

# THE DRUMRIGHT MUSEUM GUSHER

August 7, 2023/ Vol 7

*sja* PHOTOGRAPHY  
Photographer: Susan Matney, D.

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE OIL PATCH



**September 2nd**  
**9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**  
**Drumright Museum Lawn**



**DRUMRIGHT FOOD COURT**

Join us on  
Facebook



Drumright  
Project  
Profits Benefit:

**DRUMRIGHT**  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**August 19th**  
**6:00 p.m. - 10 p.m.**  
**Car Show & Cruise**

**Continued on Page 6**

## DOWN AT THE DEPOT

### Summertime in Drumright

When I think of summertime in Drumright, I'm taken to the mural on the southwest corner of Ohio and Broadway. The mural covers the east side of what used to be the Boomtown Theater. It is a depiction of summertime in Drumright, back in the years following the Great Depression. There was entertainment for the whole community, on the stage of the amphitheater in Way Park. Next time you drive by, take a good look at the mural. There is a plaque there. It details the importance of the mural, naming the mural committee members and especially the artist, Gwen Ingram and her helper, David Christian.

This story actually starts with two female

entertainers, Alene Hart and Fernette Ashwell. These ladies performed in New York City with the Ziegfeld Follies. This was a series of elaborate theatrical revue productions on Broadway, featuring singers, dancers and comedians. The various acts would perform with touring groups and traveled extensively across the United States.

Hart and Ashwell toured in Oklahoma with great acclaim. They were announced as that "Slim Jim Dancer" (Fernette Ashwell) and that "Short, Fat Funny Girl" (Alene Hart). Somehow, they were enticed to leave the glamorous life on Broadway to make their fortune in the boomtown of Drumright. They performed as a

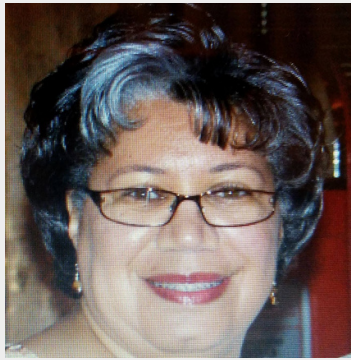
comedy and dance team. Sometime in the 1930s, they decided to settle down and established a dance studio here, teaching hundreds of local children over the following years.

Following the Great Depression, jobs were scarce and money was scarcer. Thanks to Lou Allard and other community leaders, Way Park was established and a stone amphitheater was built by the WPA in 1935. The park was named for Fred Way, a civic leader of that time. This amphitheater was the focal point of Drumright entertainment during those tough Depression days. Free entertainment was provided by Hart and Ashwell, along with all of their students over the years. There was singing and dancing, along with comedic routines. These Thursday night programs were supported by the entire community for over twenty years.

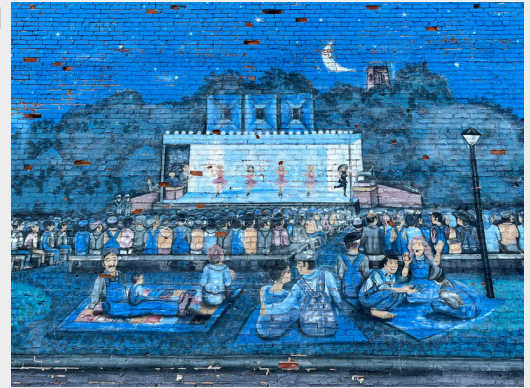
Down at the depot, you can see some costumes worn by Hart and Ashwell. There are posters and other memorabilia that touch on the lives of these two women. They were thought to be aunt and niece, although some say they were mother and daughter. But truly, what a pair of fabulous women to devote their lives to the happiness of others.

Come on down to the depot and take a look at what we have. Then some warm Thursday evening soon, take a stroll through Way Park. Maybe you can still hear the music and the applause!

By:Patti Pouncil



Patti Pouncil



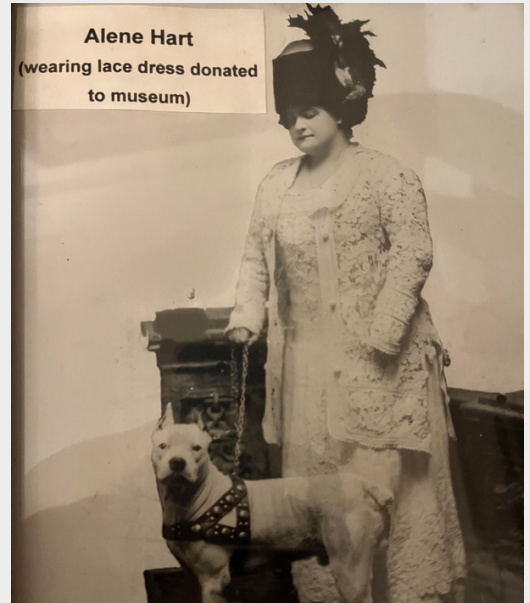
Summertime in Way Park



Alene Hart and Fernette Ashwell



Fernette Ashwell wearing a black beaded costume, that was donated to the museum.



