



# Muskogee County Genealogical Society Quarterly

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Interesting Trivia



These items were published in the Muskogee Daily Phoenix and Times Democrat issue dated 11 Jul 1937, on page one.

Submitted by Nancy Calhoun

# IN MEMORIAM



## Dr. Charles G Fullenwider

Aug 24, 1916 - Oct 1, 2016

Dr. Charles Glendenning Fullenwider passed away October 1st, 2016. He was 100 years of age. He was born August 24, 1916 to Dr. Charles M. Fullenwider and Nancy G. Fullenwider, who had settled in Muskogee prior to statehood.

He attended school in Muskogee, then undergraduate school at O.U.; and Medical School at the University of Chicago and Washington University in St. Louis. He did a Residency in Internal Medicine, then served in the Army Medical Corp during WWII. After the service he trained in ophthalmology at Baylor Medical Center in Houston, Texas, where we met and married the love of his life, Katherine Berry. They had 50 wonderful years together.

They returned to Muskogee in 1949, where he practiced eye surgery until his retirement in 1991, on his 75th birthday. He was preceded in death by his wife "Kay." He is survived by his two children: Kathy Mosher, and her husband Michael; Dr. Chuck Fullenwider, and his wife Susan. Four Grandchildren: Dr. Connor Fullenwider, and his wife Erin; Cody Mosher, and her fiancée Macy McCullough; Cara Marie Fullenwider; and Billy Mosher; and one great grandchild, Charlie Fullenwider.

Charles, along with his grandfather, father, son, and grandson, was one of five physicians in the Fullenwider family. He was active in the Muskogee community throughout his life. He served on many boards including the Library Board, and took great pleasure in teaching literacy to adults and inspiring others to teach. For a number of years he volunteered at the Kelly B. Todd Cerebral Palsy and Neuromuscular Clinic. He was a member of Rotary Club for over 60 years and was a life-long member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church, where he served in several capacities, including the Board of Trustee's.

After retirement, his love of adventure and knowledge never ceased. He traveled to 92 countries and at the age of 87 went to Antarctica, completing his bucket list of traveling to all 7 continents. Always the consummate gentleman; his family and friends will remember him for his kindness, sharp wit, and beautiful Zinnia Gardens.

A memorial service celebrating the life of Charles G. Fullenwider will be held at 11:00 AM, Wednesday October 5, 2016, at St. Paul's United Methodist Church. Memorials may be made to St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 2130 W Okmulgee, Muskogee OK 74401, or the Kelly B. Todd Cerebral Palsy and Neuromuscular Clinic at PO Box 2643 Muskogee OK, 74402

Dr. Fullenwider's Obituary was Published in the Muskogee Phoenix, 3 and 4 Oct 2016.



## Vernon "Grizz" Martin

Jan 6, 1964 - Sep 26, 2016

Memorial services for Vernon Leslie Martin, 52, of Cookson, Oklahoma are 10:00 am Friday September 30, 2016, at the 29 Eleven Church in Tahlequah. Officiating will be Reverend David Jones. Honorary pallbearers are Bo MacFadden, Eric Twyman, Buddy Clinton, John Denney, Jim Jolliff, Donnie Parris, Dean Martin, Tim Keller, Frank Conner, Jerry Stanley, Rusty Carroll, and Kathy Keller. Final arrangements have been placed in the care of Green Country Funeral Home. Online condolences for the family may be left at [tahlequahfuneral.com](http://tahlequahfuneral.com).

Vernon was born on January 6, 1964, in Tahlequah, Oklahoma to Thomas Leslie and Earlene (Haddock) Martin. He passed from this life on September 26, 2016, at Woodall, Oklahoma. A lifelong resident of Cherokee County, Vernon attended school at Lowery and was a 1982 graduate of Tahlequah High School. In 1982 he married his high school sweetheart. In 1985 their greatest achievement came along, Thomas.

Vernon worked for Cherokee County Dist. II until he became employed at Muskogee Green Hill Cemetery where he was Cemetery Superintendent, completing nearly twenty years of service for the city of Muskogee. Learning about grief at an early age, he had a calling to his work at the cemetery. His job involved working with the public and he kindly and patiently listened to all of them.

If he wasn't with Regina or family, he was surely hunting or fishing. His love of the outdoors came from a long line of men who respect and cherished nature and everything in it. His life was one his entire circle of family and friends tried to emulate. He loved his wife, his son, his granddaughters, his mother and his entire family as we all want to be loved. He enjoyed every precious moment spent with his grandbabies, Taylor and Leslie. He wore many titles but his favorite job of all was being "PaPa".

