

Miss McAlester And Teen McAlester Give Program



GREETING MISS MCALESTER AND MISS TEEN MCALESTER, are Rotary President Ann Owens, left and Board Member Louise Washington, right. Miss McAlester is Allyssa Banks and Miss Teen McAlester is Alyssa Latty. Loise also is connected with the Miss McAlester Pageant. The McAlester Royalty presented the program last week, and the President wished them well in the upcoming state competition.

(Photo by George Lampton.)

Miss McAlester, Allyssa Banks, and Miss Teen McAlester, Alyssa Latty, gave us a look last Tuesday, at the state competition they will be going through.

The talented pair has a week of interviews, talent, evening wear and onstage question competition. While the Miss Oklahoma contestants will be doing "Evening Wear" and swim suit events, the Miss Teen candidates have rivalry in "Active Wear" and Fashions. The Miss Teen McAlester,

Miss Latty sang the song, "Someone Who Needs Me."

Miss Banks has helped inform children about care of their teeth and has built her "platform" around dental health for children. She has made up "packages" with coloring books and other ways to get her dental care message across to the children.

Miss Latty's platform and community-type work has centered around the 4-H Program.

She said that some of the 4-H program is the same th at it was over 50 years ago, like the 4-H slogan of "Head, Heart, Hands, and Health." But some of it is different because of today's life style, she said.

Club members assisted the two in current event questions, asking their opinions on school security, immigration problems, some current singing stars, and school uniforms.

They replied that more "positive" role models are needed by young people.

Miss Latty aid young people need to find out how to "make a difference in our world."

Dozens of Projects Planned For Local, State Centennial

Rotary Club members were told May 22 of the many groups taking part and many activities being planned for McAlester's Centennial Celebration during this year.

Joe Ann Vermillion, chairman of McAlester's Centennial Commission, told of a Downtown Beautification Project, "One Hundred Trees for 100 Years' Dedication," a tour of historic homes and businesses, dedication of the new Pittsburg County Health Facilities in August or September, a Carl Albert Program, a Jubilee Day Celebration, "100 Years in Career Tech," with a Bill Prichard Memorial Banquet, a Centennial Week in October, dedication of the "Bud Hale Outdoor Classroom," a Heritage Day Luncheon with State Supreme Court Justice Steve Taylor, recognizing 100-year-old persons and businesses; Masonic Temple Tours, a parade with grade school students, a Reenactment of a land run by local area fourth graders, an Old Town Festival with an art show, car show and opening of a 101-year-old time capsule; a Northtown Cemetery Tour, films, food, and a reenactment presentation of Will Rogers' wife, sponsored by both PEO chapters.

Ms. Vermillion said a Speakers' Bureau is being set up, with several speakers already available on various historical subjects and topics of interest.

Some 20 to 25 people are meeting each month to plan the activities. She said she "would love" to have Rotary sponsor a project.

"Everyone is invited to take part" and to "spread the word" about the activities, she noted.

The State Centennial Commission has some grants available for the projects, even for a "Centennial Clock," she added.

Six "area museums" will be open to the public, although the State Penitentiary Museum will be open only on Saturdays. The others are the Tobucksky County Choctaw Courthouse, the Coal Miners Museum, the Tannehill Family Museum, the old McAlester High School Museum, and the Krebs Museum, which will be open Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

The J.J. McAlester home will be open to the public, as will the

Puterbaugh home, where the McAlester Chamber of Commerce is located. And the Masonic Temple is open for tours, whenever arranged.

The Speakers' Bureau includes Dr. Thurman Shuller, on the Practice of Medicine in Early-Day McAlester, and on "The Glory Years," around statehood in McAlester.

-Bill Rayburn on Early-Day McAlester;

-Steve Adams on early-day events concerning the State Penitentiary;

-Teresa Atkerson, about the newspaper.

-Carl Filskow, on early-day history.

Dedication of the 100 trees is tentatively set for June 14.

It will be at the south end of the bypass. Dedication of the new Pittsburg County Health facility is on the state Centennial Project list. It will be in August or September.

One Hundred Years in Career Tech will be the theme of the Bill Prichard Memorial Banquet, Sept. 18. It is sponsored by the KTC Foundation, and will be at Petes's Place.

Centennial Week in McAlester is Oct. 1-6. Several events are planned during the week.

One is dedication of the Bud Hale Outdoor Classroom. Another is the Heritage Day Luncheon on Oct. 2, with State Supreme Court Justice Steve Taylor as the speaker.

The parade with grade schools in McAlester, Frink, Krebs and Savanna taking part, is that week, as is the re-enactment of a Land Run by local Forth Graders.

The Old Town Festival is Oct. 6, which includes a car show, an art show and sale by the Art Guild, at the J.J. McAlester mansion.

The opening of a 101 year-old Time Capsule is planned by the Masons. And a Cemetery Tour of the Old Town Cemetery also will be held.

See Centennial on Page 2

Club Gives Scholarships To Ten

The McAlester Rotary Club gave \$500 scholarships to 10 students at McAlester High School this year.

The students were guests of the club May 22.

They included Elizabeth Auld, who is going to Oklahoma University; Brittany Condit, who is going to OU; Bobby Doyle,

and Sarah Dupuy, who are going to OU; Keegan Kirkhart, who is going to OU, and Randilea Nichols, who is going to Oklahoma State; Morgan Saunier, who will attend Oral Roberts University; Matthew Spinks, who will attend OSU; Matthew Spinks, who will go to OSU; Waverlee Washington, who will attend the University of Central Oklahoma; and Beth Willis, who will attend OSU.

