

OKLAHOMA STATEHOOD REENACTMENT

<u>LIST OF CHARACTERS</u>	<u>PLAYED BY</u>	<u>PLAY DESCRIPTION</u>
Reporters: Frank Greer -	_____	Editor and publisher of the <i>Oklahoma State Capital</i>
Kentucky Daisy -	_____	Reporter
Marion Tuttle Rock -	_____	Author of <i>The Illustrated History of Oklahoma</i>
Helen Candee -	_____	Reporter for the <i>Forum</i> , a popular magazine
Proclamation of Statehood: Dr. Hugh Scott -	_____	Private secretary of Territorial Governor Frank Frantz. It was his pistol shot which signaled to Guthrie that Oklahoma had been admitted to the Union.
Charles Filson -	_____	Territorial Secretary, read Pres. Roosevelt's Statehood Proclamation.
Wedding Party: Charles G. Jones -	_____	of Oklahoma City, represented Mr. Oklahoma Territory in the mock wedding.
Mrs. Anna Bennett -	_____	of Muskogee, represented Miss Indian Territory in mock wedding. Mrs. Bennett was of Cherokee decent.
Reverend Dodson -	_____	Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Guthrie, performed the mock wedding ceremony.
William Durant -	_____	Sergeant-at-Arms of the Constitutional Convention, gave away the Bride during the mock wedding.
Governor's Party: Charles Haskell -	_____	The Governor Elect.
Mrs. Haskell -	_____	The wife of the Governor Elect.
Leslie Niblack -	_____	Editor of the <i>Guthrie Daily Leader</i> , and a justice of the peace. Administered the oath of office to the Governor.
Judge Frank Dale -	_____	Served as the Chief Justice of the Territorial Supreme Court, and served as Master of Ceremonies.

Durant: Hello and welcome. In order to tell of the historic events of November 16, 1907, we would like to invite you all to step back in time with us to that day and to share with us some of the actual events and news stories written, when the President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, signed the proclamation that made Oklahoma the forty-sixth state in the Union.

On the same day, Charles N. Haskell took the oath of office as Governor of the State of Oklahoma. President Roosevelt signed this proclamation in his office at Washington, D.C. and Governor Haskell took the oath of office here on the steps of the Carnegie Library. My name is William Durant and I served as sergeant-at-arms for the Constitutional Convention.

Reporter Greer: Hello, my name is Frank Greer, I am the publisher and editor of the Oklahoma State Capital Newspaper, the largest newspaper in this new state. I would like to share with you the story that has just recently come in over the AP Wire Service: "press release: Dated November 16, 1907--Washington, D.C.--"Oklahoma is now a state," smilingly remarked the President of the United States as he made the concluding flourish with an eagle quill pen to the statehood proclamation at 10:16 o'clock this morning.

"At 10 o'clock, the White House telegraph rooms were directly connected with both Guthrie and Oklahoma City and the second the President attached his signature to the proclamation, the information was flashed to the new state."

(Reporter moves back and Hugh Scott moves forward.)

Mr. Scott: (raises pistol in the air and fires) We're a State!!!

(Crowd cheers and applauds -- Mr. Scott moves back and Judge Dale moves forward)

Dale: Ladies and Gentlemen, Mr. Charles Filson, Territorial Secretary. (Moves aside)

Filson: The following proclamation was signed by President Theodore Roosevelt at 10:16 a.m. Eastern Standard Time, today at the White House in Washington, D.C.; "I, Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States, do declare and announce that the state of Oklahoma is to be admitted into the Union." (Move aside)

(More cheers by the crowd)

Reporter Daisy: Hello, my name is Kentucky Daisy. I am a reporter, covering this historic occasion, and I would like to share with you a portion of the story I will write about today's events: "Seven thousand citizens of the new state stood in the street facing the south portico of the Carnegie Library to witness the beginning of the state government. Thousands were weary with trying to get within seeing distance of the ceremonies through the streets in the business portion of the city. Even the trees on the library grounds were filled with men and boys. In the outskirts of the crowd was a jam of motor cars, carriages and horsemen."

"Noon had almost arrived before the new state officers-elect and their families. Shortly afterward Governor Haskell came in an open carriage accompanied by Judge Frank Dale, ex-chief justice of Oklahoma; Leslie G. Niblack; and Frank Canton, adjutant general of the state militia. Judge Dale was Master of Ceremonies on the platform."

Reporter Rock: My name is Marion Tuttle Rock. I am an author and a reporter. These are a portion of my impressions of the day's events: "Then came the marriage ceremony which joined Oklahoma and Indian Territory for life. Charles G. Jones of Oklahoma City, for many years one of the most tireless champions of joint statehood, was the groom and made the proposal of marriage to the bride, Miss Indian Territory, who was Mrs. Leo Bennett, wife of the United States Marshall at Muskogee. The marriage ceremony was performed by the Reverend H.H. Dodson, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Guthrie."

(wedding party moves into position)

Rev. Dodson: Dearly beloved, we are gathered here to witness the union of the Territory of Oklahoma and the Indian Territory into a single state of Oklahoma. **(gestures to Mr. Jones)** Mr. Charles Jones of Oklahoma City.

Jones: I have been asked to perform the agreeable duty of proposing marriage to Miss Indian Territory. Though I am only 18 years old, having been born in Washington, D.C., in 1889, I am capable of assuming the duties of husband. Miss Indian Territory, I give you my people, my lands, and my resources, will you marry me?

Rev. Dodson: Representing the Indian Territory is Mrs. Anna Bennett of Muskogee. (**Durant presents Mrs. Bennett to Jones, bows and steps back.**)

Bennett: I will. And to you I present my hand and my fortunes, convinced that your love is genuine and sincere.

Dodson: Do you, Mr. Oklahoma Territory, take this woman to be your lawfully wedded wife, to have and to hold, from this day forth, in union as the State of Oklahoma?

Jones: I do.

Dodson: Do you, Miss Indian Territory, take this man to be your lawfully wedded husband, to have and to hold, from this day forth, in union as the State of Oklahoma?

Bennett: I do.

Dodson: Under the laws of the United States, and the power vested in me, I now pronounce you husband and wife.

(couple turns and waves to the crowd, then moves back)

Reporter Candee: Hello. My name is Helen Candee. I am a reporter for the popular magazine, *The Forum*, the following is part of the story I am writing about today's events: "Every detail had been arranged in advance for providing the new state with its officials just as soon as the president's signature in Washington made the oath of office possible. The state office holders-elect had sent word that they were prepared to enter upon their duties.

"The official oath was administered to Governor Haskell at 12:20 o'clock in the afternoon by Leslie Niblack, editor of the *Guthrie Leader*.

(Governor Haskell and Mr. Niblack move to center)

Niblack: Repeat after me. I, Charles Haskell, do solemnly swear ...

Haskell: I, Charles Haskell, do solemnly swear ...

Niblack: ... that I will support, obey and defend ...

Haskell: ... that I will support, obey and defend ...

Niblack: ... the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma ...

Haskell: ... the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma ...

Niblack: ... and will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity and honor, so help me God.

Haskell: ... and will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity and honor, so help me God.

(crowd applauds and cheers and Governor Haskell turns and waves)

Haskell: Let us have an administration of worthy deeds and not of empty words.

(waves again, crowd cheers, Haskell moves back and Judge Dale moves to the podium)

Dale: You are now invited into the Carnegie Library to meet our first State Governor, Charles Haskell. Please enter through the west door.

(everyone on platform moves inside the Carnegie Library and forms a reception line, to shake hands with the guests)