Other titles, talents and accomplishments God blessed him with and not all may know are he loved to sing and whistle a tune, he played the guitar, a little fiddle, and played Snooks a nightly lullaby on his Native American flute. Wood carpentry also ran in his blood, he liked to profess our all mighty savior, he liked working with his hands on projects big or small. Whether it be building for himself or helping a friend he enjoyed it. He had also he ran a taxidermy shop. Vernon served 2 years on the Board of Director's for the Oklahoma Taxidermy Association. He was one of the State's first group, of six certified Black Powder instructors. He held the statewide backhoe operator's championship which was awarded during his years of service to Cherokee County District II. He was also a hunter safety instructor where several hundred youth were certified "Safe Hunters" in Cherokee County.

Vernon was preceded in death by his father Thomas Leslie Martin; his mother and father in law, Gabe and Billie Medlin; and grandparents, Cecil and Eunice Martin, and Beulah and Johnny Haddock. He leaves behind his wife, Regina "Snooks" of the home; a son, Thomas Martin and wife Eleshea of Bartlesville, Oklahoma; two granddaughters, Taylor Faye and Leslie Denice; his mother Earlene Adams and step father, Kenneth Adams; three siblings, Michelle (Martin) Carrol and husband Russell of Keys, Oklahoma, Kenneth Mike Adams and wife Christi of Tahlequah, Oklahoma, and Shelly (Adams) Conner and husband Frank of Locust Grove, Oklahoma; uncle, Dean Martin and wife (Joy) of Tahlequah, Oklahoma; aunt, Carol Hughes of Park Hill, Oklahoma; and many nieces, nephews, extended family members, friends and loved ones. It was said, "Vernon was very straight-forward and blunt, tempered with kindness and thoughtfulness". We don't know why death sometimes comes way too soon, and we are not to question why, for only He knows the hour in which He will come. It is our responsibility to be prepared.

Published in The Muskogee Phoenix 27-30 Sep 2016

**The board and members of the Muskogee County Genealogical Society would like to express our sincerest sympathies to both families.**



# THE USO COUNCIL

requests the honor of your presence at the

## DEDICATION

OF THE

## USO CLUB

Sunday, April 11, 1943

At 2:00 o'Clock P. M.

511-515 W. Okmulgee Avenue, Muskogee, Oklahoma

## Advisory Agency For USO Formed

### Five Organizations In City Represented

Representatives of five of the six national United Service Organizations agencies have formed a local advisory committee for the organization, according to an announcement received yesterday.

Formed of volunteer members, the group will coordinate national defense work of the local defense agencies to avoid duplication of services; cooperate with community-wide recreation and defense groups, and enlist volunteer service in behalf of the local USO program.

H. E. Newton has been elected chairman of the Muskogee council; Mrs. Robert P. Chandler, vice chairman, and Marjorie Wilson, secretary-treasurer.

The five local agencies, Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., Salvation Army, National Catholic Community service, and the Jewish Welfare board, were represented by three members each. The other USO agency, the National Travelers Aid association, does not operate in Muskogee.

Members elected to the council, representing the five local agencies, are Irwin Donovan, Dorothy Gehhart, Mrs. Lela Mae Gilkison, J. J. Highfill, J. R. Holmes, Mayor S. B. Hudson, Abe Kaplan, Mrs. Sol Klar, Paul May, George Powell, Mrs. Frank Schaller, A. G. Steffen and Capt. Leon Thomas.

New members are to be added as the duties of the council grow, due to the fact that the national plan of organization calls for from three to five representatives from each agency, it has been announced. All additional members, including officers from Camp Gruber, are to serve in an ex-officio capacity.

The primary function of the council is to act as an advisory group for the USO units, which will begin functioning in this area about July 1. When a USO hut is located in Muskogee to serve the new cantonment, it will be staffed with professional personnel, according to the announcement. 2016041.001

This was logged into the Three Rivers Museum inventory on Wednesday, October 5, 2016. Sue Tolbert, the museum director and the staff agreed that it might be good for the Quarterly. It's about the organization of the USO for Camp Gruber in 1942. There are 13 images.

(Editor's Note: This increased the size of this issue, due to the multiple pages. The content, including USO facts and history, also refers to many citizens I am sure our readers will recognize and appreciate the dedication they afforded the organization.)





