

# That's Good for Oklahoma!®

## MARY FALLIN — MAKING HISTORY FOR OKLAHOMA

**M**ary Fallin made history in November, 1994, when she became the first woman and the first Republican ever elected Lieutenant Governor in the State of Oklahoma. