

THE DRUMRIGHT MUSEUM GUSHER

October 2, 2023/ Vol 9

SJA PHOTOGRAPHY
Photographer: Susan Matney, D.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE OIL PATCH

**Boomtown Theater
Melodrama
October 6-7**

**Oilpatch Jamboree
Whitlock Park
October 7**

**Cindy Gann Benefit
October 28
Drumright Masonic Lodge**

**Trunk or Treat
South Bank Parking Lot
October 28**

More info on Page 5



DOWN AT THE DEPOT

Babe Ruth Slept Here

On October 25th, it will be 101 years since Babe Ruth played baseball in Drumright and dined on Southern Fried Chicken in the home of Dr. and Mrs. Charles E. Kahle. It must have been a spectacular day! Down at the depot, we have a six-foot long plank of wood, on the back of which is stamped "Gordon Van Tine Company - Davenport, Iowa." That plank will help tell this story.

George Herman "Babe" Ruth was born in Pigtown, Maryland, a poor section of Baltimore, on February 6, 1895. He developed an unmatched skill for the sport of baseball. Nicknamed "the Bambino" and "the Sultan of Swat", he became a professional Major League Baseball star. His career started as a left-

left-handed pitcher for the Boston Red Sox in July of 1914. Within just a few years, he was famously known as a slugging outfielder for the New York Yankees.

Turning back to Drumright, Dr. Charles E. Kahle came here in 1913, because he saw an opportunity to establish a medical practice in this oil boom town. Wanting a stately home, befitting his stature in the community, he ordered a two-story "kit home", Model #536, from the Gordon Van Tine Company of Davenport, Iowa. This "kit home" was delivered by the Santa Fe Railroad and these pre-cut pieces, shingles and fixtures were turned into a fine home, located at 403 South Creek Street in Drumright.

It was said that Dr. Kahle had many connections back east. He became a promoter of many sporting events in the Drumright community. Jack Dempsey, the famous boxer, was brought to Drumright for an exhibition match. And most famously, Dr. Kahle was able to secure Babe Ruth to come to Drumright and play in an exhibition baseball game. That game was played October 25, 1922 on the American Legion baseball field, just south of town.

That baseball game was setup as a match between Drumright and Shamrock. Local men made up both teams' rosters. Babe Ruth and his New York Yankee teammate, Bob Meusel, along with Moses "Chief" Yellowhorse of the Pittsburgh Pirates, played in this exhibition game.

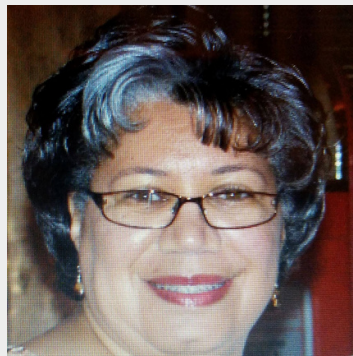
The final score was Drumright – 5 and Shamrock – 7. Interestingly, the Babe played for Drumright.

After the game, Dr. and Mrs. Kahle graciously invited Babe Ruth to spend the evening at their home. Southern Fried Chicken was the main course at dinner that evening. The story goes that the Babe just couldn't get enough of this fine dish, stating that he'd never had anything quite so delicious. It was a memorable evening.

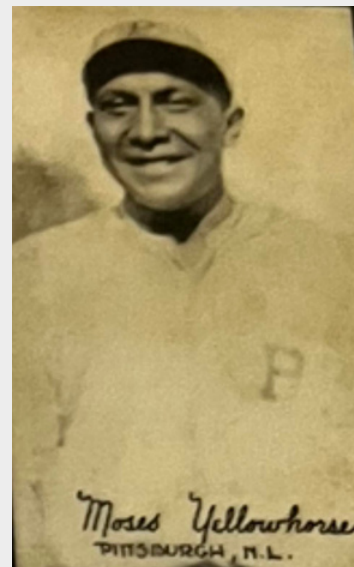
So, our story ends. Babe Ruth ate here and slept here. The

The home that was built by Dr. Charles E. Kahle in 1915, was later sold to Aaron Drumright, and has been known as the Aaron Drumright home for over eighty years. In fact, this home is on the National Register of Historic Places. It was damaged by fire about four years ago, and is in need of restoration. But, at Joseph's Fine Foods, you can see several vintage photos of Babe Ruth and even an actual photo of the men that played in that exhibition game, October 25, 1922. You can even order "Babe Ruth's Southern Fried Chicken"! And down at the depot, we have this priceless plank of wood from Dr. Kahle's home, that helps us tell the story of Babe Ruth and his visit to Drumright.