**USO**

## FORMAL DEDICATION

### United Service Organization's Club

AT  
511-515 WEST OKMULGEE AVENUE  
MUSKOGEE, OKLAHOMA

SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 1943  
AT 2:00 O'CLOCK P. M.

OFFICIATING  
H. E. NEWTON  
CHAIRMAN, USO COUNCIL

#### CLUB STAFF

WILLIAM T. PRICHARD	Director
GUY LOOKABAUGH	Associate Director
MILDRED S. JEFFRESS	Associate Director
MILDRED E. CONROY	Assistant Director
PAULINE WOODS	Assistant Director

#### USO UNITS

EMANUEL KUMIN	Director, J.W.B.
LOIS J. UTTERBACK	Director, Travelers' Aid

#### USO COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Building Management	Hostess Committee
IRWIN DONOVAN	MRS. ARCHIBALD BONDS

Public Relations  
AWALT STEFFEN

#### AGENCY COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

NCCS Advisory  
MRS. BEN BRANDT

Army and Navy Y.M.C.A. Management  
B. L. WERTZ

USO-Y.W.C.A. Advisory  
MRS. PAT FITE, Acting

J.W.B. Army and Navy Advisory  
PAUL MAY .. SAMUEL SONDHEIMER

USO-T.A.S. Advisory  
CHARLES P. GOTWALS

#### A CLUB FOR MEN AND WOMEN IN SERVICE AND ASSOCIATED CIVILIANS

#### CLUB HOURS

9:00 a. m. to 10:30 p. m.  
Saturday: 9:00 a. m. to 12:00 p. m.

"A HOME AWAY FROM HOME"

#### PROGRAM

NATIONAL ANTHEM	Orchestra
INVOCATION	Chaplain Harold Goldfarb 88th Infantry Division
POSTING OF COLORS	American Legion Veterans Foreign Wars Disabled American Veterans
AMERICAN PATROL (F. W. Meachan)	Orchestra
GREETINGS	Mayor S. B. Hudson
REMARKS	Capt. J. J. Ruettgers Spartan School of Aeronautics
REMARKS	Col. H. C. Luck Commanding Officer, Camp Gruber
REMARKS	Major General J. E. Sloan Commanding General, 88th Infantry Division
SELECTION (Bedrich Smetana)	Orchestra
REMARKS	Dr. Walter G. Letham Pastor, First Presbyterian Church
REMARKS	Arthur L. Griswold USO Associate Regional Executive
REMARKS	Morris V. Murphy Regional Supervisor, National Catholic Community Service
REMARKS	William T. Prichard, Director
SELECTION (Peter Tschaikowski)	Orchestra
ADDRESS	Mrs. Maurice T. Moore National Chairman Women's Activities, United Service Organizations, Inc.
BENEDICTION	Rev. A. C. Taeyarts Pastor, Assumption Church
"GOD BLESS AMERICA" (Irving Berlin)	Audience

TOUR OF CLUB

#### USO MEMBER AGENCIES

The Young Men's Christian Associations .. The National Catholic  
Community Service .. The Salvation Army .. The Young  
Women's Christian Associations .. The Jewish Welfare  
Board .. The National Travelers Aid Association



#### RECEPTION COMMITTEE

S. B. Hudson	Mrs. Sol Klar
H. E. Newton	Paul May
Awalt Steffen	Abe Kaplan
Mrs. Frank Schaller	Warren Fulton
Mrs. J. H. Brown	Mrs. T. H. Niles
Irwin Donovan	Mrs. Lela Mae Gilkison
James Highfill	Mrs. George Walker
Mrs. R. McInerney	Mrs. Laurence McAlister
	Ben Hayes



#### COORDINATORS

J. T. GRIFFIN	District Chairman
J. R. HOLMES	County Chairman
J. A. HURT	City Chairman
E. WARD COLE	F. S. A.



#### MUSIC

STRING ORCHESTRA, INFANTRY BAND  
88th Infantry Division  
Conductor, Cpl. Rubin Cohen

USE STAFF PRINTING, MUSKOGEE 14775



October 29, 1942

The Muskogee USO Council met at the YMCA, at 7:30 p.m., October 29, 1942.

President Newton called the meeting to order and Mr. Steffens gave the invocation.

Mr. Guy Lookabaugh, YMCA associate director of the USO building distributed an AGENDA for the Muskogee USO Council meeting. Mr. Paul May moved that this Agenda be followed for the USO Council meetings. Mr. Donovan seconded the motion, motion carried.

