governor of Oklahoma. She held that office for 12 years.



Governor Mary Fallin

INDIAN GAMING.

By S.E. Ruckman

Apr. 30, 2006—With more than 80 Indian-run gaming operations, Oklahoma far surpasses neighboring states for sheer volume of tribal gaming facilities. National Indian Gaming Commission records show the state has 83 tribal gaming centers, an increase of nearly 25 percent from 2001.

Oklahoma is home to 39 federally recognized tribes, which is the main reason for the high number of Indian gaming sites, commission officials said. Of the state's tribes, fewer than 10 are sitting out the gaming rush. The United Keetoowah Band operates a casino in Tahlequah, but the facility is under review by the NIGC to determine its gaming eligibility. The state's 83 facilities range from the very large -- like the Cherokee Nation's 95,000-square-foot casino in Catoosa with 1,500 electronic games and 70 card game tables -- to the very small.

"Some of Oklahoma's gaming operations could be a laundromat with a couple of gaming machines in it," said commission spokesman Shawn Pensoneau. The number of Oklahoma facilities has not peaked. State



*New Devon Energy
Tower in Oklahoma
City.*

tribes are scrambling to open more casinos in their *jurisdictional* territories. In Washington County, the Osage Nation has a site under construction near Bartlesville which it hopes to open within a year.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is poised to begin work on a \$120 million hotel and casino along Riverside Drive in Tulsa, said Chief A.D. Ellis. The Cherokee Nation is readying for two casino openings within months at Sallisaw and Tahlequah. One result of the growth is that the economic power of tribal governments has grown enormously.

The state's tribes together have become the largest employer in the state. Their budgets combined exceed the state's budget. One catalyst to gaming growth has been the introduction of gaming compacts with tribes. . . in 2004. How much can the market bear? "I think you'll see expansion play out stronger in the first years of the compacts," said Cherokee Nation Enterprises Chief Executive Officer David Stewart. "Then you should see it taper off in the later years of the compact."

Stewart oversees a gaming operation that projects \$70 million in net *revenues* for 2006. He worries about effective marketing, not saturation, he said. "I have no prior gaming experience, but I have business experience that tells me that success in gaming will hinge on tailoring to the *demands* of the market," he said. Since the tribes must operate within their *jurisdictional* area, the state's market already is limited, said Nelson Johnson, gaming commissioner for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Johnson has 25 years of gaming management experience.

"I think it's near saturation. I've studied Tulsa since 1982, and I don't see this area as being a good draw for people from out of state," he said. "Growth here is limited. What we're going to see is more of an emphasis on management and services." Stewart predicts that even with rapid casino growth, the end result will be better casinos. "You can't just keep building," he said. "I think you'll find that the tribes who have worked on perfecting management will do well."

The cream rises to the top." Despite the growth in Indian gaming, the state's take has been below where advocates of State Question 712 predicted. State Treasurer Scott Meacham has said the method used to make those projections included variables that have shifted, including sparse implementation of compacted games. The rapid growth of Indian casinos has a downside that has not been calculated, said one gambling opponent. Devonna Grover, board chairwoman of the Oklahoma Association for Problem Gambling Addiction Awareness, said the burgeoning casino

scene in Oklahoma creates problems with increased addiction as well as increased bankruptcies.

“In Oklahoma, we’ve created a situation unlike anywhere in the world. Nearly 10 years ago, there were few casinos, and now we have over 80,” she said. “There’s little research or studies done to show the economic effect. We’re kind of in a Petri-dish type situation as we figure it out.” Other sectors of the economy will suffer as Oklahomans spend more of their discretionary income at the casinos, she said. “We have people who chose to spend more of their time and money at casinos rather than going to the movies,” she said. State Rep. Paul Weselhoft, R-Moore, urged tribal leaders at a recent summit to look into ways to make their gaming funds work smarter.

“We have about 10 or 12 years left before we reach saturation; tribes need to diversify their monies,” he said. As the number of casinos continues to rise, gaming officials believe that the enterprise has a firm place. “Indian gaming has been around for about 10 years now,” Stewart said. “It’s more acceptable, and it’s a part of our history because we have always had the tribes here.” Johnson predicts that how the state’s many gaming houses weather the prospect of saturation is *contingent* upon the tribes’ foresight. “Right now, the tribes are sitting behind the engine with gaming,” he said. “This is the first real enterprise that we’ve had that works. We’ve tried farming, but this works.”

