

Drumright Rotary Embraces Local History

Angie Bengston with the Drumright Historical Society was Rotarian of the Day, Jane Frazier's, guest at Friday's Drumright Rotary Club meeting. Angie is the Vice President of the Drumright Historical Society and has been visiting with various groups in the Drumright and Cushing area to help raise awareness of Drumright's Centennial Celebration which kicked off on March 17, 2012.



Jena Drake, Angie Bengston

Even though there were several dates that might have been chosen as the official Centennial date, the volunteers that are involved decided that focusing on the date that Tom Slick finally hit oil, in March 1912, would be the best date for the Centennial commencement. Without that momentous occurrence of what is now known as Wheeler #1, Drumright would not have begun. Following Mr. Slick's oil strike, Drumright celebrated other firsts, like any boomtown, throughout the following months. These include a newly formed tent city housing the converging 80,000 people, a post office opening in December of 1912 and the official naming of Drumright in January 1913. However, it was many years later when the city was incorporated.

On March 17, 2012, the Historical Society hosted a ground-breaking ceremony at the museum to kick off the year long Centennial Celebration. Yes, the Centennial Celebration is happening all year! Just as Drumright observed several milestones in the beginning, the Centennial committee decided to make the many events throughout the year Centennial events in honor of the founders. Memorial Alumni Weekend, Discovery Days, Fourth of July at Seller's Ranch, Oil Patch Jamboree, just to name a few – will all have a Centennial flavor. The ground breaking was for the seventy-five foot derrick that will be moved and erected beside the museum very soon.

Angie also talked about the Drumright Museum. Founded in the 1960's, today it is rich in history and development. There are several exhibits to delight young and old including showcased items used by pioneers in Drumright, Fernett Ashwell's costumes, the Dr. Starr exhibit, personal military items, a salt and pepper collection, the bigger than life Doll House, and of course a renowned Oil Field exhibit. The museum hosts tours on a regular basis as well.

The Drumright Historical Society stays busy. They maintain the exhibits at the museum; raise funds for repairs and other museum needs; hosts events throughout the year like Discovery Days

in June and various family movie nights on the museum lawn. All of this is accomplished by a group of volunteers that love to preserve and share Drumright's history.

Angie has also put together a marvelous slideshow presentation. She continually makes up-dates to include the latest pictures and information about the Museum and the on-going Drumright's Centennial Celebration. If your group has not invited Angie or other members of the Drumright Historical Society to present this information to you, please do so. You can contact the Drumright Museum if you would like to schedule a presentation.

Thank you, Angie and all of the volunteers that are working so hard to make 2012 a year Drumright will always remember.

Please join us at Friday's meeting hosted by Rotarian, Shirley Klaus and her guest, Judge Mark Ihrig.

If you would like more information about Drumright Rotary Club, please contact us on our FaceBook page, Drumright Rotary Club, or go to our website www.wix.com/drumrightrotary/drumrightrotary.

Written by Jena Drake, Rotarian