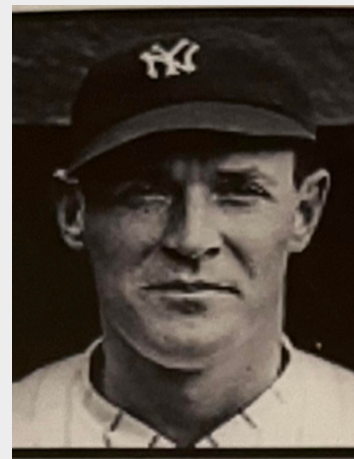
By: Patti Pouncil



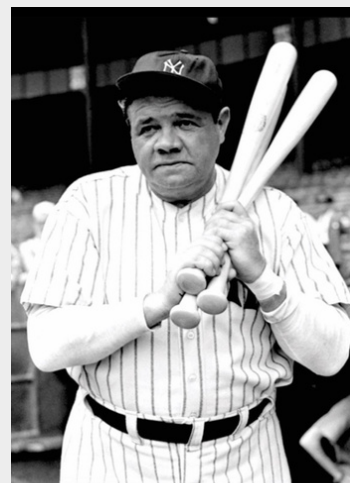
Patti Pouncil



Moses Yellowhorse



Bob Meusel



Babe Ruth

EARL EYMAN - FOLK CARVER

Earl Eyman (1891-1971) was a wood carver who worked in Drumright, Oklahoma. The eyes and faces of his carvings are very distinctive. Known examples are individual figures, circus wagons and performers, marching bands, softball teams, a motorized trapeze act, and others. The Drumright Museum is proud to have five art pieces: 32 member marching band, school house with students, Lords Supper, a Native American couple and a Canadian Soldier.

The Oklahoma oil rigs on which Eyman worked may have suggested the construction of the trapeze. Eyman never sold his works but instead gave them as gifts. His carving style is very distinctive making his pieces easy to recognize. When wound and set in motion the figures come alive with a coordinated graceful flow.

He was well educated with a degree in Engineering Physics and a Masters in Mathematics, and Ph D. in Electrical Engineering. He had been employed with Atomic Energy Commission where he worked to develop the controls for the Nautilus, first atomic submarine; the Caterpillar Tractor Company where he developed remote control components to operate their equipment in dangerous environments and inclement weather conditions and taught at the University of Iowa in the Electrical Engineering department for nearly 30 years.

The Drumright Museum and a distant relative is in search of where Earl's playhouse was located in Drumright. If you have any information of where it was located, please contact the Drumright Museum at 918-352-3002. Please leave a message with your name and phone number and a Board Member will return your call.

By: Deborah Wilson



Earl Eyman. Drumright, Oklahoma. Circa 1930.

Culpepper & Merriweather Circus



The Derrick Craft Kitchen + Bar

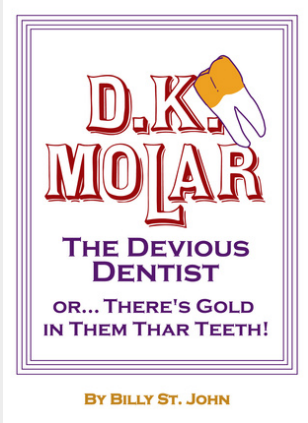
The Chamber of Commerce would like to congratulate The Derrick Craft Kitchen + Bar on their grand opening last night. They were packed from before 6:00 pm to 10:30 pm and had great music inside and out. Weather slowed them down outside a little but we still got a good solid hour-ish of great music from New Dynasty (our hometown band that we love dearly). During their last song Purple Rain, we had to cut it short due to the rain but they were amazing.

Kimberly, Eric, Todd and Chad are from the Fulkerson Jam and as always did an amazing. We would like to thank Ms. Amie Davis for lining up the music and as always did a fantastic job at it last night. The Butler family were all amazing people and we hope to have a long lasting relationship with them in our fine little town. We wish them luck and many more great nights like last night.