President Newton asked each member and guest to introduce himself to the Council. Those present are as follow:

Mrs. Sol Klar	JWB
Mrs. J. H. Brown	YMCA
Mrs. Frank Schaller	YMCA
Mr. Wm. Prichard	NCCS
Mr. Irwin Donovan	NCCS
Major Troy Coffman	Public Relations Officer Camp Gruber
Mr. Abe Kaplan	JWB
Mrs. Archibald Bonds	Chairman, USO Committee Chaperones & Hostesses
Mrs. Peters	National Travelers Aid
Mr. He E. Newton	YMCA
Marjorie Wilson	NCCS



Mrs. T. C. Pruitt	Colored NCCS
Rev. Deliah Pike	Colored Minister
Emanuel Kumin	JWB
Mrs. Timmons	National Travelers Aid
Mr. Paul May	JWB
Mrs. Jeffress	YWCA
Lieutenant Reat	Spartan Air School
Major Cook	Special Service Officer
	Camp Gruber
Mr. Guy Lookabaugh	YMCA
Mr. James Highfill	NCCS
Mr. Awalt Steffens	YMCA

A letter from Mr. Hudson to the Council was read by President Newton, regarding the personnel at the NCCS operated negro USO Club.

Mr. Steffens suggested that the Council take Item #6 on the Agenda, first. The Council agreed. Mr. Steffens said that the YMCA is not prepared to sleep more than 30 soldiers on a Saturday night, and that they turn many boys away. He said that St. Josephs School is equipped to take care of 90 soldiers. Discussion was held as to the 3rd floor of the USO building, however, it would be necessary to provide the 3rd floor with fire escapes, which would be a priority material and difficult to purchase. No action was taken by the Council.

Mr. Kumin stated that no soldiers have been turned away from the USO building on a Saturday



night, that wanted a place to spend the night.

Discussion held, and Mr. Donovan made the motion, that "The matter of providing Saturday night sleeping quarters for the soldiers be referred to the American Legion. Mr. May seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Mr. Prichard, NCCS Director of the USO building reported on the progress of remodeling the building at 515 West Okmulgee Ave., which is the Military Division. The woman's division at 511 West Okmulgee is also progressing rapidly. The furniture for the Military division has been sent to the building and is ready to be placed. There has been no definite date set for a formal opening, but an invitation was extended to all USO Council members to visit the Club at any time.

Mr. Guy Lookabaugh, YMCA Co-Director of the USO Club building, said that the Community cooperation is very satisfactory. That there are eleven organizations ready to help the USO, with churches assisting, and clubs available. There are individuals who give much time and help with the Senior Dance hostesses, and there are about 300 girls helping as Junior dance hostesses.

Mr. Emanuel Kumin, JWB representative at the USO Building, spoke on the cooperation of



Camp Gruber with the USO Staff. The Special Service Officers, Colonels and Generals have given every cooperation they possibly could. He also stated that the USO Staff have provided Camp Gruber with many articles, some of the items provided are: 7,000 coat hangers, 4 pianos 6 victrolas, 400 books, and Glee Club music and many other articles.

Mrs. Jeffress, YWCA representative, was next speaker. She gave a review of the social activities of the woman's division, which included Open House, Dances, Book Reviews, and etc., also available to soldier's wives are cameras and games. The wives of Camp Gruber soldiers have lessons available to them in Arts, Crafts, and Bridge lessons.

Mrs. Timmons, the National Travelers Aid representative at the USO Council meeting discussed the special problems that are handled by her organization. They give personal counseling, find rooms for families of soldiers, visit the sick, and in general solve all problems that are brought to them by soldiers and their families.

Mrs. T. C. Pruitt, NCCS colored club representative, stated that all of the Negroes in Muskogee are very eager to cooperate with her in every way possible. The Club will be located



at 200 $\frac{1}{2}$  South 2nd Street, and until the building is renovated, they will do every thing possible for the colored soldiers.

Mrs. Archibald Bonds, Chairman of the Committee on Dance Hostesses and Chaperones, stated that they are having a problem of transportation. Major Coffman said that he would help in every possible way to see that the Senior Hostesses and Dance partners were provided with transportation.

Major Coffman, Public Relations Officer at Camp Gruber, said that it is for the morale and welfare of the soldiers that they provided dances at Camp Gruber during the week. The Council was invited by Major Coffman, to attend one of the special programs in the near future.

