

THE DRUMRIGHT MUSEUM GUSHER

June 5, 2023/ Vol 5

SJA PHOTOGRAPHY
Photographer Susan Matney, D.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE OIL PATCH



July 1st

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Drumright Museum Lawn

**Chamber of Commerce
President, Angela Titus
Facebook Live**

June 9th

**June 8th is the last day
to purchase tickets for
the May raffle.**



MUST BE 21 YRS OR OLDER

MAY RAFFLE
is sponsored by
Amie Davis
TideWater Winery
Angela's Tupperware
\$5 = 1 entry
\$20 = 5 entries
Contact any Chamber Board
Member
to purchase your entries
Or call 918.352.8013
for more info to purchase!

\$80 in scratch off tickets
Tidewater Wine & glasses
Tupperware wine opener \$140 value

DOWN AT THE DEPOT

Honoring a Purple Heart, Again!

If you have followed my stories, you may remember one from 2020 regarding a heroic young soldier from Drumright named Lester Jordan Nunley. Born in Davenport on September 13, 1934, he was raised by his mother, Mrs. Nettie Radford, who lived at 335 East Hickory, here in Drumright. Lester was barely 18 years old when he enlisted in the United States Army.

His basic training was completed at an Army base in San Francisco, California; then his unit was shipped off to Korea. Private Nunley was a member of the 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, Company C. Fighting in the battle zone of Chorwon, North Korea, he was hit by a mortar shell and killed in action on June 11, 1953.

Plans were specified for Private Nunley's military funeral. His body was flown from Korea, back to the United States. Then arrangements were made to ship Private Nunley's body from Oakland, California to his hometown of Drumright, Oklahoma. The body was escorted by SFC Howard M. Shehan. Mr. E. C. Smith of Smith Funeral Home, met the MK&T train in Cushing to receive the body.

The Drumright American Legion and VFW post facilitated the military service, which was held on Sunday, August 30, 1953 at the Methodist Church. The Legion and VFW members comprised the pall bearers, color guard and rifle party. Private Nunley was buried with full military honors in

the Drumright North Cemetery.

Now, we fast forward to the spring of 2020 when Mr. Greg Dyer, Stroud Postmaster, found a box at the American Legion building in Bristow. This box contained the original 1953 newspaper clipping of Private Nunley's obituary, a Purple Heart medal, a triangular, folded funeral

American flag, a condolence letter from President Dwight D. Eisenhower, two small pictures of a young woman and some miscellaneous military items and medals. This find was so compelling, Mr. Dyer had to take action. He built a wooden framed shadow box, (four feet long and two feet high) in the image of an American flag. These priceless items are beautifully displayed within this handcrafted shadow box.

Back in 2020, Mr. Dyer contacted Barbara Vice, then editor of the Drumright Gusher. She contacted me and we ran the first story detailing the discovery of these important items that highlighted the service of this Drumright hero, Private Lester Jordan Nunley. We were hoping that someone would see the article, come forward and tell us how the box came to be deposited at the American Legion building in Bristow. We also hoped that family members might see the story and come forward to

recognize this young man. No such luck!

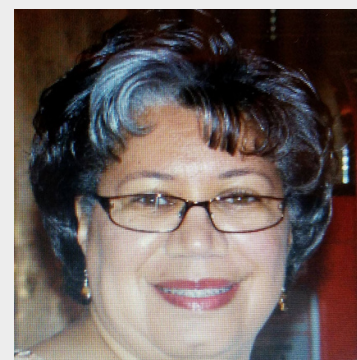
Now skipping to May, 2023, I was on the agenda of the Cimarron Valley Historical Society to speak about a "mystery topic". Since it was close to Memorial Day, I remembered this particular story and how we never located any next of kin with whom we could share the story of our Drumright hero. So, I shared this story with the CVHS members in attendance at this meeting and within two days, a family member was identified and contacted.

