

Oklahoma Oklahoma

A Reading and Discussion Program to Mark Oklahoma's 100th Birthday

Oklahoma's book community is holding a statewide literary celebration!

Q: What is *Oklahoma Reads Oklahoma*?

A: *Oklahoma Reads Oklahoma* is an exciting statewide activity that invites Oklahomans to examine our state's unique history, experience its diverse heritage, and explore its promising future by reading and discussing notable and important works about the Sooner State.

Q: What's the catalyst for *Oklahoma Reads Oklahoma*?

A: As Oklahoma readies for 2007 and its 100th anniversary of statehood, Oklahomans are increasingly exploring our state's many-faceted history and its richly diverse heritage.

Q: When will *Oklahoma Reads Oklahoma* take place?

A: The book selection process began in 2003, and programs are held each year from 2004 through the Sooner State's 100th anniversary in 2007.

Q: How are the books selected?

A: A subcommittee of the Oklahoma Reads Oklahoma Steering Committee (see the list of sponsors at right) nominates six book titles. Oklahomans vote from September through October for one book from the list of six works. Voting takes place online at www.okreadsok.org. The winning selection will be announced at the end of the year, and the reading and discussion programs and activities will take place the following year. The third "election" took place in 2005, with programs planned across the state in 2006.

Q: What type of books are candidates for the election?

A: Works have been as diverse and intriguing as our state and its people. Selected for readability as well as Oklahoma-related content, they have consisted of both fiction and nonfiction and have included history, biography, memoir, historical fiction, essay collections, and novels.

Q: Who can host discussion groups? When will they meet?

A: Discussion groups will meet throughout the year across the state. Libraries and schools are invited to participate by hosting reading and discussion programs, and any group, organization, or high school class may host a discussion.

Q: Will discussion materials be provided?

A: Discussion guides of the selected titles are available online. Discussion facilitators are available through the Oklahoma Humanities Council.

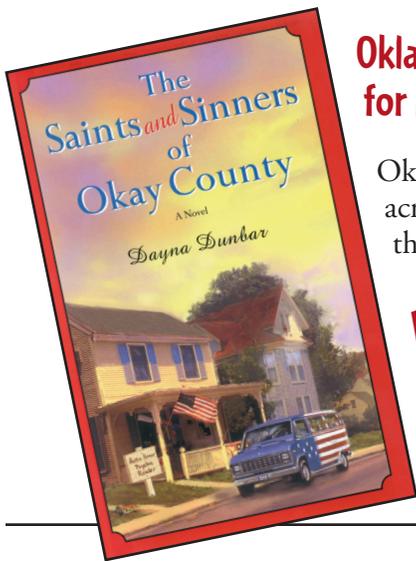
Q: Where can I learn more about this program?

A: The website www.okreadsok.org provides a variety of information and resources to inspire and facilitate participation in the project. Plus, watch your local newspaper, organization newsletters, community library or favorite bookstore for more details about Oklahoma Reads Oklahoma. Better yet, contact your local library and say you're interested in participating in Oklahoma Reads Oklahoma, or start your own book club.

You may also contact the Oklahoma Department of Libraries (byoung@oltn.odl.state.ok.us), the Oklahoma Humanities Council (ohc@okhumanitiescouncil.org) or *Let's Talk About It, Oklahoma* (jenlkidney@hotmail.com).

The following partners look forward to your participation in *Oklahoma Reads Oklahoma*:

Barnes and Noble Booksellers
Eastern Oklahoma District Library System
Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma
Metropolitan Library System
Oklahoma Arts Council
Oklahoma Centennial Commission
Oklahoma Center for the Book
Oklahoma Center for Poets and Writers
Oklahoma Council for the Social Studies
Oklahoma Council of Teachers of English
Oklahoma Department of Libraries
Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation
Oklahoma Heritage Association
Oklahoma Historical Society
Oklahoma Humanities Council
Oklahoma Independent Booksellers
Oklahoma Library Association
Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
Oklahoma Reading Association
Oklahoma State Department of Education
Oklahoma Today magazine
Pioneer Library System
State Regents for Higher Education
Tulsa City-County Library System
University of Oklahoma Press
World Literature Today



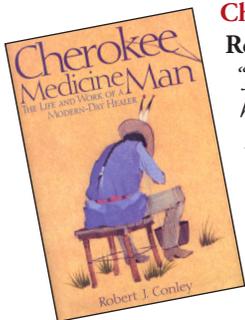
Oklahoma Readers Selected *The Saints and Sinners of Okay County* for Reading and Discussion Programs in 2006

Oklahomans are reading and talking about *The Saints and Sinners of Okay County* across the state in 2006. Dayna Dunbar's book was one of six titles nominated to be the focus of Oklahoma's statewide reading and discussion program.

What will be the Oklahoma Reads Oklahoma Book for 2007? That's up to you and other Oklahoma readers. Investigate the Fourth Literary Six-Pack, and then vote in September and October, 2006 at www.okreadsok.org for the title you would like to read and discuss in 2007—our Centennial Year!

The Final Oklahoma Centennial Literary Six-Pack

Non-Fiction selections:



Cherokee Medicine Man

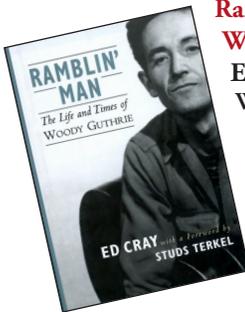
Robert J. Conley

"John Little Bear was born with a veil over his entire body... As a child Little Bear could see into the future... Grandfather told him it was because of the veil..."