Alene Hart wearing an ivory lace dress that is currently on display at the museum.

# THE LITTLE OIL PATCH GIFT SHOP MONTHLY SPOTLIGHT

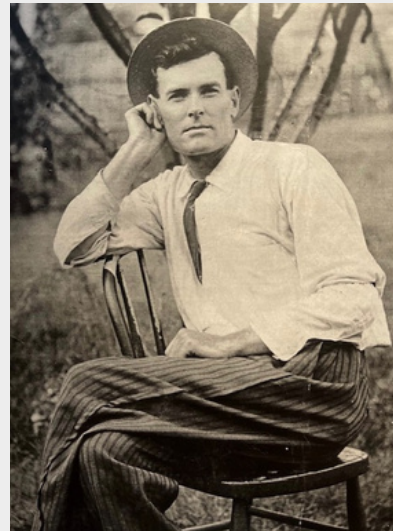
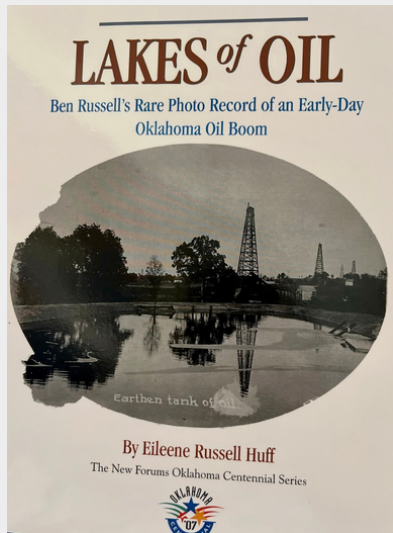
## Lakes of Oil

Whether you know a lot about the history of Drumright or not much at all, you're certain to enjoy this month's gift shop spotlight. While there's plenty of history to read about, *Lakes of Oil* by Eileen Russell-Huff is filled with history you can see!

Many readers remember Drumright author and historian Eileen Russell-Huff. Eileen's love of her hometown has been preserved through the many articles and books she penned over the decades. In *Lakes of Oil*, she shares the incredible photography collection of her father, photographer Ben Russell.

Russell came to the area at the beginning of the oil boom, where he raised his family among the hustle and bustle of emerging Drumright. His first studio was in a tent and the photo is included in the book. Make sure to stop by the museum, pick up your copy and explore early Drumright from the lens of Ben Russell.

By: Tammy Posey



### OIL ROOM and STORAGE PROGRESS:

The Brad and Katie Parson family stopped by to check out all of the fabulous work being done at the museum! A huge shout out to our host, Roy Willey for all of his hard work!

## Bingo For Bricks

On July 16th our local Tupperware super ladies, Tabatha Jenkins and Angela Titus donated their Tupperware and their time to host Tupperware Bingo at Tidewater Winery. Tidewater Winery's Dauna Ryker and Angie Bengston put on a beautiful and delicious charcuterie, served all on Tupperware! These girls know how to put the "FUN" in fundraiser and the Museum board can't thank them enough!

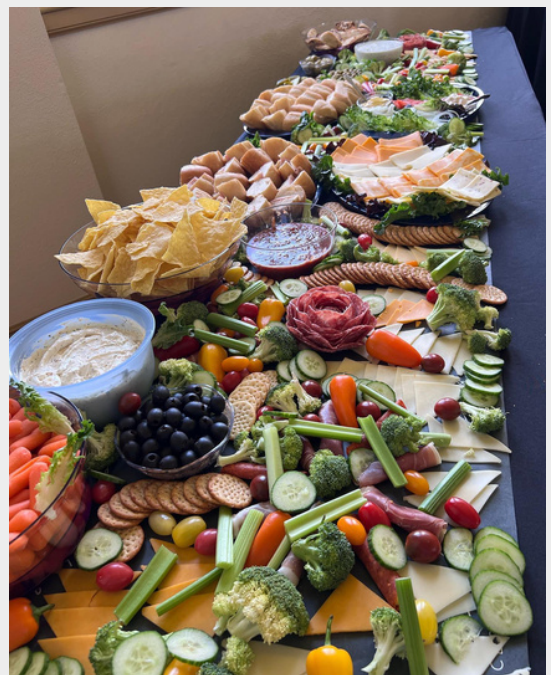
The afternoon of "FUNdraising" brought in over \$800 to assist the Museum in having our latest orders of personalized bricks laid on the grounds. Of course, this wouldn't have been possible without all of those who came out to support the effort!