Angela Titus, the current Drumright Chamber of Commerce President, happens to be a second cousin to Private Nunley. She was in amazement to discover this shadow box on display at our local museum. Actually, she has been inside the museum many times, but never knew her cousin's life was on display here. She believes that the pictures of a young woman are actually of Private Nunley's mother. No one in her family knows how the box of military memorabilia arrived at the American Legion in Bristow.

It has taken seventy years for this story to come full circle. The family of Private Lester Jordan Nunley is very grateful that the story of this hometown hero has been

remembered and that the Purple Heart honoring his sacrifice will be permanently on display right where it belongs, down at the depot, in the Drumright Historical Society Museum.

By: Patti Pouncil



Patti Pouncil



Private Lester Jordan Nunley 1953



CHANGES ARE A'COMING!

June brings a few changes to the Drumright Historical Society Museum. To start, Ms. Erin Cook, who has served as our museum host since October 2020, is off to a new full-time adventure! She will always be part of the Drumright Museum and we wish her the very best as she takes on this exciting opportunity.

Amid Erin's departure, the Museum Board is pleased to welcome Mr. Roy Willey back into the fold, not that he truly ever left! Roy began at the museum in 2011, when he and his wife, Lela worked as a team to keep the museum doors open. In September of 2012, they stepped back from the role when Lela took a position as the librarian for Drumright Public Schools. Later, Lela was named to the museum board where she currently serves as secretary. As with Lela, Roy didn't truly leave the museum and is one of the few and very treasured gentlemen who volunteer to help around the museum property. For more than a year, Roy has worked countless hours on a marvelous museum project, and while it would be nice to expound further, that's a story for next month's Museum Gusher!

In addition to the changeover, the hours of operation will update, effective immediately. The museum will be open to the public Monday, Friday & Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Admission is always free, donations are accepted and appreciated.

Make certain to stop by this month, sign our guest book, say hello to Roy and browse to your heart's content, or at least until closing time!

By: Tammy Posey

WELCOME BACK!

THE LITTLE OIL PATCH GIFT SHOP

An area of the Drumright Museum that is often overlooked by some visitors is our gift shop. Although the area is located right inside the entrance to the museum, it's easy to miss, as it tends to blend in with actual exhibits. One of our many goals for the Drumright Museum Gusher is to make the readers and visitors more aware of the interesting items we have available for sale in what we have dubbed The Little Oil Patch Gift Shop! Each month, The Gusher will highlight one of our items and update you when new items are added.

Our gift shop offerings at this time include Drumright postcards, Christmas ornaments, customized bricks, and even small souvenir bottles of oil taken straight from the world's oldest continually producing oil well, The Wheeler #1!

Currently, our Little Oil Patch Gift Shop offers a variety of books, most of which have significance to the Drumright and surrounding oilfield communities. Several of the titles are written by Drumright historians and local authors. These books are wonderful ways to learn the history of Drumright and the surrounding oil field areas, while contributing to the financial need of keeping the Drumright Museum doors open.

Keep scrolling to see this month's selection!

By: Deborah Wilson



Drumright Historical Society Museum Cookbook

These days, it seems as if people don't always agree on much, but one thing that tends to bring people together is good food! We might not all enjoy the same types of food, but here at The Little Oil Patch Gift Shop you are sure to find a gem or two in the Drumright Historical Society Museum Cookbook. The cookbook is a great addition to your kitchen and makes an excellent gift for anyone who likes to eat, so basically everyone!

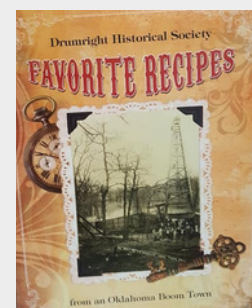
The cookbook is a compilation of delicious recipes from past and current community members, as well as a few historical recipes from the early days of Drumright. You'll not only find hundreds of tasty ideas, but many of the contributors share the history and family traditions behind their recipes.