The ancient Cherokee tradition of medicine man as healer, counselor, and protector is very much alive in modern-day Oklahoma. Conley did not set out to chronicle the life of a medicine

man. Instead, the medicine man came to him. John Little Bear asked Conley to write down his story, to reveal to the world "what Indian Medicine is really about."

(University of Oklahoma Press, 2005, pp 160, hardcover, ISBN 0806136650, \$19.95)



Ramblin' Man: The Life and Times of Woody Guthrie

Ed Cray

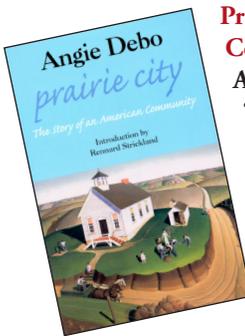
With a Forward by Studs Terkel

"Woody Guthrie was, is, America's balladeer. During the epoch of our deepest despair, the Great Depression, his were the songs that lifted the lowly spirits of the 'ordinary,' the millions of the dispossessed."

Woody Guthrie, writer, singer, and political activist, is perhaps the single most important figure to have influenced the tradition of American folk music. His music honored and heartened the dispossessed and disgruntled in an America darkened by poverty. Ed Cray is the first biographer to have full access to the Woody Guthrie Archives. Guthrie's autobiographical novel, *Bound for Glory*, was part of the second Oklahoma Literary Six-Pack.

(W. W. Norton, 2004, pp 384, hardcover, ISBN 0393047598, \$29.95)

(W. W. Norton paperback due March 13, 2006; pp 512, ISBN 0393327361, \$17.95)



Prairie City: The Story of an American Community

Angie Debo

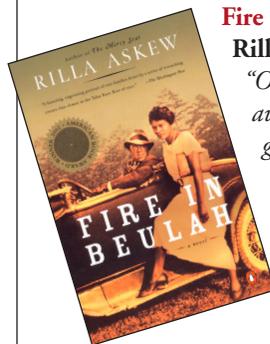
"A few seconds past noon of April 22, 1889 two riders drew rein and looked upon a scene that telescoped nine generations of American frontier settlement into one flashing moment."

Particularly well known for her studies of American Indian history, Debo also wrote about something she was

intimately acquainted with: pioneer life. She and her family arrived in Oklahoma Territory in 1899. *Prairie City* is a social history of the rise, development, and decline of a midwestern town. Solidly based on historical research, Debo's book chronicles the struggles of the settlers to build a community despite seasons of drought, prairie fire, and destitution.

(University of Oklahoma Press, 1998 (original copyright 1944, Alfred A. Knopf), pp 254, paperback, ISBN 0806130946, \$19.95)

Fiction selections:



Fire in Beulah

Rilla Askew

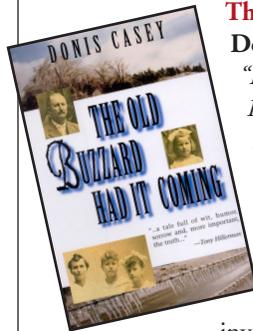
"On the last morning in September, Althea awakened before daylight from a dream of such grief and loss that before she'd come fully awake she knew she'd been weeping."

As modern day Oklahoma confronts the tragedy of the 1921 Tulsa Race Riot, a native daughter lends her voice. Rilla Askew's novel is the story of Althea Whiteside, an oil wildcatter's high-strung

white wife, and her enigmatic black maid, Graceful.

They share a complex connection during the tense days of the Oklahoma oil rush. Their juxtaposing stories unfold as tensions mount to a violent climax. Tim Madigan's non-fiction work on the riot, *The Burning*, was part of the first Oklahoma Literary Six-Pack. Askew is a two-time Oklahoma Book Award winner. *Fire in Beulah* received the 2002 American Book Award.

(Penguin Books, 2001, pp 384, paperback, ISBN 0142000248, \$13.00)



The Old Buzzard Had It Coming

Donis Casey

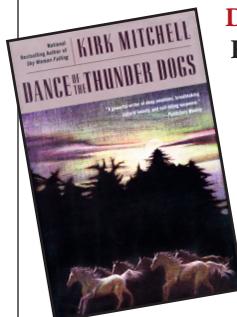
"It was just after dinner on that January day in 1912, and very cold with a threat of snow, when Harley Day began the journey to his eternal reward."

Alafair Tucker, her husband, and their nine children live a busy and happy life on their Oklahoma farm at the turn of the 20th Century. When her daughter becomes

involved in the murder of the meanest man in

Muskogee County, she vows to move heaven and earth to protect her child, and incidentally, find out who killed the old buzzard. Casey's novel evokes a time not yet 100 years past, that is so far removed from life in our modern age that we can barely imagine its daily toll and joys.

(Poisoned Pen Press, 2005, pp 226, hardcover, ISBN 1590581490, \$24.95)



Dance of the Thunder Dogs

Kirk Mitchell

"Am I Comanche only when I'm out in the white world?"

In this fifth mystery featuring federal investigator Emmett Quanah Parker, an injured Parker returns home to Oklahoma to heal. While home, his Comanche brethren join with neighboring tribes to honor him with a dance. But it is soon evident that Parker's healing will have to wait, as

he finds himself embroiled in a case involving a land use scam, embezzlement, and murder. And before long, the lawman who lives between two worlds finds himself on the other side of the law, the object of an intense manhunt.

(Berkley, 2004, pp 384, paperback, ISBN 0425199851, \$7.99)