This is the second group of bricks to be laid at the Museum. The first group may be seen on the west side of the red caboose on the museum grounds. Make sure to order your bricks soon so they can be included in this second grouping. Plans are under way to have them placed along the walkway, leading into the main entrance.

If you are interested in bidding on the job, please contact the Museum during regular business hours or by sending us a message for more information.

THANK YOU AND REMEMBER TO SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES!

By: Tammy Posey



# DRUMRIGHT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

301 EAST BROADWAY  
DRUMRIGHT, OK 74030

918.352.3002

CURATOR@DRUMRIGHTHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG

IF PAYING BY CHECK PLEASE MAIL WITH THIS FORM TO ADDRESS ABOVE

## YOUR FULL NAME

## ADDRESS

## CITY

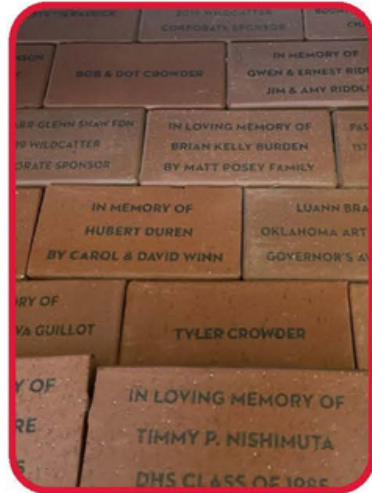
## STATE

## ZIP CODE

## PHONE NUMBER

## EMAIL ADDRESS

BRICK ORDER FORM  
ONE BRICK WITH  
THREE ENGRAVED  
LINES \$50.00



PLEASE LIMIT EACH LINE TO 25 CHARACTERS AND SPACES

Line 1

Line 2

Line 3

PLEASE CHOOSE THE OCCASTION FOR WHICH THE BRICK IS BEING ORDERED:

In memory of  In honor of  Personal  Gift  Other

I would like a card mailed to:

## FULL NAME

## ADDRESS

## CITY

## STATE

## ZIP CODE

How would you like the  
card to be signed?

CREDIT CARD TYPE VISA  MasterCard  Discover  American Express

## CARD NUMBER

## EXP. DATE

 / 

## BILLING ZIP CODE

THANK YOU

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE OIL PATCH



Join us for our 1st Annual Cruising the Hills Cruise and car show!

Pinup contest sponsored by Miss Kiki Choas/  
Destiny Sanders

Car show sponsored by Drumright Chamber of  
Commerce

6pm to 10pm Food trucks and vendors

Contact Angela Titus Chamber President for more  
info.

\$20 fee for car show pinup contest

Contact Angela Titus 918-352-8013 for car show  
and vendors

Contact Destiny Sanders for pinup contest.

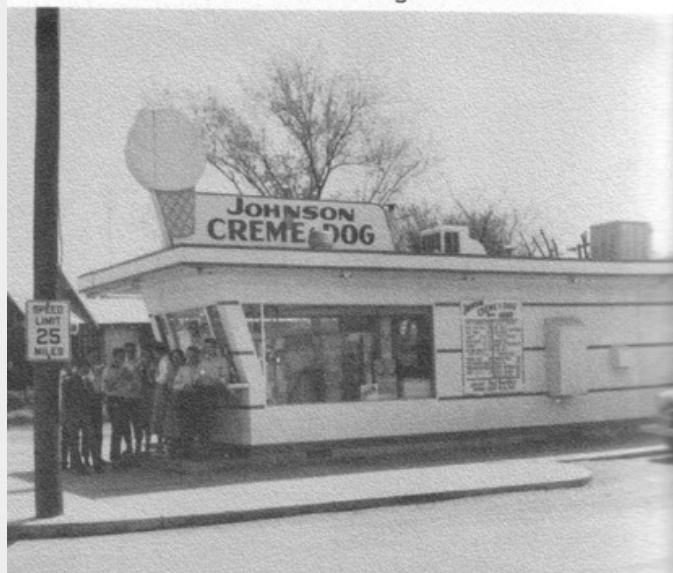
We are looking forward to having any and all cruise  
Our famous Tiger Hill for the night.