Major Cook, Special Service Officer at the Camp, also Morale Officer, gave a discussion about the recreation for the soldiers within and outside the Camp. The transportation for the soldiers is also a problem, as there are not enough buses to bring all the soldiers into town, who have passes. Therefore, there must be many activities at the Camp, such as Movies, Service Clubs and Athletics.

Lieutenant Reat, Special Service Officer for the Spartan Air Cadets, was present to represent the Spartan Air Field. Spartan has various



entertainments of their own, having been in Muskogee several years, and also it is situated at the edge of town and they do not have the identical problems that the Camp Gruber Soldiers would have.

Mr. Lookabaugh suggested that the Council have some ex-officio members, such as the Chairman of the Hostess and Chaperone Committee, American Legion Representatives, Chamber of Commerce, and some from the Negro population.

Mr. Donovan made the motion, "That the Chairman of the Committee on Sponsors and Chaperones be made an ex-officio member of the USO Council". Mrs. Klar seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Donovan stated that if the Council be enlarged, an executive committee should be appointed. No further action was taken on this matter of additional ex-officio members.

Discussion held as to the monthly meeting. Mr. Kaplan moved "that the Council meet on the last Thursday of each month at 7:30 p. m." Seconded by Mr. Prichard and motion carried.

Mr. Kumin suggested that other organizations be invited to the Staff meetings of the USO, in order to bring about cooperation and coordination of other organizations in the city with the USO. It was decided that Mrs. Timmons,

chairman of the Staff Council present a list of these organizations, that they wish to invite to the meetings, to Mr. Newton and he will extend the invitation to them.

Reverend Pike, from St. Phillips Episcopal Church gave a talk on the Negro enthusiasm to entertain the colored soldiers at Camp Gruber, and that they have been entertaining them at their own church recreation hall.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Marjorie E. Wilson*  
Secretary



15 Oct 2016

Letter from the Editor,

I have been the editor of the Muskogee County Genealogical Society Quarterly since the September, 2007 issue and I would like to thank all of those members who were kind enough to provide the materials, photos and articles of interest to our readers. Together we have welcomed new members, said good-bye to many others and I have done my best to honor both in the manner they deserve. I has been a joy, frustration and a challenge to sometimes get the facts straight and to research and find information about the art of finding interesting facts about our personal ancestors, as well as those who have contributed to the history and knowledge of our cities, county and state.

However, it is with my heartfelt wishes for the future of this publication that I tender my resignation after the December, 2016 issue is finished. It has been a pleasure serving the board and members, but I think it is time for fresh ideas and new enthusiasm with this endeavor. I would ask you now to please give your utmost effort to supply my successor with the help they will need with future issues.

I sincerely thank you,

Nancy Stanton Lasater, Editor 2007-2016.

## Board Members 2016

President - Nancy Calhoun  
Vice President - Bill Bailey  
Secretary - Linda Stout  
Treasurer - Mary Downing  
Members at Large -  
Publications Committee Chair - Nancy Lasater  
Research Committee Chair - Barbara Downs  
Education Committee Chair - Nancy Calhoun  
Public Relations Committee - Jere Harris

**Muskogee County Genealogical Society** meetings are held at 6:00 PM on the fourth Thursday evening or Saturday morning (TBA) of each month (except July and August) in the Grant Foreman room at the **Muskogee Public Library**, 801 West Okmulgee, Muskogee, OK. . The Board of Directors meetings are held the third Monday at 5:30 PM in the library's Genealogy and Local History department. All members are invited to attend the all meetings. Our **Research, Membership Policy** and **Publication** information is outlined on our website [www.muskogee-county-genealogical-society.org](http://www.muskogee-county-genealogical-society.org) or you may write to us at: **Muskogee County Genealogical Society**, c/o Muskogee Public Library, 801 West Okmulgee, Muskogee, OK 74401. Email us at: [mucogeso@yahoo.com](mailto:mucogeso@yahoo.com)

### Muskogee Public Library

The Local History & Genealogy Department has one of the largest genealogical collections in Northeastern Oklahoma. The friendly and knowledgeable staff is experienced in all areas of research including Native American and Freedman research. The department has the Dawes Rolls, enrollment cards, applications and other rolls of the Five Civilized Tribes as well as local newspapers, and court records, including county marriages on microfilm. Please note that the Society and the Muskogee Public Library use the same resources. Please only submit a research request to one or the other, not both. Thanks!