The sturdy hardback book includes many household tips, conversion and measuring charts, and much more. The handy three-ring binder offers room for additional pages, as we hope to add a seasonal section to the cookbook soon, when we will once again ask for your special recipes. Make sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram for your own opportunity to add to this fantastic cookbook.

Sold exclusively at the Museum, we have a limited number of books available, so drop in during our new hours and pick up one for yourself or a friend! The cost is only \$22.00, and this includes sales tax.

The Drumright Historical Society Museum appreciates your support!

By: Tammy Posey



DRUMRIGHT ALUMNI BREAKFAST

The annual Drumright Alumni Breakfast was held Saturday, May 27th at the Masonic Hall. This breakfast is a fundraiser for the Drumright Historical Society Museum. Our local Masons will graciously match the amount raised at the breakfast. Our menu was sausage and pancakes, with your choice of milk, juice or coffee. A good time was had by all who attended. Photos are courtesy of Don Quinn Photography.

By: Patti Pouncil



Davis Sellers pumping out the pancakes



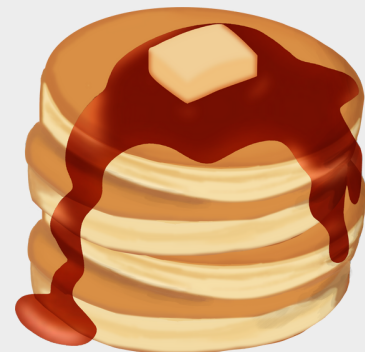
Cletha Cobble manning the beverage station with Roy Willey to the right



Guests enjoying their breakfast and visiting as they do so



Deborah Wilson was at the door greeting people and taking donations



Obituaries

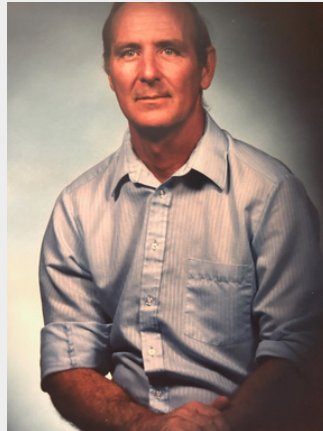
LARRY D. "IKE" SLANE

Larry "Ike" Slane passed from this life in Oklahoma City on May 6th surrounded by his two sons and loving family. He was born on January 13, 1942 to Arthur Philmore Slane and Gladys Marie Potts Slane. He was one of 12 children: Juanita, Clifford, Wilda, Grace, Grant, Louis, his twin brother Jerry, Carolyn, Myrna, Mary, and Charles.

He was raised and educated in Shamrock & was a 1961 graduate of Shamrock High School where he was a star basketball and softball player. He married Carolyn Faye Rodebush and they began raising their family. They remained together for 47 years until her death in 2013. Larry will be remembered as being a very honest, hardworking, loving, nice, caring, & unselfish man. He always had words of encouragement & taught his family the meaning of how to enjoy life. He was a loving & devoted husband, a great father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, son and friend who will be deeply missed. In addition to his parents and wife, he was preceded in death by 1 sister: Juanita Pollock; & 2 brothers: Louis & Grant.

He is survived by his two Sons: David Slane and Larry Chris Slane; Daughter-in-law: Lynndee Jean Slane; Grandchildren: Logan, Lauren, Dillon, Seth, Joseph Jr., Samuel, Christalynn, Rickie, Hannah; Great-grandchild: Marceline; Brothers & Sisters: Clifford Ray Slane, Wilda June Slane Grace Gale Slane, his twin brother Jerry Lee Slane, Carolyn Kay Inman, Myrna Lynn McBroom, Mary Robel, and Charles Eldon Slane; also numerous Niece, Nephews, Cousins, other relatives, and friends.

Services entrusted to Michael's Funeral Home.



in
loving
memory