### JOHNSON CREME AND DOG

Ford Johnson features delicious, mouth-watering snacks for the hungry traveler as well as the people of Drumright. He emphasizes the Jumbo-burger and the Johnson Hot Dog along with refreshing drinks.

620 West Broadway Telephone 1090

4 years in Drumright



Can you name the year?

# Obituaries

## Michael Walter May

A Celebration of Life services for Drumright resident, Michael Walter May, was held at 11:00 am on Friday August 11, 2023 at Brooks Cemetery near Oilton.

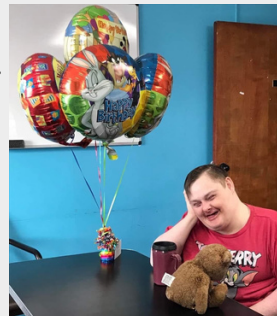
Michael Walter May was born on May 20, 1970 to the late Walter Otis and Mabel Annette (Chandler) May. He passed from this life in the Drumright Nursing Home on July 20, 2023 at the age of 53 years and 5 months. Mikey was raised and educated in Drumright where he remained all of his life.

Mikey most always had a smile upon his face and a song to give to you. He accepted everyone as they were, who you were, and what you had didn't matter to him. All that mattered was how you treated people. He gave warm hugs and loved to hold your hand when he was scared. Mikey was perfectly content with a Tootsie Roll lollipop, a Dr.Pepper, and Hee Haw playing on the television. He loved balloons and they were a sure hit on any occasion. Your life couldn't help being changed after meeting him and experiencing the love he had to give. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his grandparents; Vernon & Oleta Chandler, and Fred & Allene May.

Michael is survived by his Sisters: Lisa Dyer of Heavener, and Terry Leigh of Sand Springs; Nieces & Nephews: Troy & Lacy Dyer, David & Jennifer Dyer, and Kyla & Josh Stinson; 10 Great Nieces & Nephews; Numerous other friends, relatives, and his Drumright Nursing Home Family.

Mikey taught us a lot about life and love and will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him. Angels do exist among us, there are those we can't see, and then there's the ones we've had the privilege of knowing and loving.

Services & cremation entrusted to Michael's Funeral Home.



# Obituaries

## **Darline Francis Schiller**

It is with deep sorrow and much love that we mourn the passing of Darline Francis Schiller (Dunaway) in Tulsa, OK on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at the age of 69 years old.

Darline will be lovingly remembered by her husband Richard Schiller. Her daughter Stefanee (Cody) Deupree, her son David (Stephanie) Shaw and stepson Nick (Mary) Schiller. Her grandchildren Taylor Deupree, Greyson Deupree, Cora Sue Shaw, London Schiller, and Gentry Schiller will always remember her as "Dardar". She will be forever remembered by her siblings Elizabeth "Betty" Dunaway and Sharon Webb, along with her many nieces and nephews.

Darline was preceded in death by her father Daniel Bernard Dunaway, her mother May Margaret Dunaway, and her brother Daniel Paul Dunaway.

Darline made her life in health care; her passion was helping others. She always excelled in everything she did. She took great pride in her nickname "Dar-Dar" from her loving grandkids who she loved to share stories about to her friends and family. Darline enjoyed the simple things in life like eating chocolate ice cream and always having a Hershey's chocolate bar close by. She loved the sun on her face, beach days when she could, along with occasional trips to the casino. You could always find her trying a new face mask, buying red nail polish, and suggesting coconut oil for every ailment. In her retirement years she was a great inspiration spiritually to friends and family all over the country. She made many friends through her faith and spent her days in fellowship with all her loving friends.

The family would like to send their gratitude to the Porta Caeli House who helped care for Darline in her final days. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Porta Caeli House at 2440 N. Harvard Ave. Tulsa, OK 74115.

Services entrusted to Michael's Funeral Home.





# Obituaries

## **Linda Jeanne Davenport**

On Tuesday, February 13th, 1940, a beautiful baby girl was born to Roy and Catherine McDivitt Weathers in Skiatook, Oklahoma. They named her Linda Jeanne. She attended Skiatook Public Schools and then went on to attend college at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah.

Jeanne majored in Elementary Education and loved working with children. while attending Northeastern, Jeanne met "the love of her life", Tommy Dale Davenport of Drumright. They were married on March 15th, 1961.