By: Angela Titus



UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE OIL PATCH



Boomtown Theater Melodrama
 October 6 at 8 p.m.
 October 7 at 2 p.m. & 6 p.m.

Get your tickets at:
boomtowntheater.com/wixsite.com/boomtowntheater



Obituaries

Margaret Ann Cook

Funeral services for former Drumright resident, Margaret Cook, were held 11:00 a.m. Saturday, September 9th in the Memorial Chapel of Michael's Funeral Home of Drumright. Pastor Manny Parker of New Hope Baptist Church in Mannford officiated. Interment followed in Oak Hill Cemetery in Mannford, OK.

Margaret was born in Cleveland, Ohio on April 2, 1943 to George Lewis & Ann Kondas. She passed from this life in Cushing, Oklahoma on September 2, 2023 at the age of 80 years, 4 months, and 29 days. As a young child, Margaret moved to the Olive area with her mother & step-father: Ted & Ann VanMeter. She attended the Olive Schools. In 1966 she married Kenneth Cook & they remained together until his death in 1987. Margaret had worked as a packer for several national moving companies. Her skill in packing peoples possessions earned her the nickname "Allied Annie". For the past 6 years, she had been a resident of Okmulgee. 15+ years prior to moving to Okmulgee, she called Drumright her home. Margaret enjoyed fishing, watching NASCAR, working in her flower garden, shopping, and spending time with her family & friends. She was also a HUGE George Strait fan. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a Son: Donald Wayne VanMeter; & 2 Brothers: Danny VanMeter & Michael Lewis.

Her remaining family includes her CHILDREN: Laura Kleven - Carol Anne - & Theresa Marie; Grandchildren: Victoria - Justin - Cody - Kayla - Lindsay - & Desiree; Great Grandchildren: Ryland - Zander - Addison - Mia - Lailandi - Anastasia - Ariel - Monty - Kadance - & Jacie; Brothers & Sisters: Carolyn VanMeter - Dianne McClendon - Terry Kennedy - & Steven VanMeter; plus numerous Nieces - Nephews - Cousins - Other relatives and friends.

Services entrusted by Michael's Funeral Home



Obituaries

Madeline Bernice Hada

Funeral services for Drumright resident, Bernice Hada, were held 2:00 p.m. Monday, September 18th in the Drumright Community Church of the Nazarene with Pastor Brad Coates officiating. Interment followed in Drumright Oak Hill Cemetery.

Bernice was born in Childress, Oklahoma on December 3, 1937 to the late Elijah Collins & Nellie Pearl (Campbell) Collins. She passed from this life in Stillwater, Oklahoma on September 13, 2023 at the age of 85 years, 9 months, and 10 days. Bernice was raised & educated in Drumright and was a 1956 graduate of Drumright High School. Right after graduation, she married Jim Russell. They remained together until 1980. Bernice worked for many years at the Southwestern Bell Telephone office in Drumright and Stillwater until her retirement. She met Gordon Oren Hada and they were united in marriage on April 13, 1984. They made their home in Drumright & just celebrated 39 years together. Bernice & Gordon loved to travel and go camping in their motor home and trailer. She enjoyed flowers, bluebirds, & taking pictures of butterflies. With her husband being associate pastor, she was very involved in the church. She served as Sunday School Superintendent for many years, prayer chain leader, and numerous other positions. She loved her church family very much. She also enjoyed music, was a member of the Ensemble Club & the Boomtown Theater. But more than anything else, she loved her God & her entire family. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a Son: Steven Russell; 1 Brother: Paul Collins; & 2 Sisters: Jo O'Dell & Dennia Moffitt.

Her remaining family includes her loving HUSBAND: Gordon Hada of Drumright; CHILDREN: Jim & Debbie Russell of Missouri – Cindy & Danny Smith of Texas – Susie Russell Ditto of Bixby – Ken Hada of Ada – Duane & Marlene Hada of Arkansas – Debbie Hada of Texas; Grandchildren: Jamie – Leslie – Dana – Adam – Doug – Cody – Tyler – Kenny – McKenzie – Taylor – Ryan – & Jared; many Great Grandchildren; plus numerous Nieces – Nephews – Cousins – Other relatives and friends.



in
loving
memory