MHS Teacher is Teacher of The Year Almost Every Year

Connie B. Sloan, named teacher of the year at her school over a dozen times, spoke to club members May 15, using chemistry from her classroom, now at McAlester High School.

Ms. Sloan had taught various sciences at Silver High School in Silver City, N.M.; Tecumseh High School and McAlester High School since 2001. That adds up to 30 years in the classroom. In 2006, she was named McAlester School District Teacher of the year, McAlester Chamber of Commerce Educator of the Year, was a State Teacher of the Year finalist, and received the McAlester Public School Flying Buffalo Award. And in 1985 she was named an "Outstanding Young Woman of America."

The local Chemistry teacher said she lived through the days of carbon paper, fountain pens, slide rules, "gel masters" ditto machines, and Xerox machines.

Now there are new telephones, VCRs, cameras, microwaves and internet. But when "a computer goes down the world stops," she noted.

Educational philosophies and buzz words have changed, as well as discipline practices, from corporal punishments to "modification by rewards" and alternative schools. From Goals 2000 to "No Child Left Behind."

Mrs. Sloan said one of the issues addressed this summer in the Teacher of the Year selection process was "Accountability in Education."

"What teachers do you remember?" she asked. "What teachers made the biggest impact?"

"Was it the topic they taught? Possibly," she answered.

"Was it their appearance? Maybe," she continued.

"Did they make you feel important—Did they really care? Were they sincere?" she asked. "Probably," she then answered.

But education, in the classroom or business office "is more than

just information and a teacher," she stated.

"It is like water, then gel, then snow," she said, using her chemistry to change water to three of its forms.

"Whether we call it caring, passing or having heart, it comes down to the same factor."

She quoted from Parker J. Palmer's book, "The Courage to Teach." Palmer wrote that "the courage to teach is the courage to keep one's heart open."

"Keeping your heart open hurts and it leaves you vulnerable, but it allows for modification and changes," she reported.

Many educational practices and teacher philosophies can be applied to business, she told us. "As a teacher, I make an effort to get acquainted with other teachers from other schools, as well as from the high school, and of courses, with my students."

As with "co-workers, employers, other business people."

You can "share ideas, experience, anecdotes, reference materials, techniques...."

Be enthused and get enthused from the people around you. Take chances; make changes. Enjoy what you do," she urged.

"Write thank-you notes! Positive words go a long way."

As she did more chemistry from her classroom, she added, "Don't forget the teacher or teachers who you remember the most. Let them know you were influenced by them... Let your employees know."

"You say teachers know. Believe me, they don't and never get tired of hearing it," she assured.

"Teaching is tough. Being an employer is tough," she emphasized.

"Go forth and prosper. Go forth and enjoy. Find your magic and share it," she said.

Then she asked, "Have you hugged a teacher today?"

'Shared Blessings' Helping Nearly 1,000 Area Families

Bill and Earlene Dowell told us May 8 that "Shared Blessings" is nearing the 1,000 mark for area families it is serving.

Mrs. Dowell invited club members to the old Elsing Building, where the organization is located. "There are so many great things happening," she said, "you have to see it to believe it."

A shipment of surplus clothing went to the Ukraine in Russia, in February.

Feed The Children picks up a load of clothing from its Tahlequah offices.

"Everything we touch blesses someone," Bill Dowell said. "Many say if it weren't for this place, I couldn't clothe my kids."

Fifteen churches take part in the activity, and that is growing, the couple reported.

The "shoppers" come on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

They are asked for \$2 donations, "but if they don't have it, we still let them shop," said Mrs. Dowell. "If we have it, we give it."

Volunteers sort and box the clothing and "clean up" he said. "It is amazing, the impact it has on the community."

A man can get five shirts, two pairs of shoes and a household item, plus food, when they have it.

"They take home boxes of food," Bill Dowell said. "They have so many needs."

More women come to "Shared Blessings" than men, because "a lot" of the women are battered and homeless, he said.

Many of the clothes which are donated are clean, but they need a washer and dryer for dirty clothes, they said.

"I can assure you there is a need for this ministry," said Gene Walker, who introduced the program.

Centennial form Page 1

Friends of the Library and the McAlester Theater Group are just two of the sponsors of Centennial events.

"Grapes of Wrath" will be shown at the library. And an "Oklahoma Menu" is planned at the Meeting Place that week, and with other restaurants that take part.

In November, the PEO women's combined chapter will sponsor a reenactment by the "wife" of Will Rogers.

Ms. Vermillion said that coasters with the State Centennial design are available at the McAlester Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture.

Attendance, Visitors, and Handshakers

Attendance last week was 40. Mrs. Andrea Latty, mother of Miss Teen McAlester, was a guest of the club.

On May 29, there were 49 present, including the 10 Rotary Scholarship winners.

On May 22, there were 41 in attendance. Visitors were Chad Barney and Harold Tracy, members in waiting.

On May 15, there were 49 present. Student guests from McAlester High School were Jason Tannehill and Daphnie Boyle. Two new members were introduced. One was Mark Roath. He said it is a

"pleasure to be associated with Rotary." Chris Smith was the other. "It's great," he said, "the 4-Way Test and what Rotary stands for."

HANDSHAKERS-Last week Jim Elliott was the handshaker, but he went to sleep and when he woke up everyone else was gone. (What he is saying is that he kept it.) The previous week Banker Paul Million gave the dollar to former Banker, now Real Estate Official John Freeman.

On May 22, Attorney Ronnie May gave the dollar to Minster Cliff House. Then May 15 Loise Washington gave the money to the speaker, Teacher Connie Sloan.