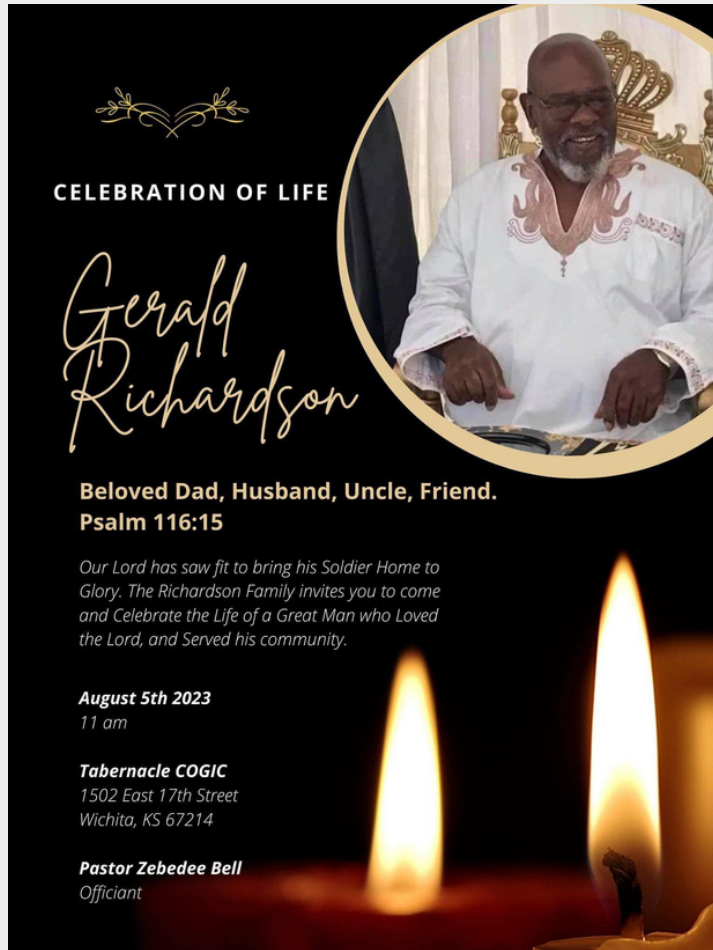
Tom and Jeanne made their home in Drumright and had a happy life together, owning many businesses over the years. They had a DX Service Station and Goodyear Tire Shop, a chinchilla farm, a buffalo ranch and conducted estate sales. They were both faithful members of Dripping Springs Baptist Church at Kellyville, until their health began to fail. When Tom went home to be with the Lord in February of 2022, they had been married almost 61 years.

Jeanne passed away peacefully surrounded by loved ones on June 14, 2023. She leaves behind many family members and friends to mourn her passing. One special friend and caregiver, Monique Lanser, took excellent care of both Tom and Jeanne, until their passing. Jeanne's smile and warm heart will be missed by all who knew her.



# Obituaries

## Gerald Richardson



The obituary card features a circular portrait of Gerald Richardson, an elderly man with a white beard and glasses, wearing a white shirt with a decorative pink and white pattern. The card has a black background with gold and white text. At the top left is a gold floral flourish. Below it, the text reads "CELEBRATION OF LIFE" in white. The name "Gerald Richardson" is written in a large, elegant gold script. Below the name, it says "Beloved Dad, Husband, Uncle, Friend." and "Psalm 116:15". A short paragraph follows: "Our Lord has saw fit to bring his Soldier Home to Glory. The Richardson Family invites you to come and Celebrate the Life of a Great Man who Loved the Lord, and Served his community." The date and time are listed as "August 5th 2023" and "11 am". The location is "Tabernacle COGIC" at "1502 East 17th Street, Wichita, KS 67214". The officiant is "Pastor Zebedee Bell". At the bottom of the card, there is a photograph of two lit candles.

**CELEBRATION OF LIFE**

*Gerald Richardson*

**Beloved Dad, Husband, Uncle, Friend.**  
**Psalm 116:15**

*Our Lord has saw fit to bring his Soldier Home to Glory. The Richardson Family invites you to come and Celebrate the Life of a Great Man who Loved the Lord, and Served his community.*

**August 5th 2023**  
11 am

**Tabernacle COGIC**  
1502 East 17th Street  
Wichita, KS 67214

**Pastor Zebedee Bell**  
Officiant

in  
loving  
memory

Gerald Richardson, Drumright High School Class of 1967, passed from this life on July 19, 2023 in Wichita, KS.