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On September 11, 2001, two planes hijacked by men associated with al-Qaeda crashed into the World Trade Center in New York. The buildings burned before they crashed to the ground.

NINE-ELEVEN. During the 1990s, the United States was relatively peaceful and the economy was strong. However, there were threats against the United States and other countries by Middle Eastern terrorists who resented our country’s power.

The worst of these threats was realized on September 11, 2001, when 19 men associated with a Middle Eastern group, al-Qaeda, hijacked four American airliners.

Two of the four planes crashed into the two World Trade Center towers in New York City. Both buildings collapsed. A third plane crashed into the Pentagon, the headquarters of the U.S. Defense Department, in Vir-

ginia. The fourth plane crashed in a field in western Pennsylvania, apparently because some of the passengers fought to stop the terrorist hijackers on their plane from reaching Washington.

Official records show that nearly 3,000 people died as a result of the attacks that day. The rest of the world was very sympathetic to the United States right after the attacks. These events changed the way the United States looked at the world. They caused great difficulties here and in many other parts of the world. They disrupted the economy and made the U.S. government realize that America's security was in jeopardy.

Also, these attacks were not like the beginnings of other wars, where two or more armies went to war against each other. There was no other army. There was just a group of 19 terrorists who wanted to attack the United States so much that they gave up their own lives to make that happen. These people appeared to have been guided by a man named Osama bin Laden. He was a member of a very wealthy Saudi Arabian family and headed an organization called al-Qaeda.

In response, the U.S. conducted bombing raids in Afghanistan, where they believed that bin Laden and his followers were hiding.

The Americans caught and punished a number of al-Qaeda members but did not catch bin Laden.

WAR WITH IRAQ. Not long after the attacks on the World Trade Center, the U.S. government began plans to go to war in Iraq. President George W. Bush said Iraq had weapons of mass destruction that needed to be destroyed. He also said that Iraq had been part of the September 11 attacks on the U.S. Both of these statements by the president were later found to be false. As a result, support for the war and President Bush's popularity began to decline.

Bush's goal was to oust Iraq's president, Saddam Hussein, who abused his own people. Hussein had started the Persian Gulf War ten years earlier by invading Kuwait.

In March of 2003, the U.S. invaded Iraq, although by then much of the world was opposed to the United States' going to war.

Major peace protests started worldwide in 2002 and continue today. On February 15, 2003, the largest protest was held when millions of



Soldiers from the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, secure the landing zone after exiting a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter from the 101st Airborne Division, during a hunt for insurgents and weapons caches in the Al Jazeera Desert.

people in about 800 cities around the world protested going to war in Iraq. But support for war was building in Congress, and the U.S. still invaded Iraq in March.

The U.S. quickly occupied Baghdad, the capital city of Iraq. Saddam Hussein escaped but was found and captured in December 2003. He went on trial before an Iraqi court for war crimes and crimes against his people.

Meantime, the war continued. The Iraqi people did not welcome the United States troops when they took Baghdad. And three major groups in that country began competing for power. These groups are the Sunni Muslims, the Shiites, and the Kurds. These groups worked to form an Iraqi government with its own constitution, but there were many challenges to overcome.

It became very hard for the U.S. to find a way out of Iraq.

Fighters from different countries invaded and tried to maintain turmoil. They hoped to drive the U.S. and other soldiers completely out of the Persian Gulf region. The Americans blamed these fighters for prolonging the war. And the fighters said it was the Americans who prolonged the war.

As the war continued, protests around the world continued as well. This is a war that President Bush called a “War on Terror.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why was the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Building called “the worst act of terrorism in history?”
2. Identify:
 - Timothy McVeigh
 - Terry Nichols
 - Branch Davidians
 - Stephen Jones
 - Michael Tigar
 - Michael Fortier
 - Richard Matsch
3. Why do you think the crime rate in Oklahoma City dropped immediately following the bombing?
4. Describe the tragedy that occurred on May 3, 1999, and its effects.
5. Describe the major change in corrections in the last five years.
6. Discuss the effects of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001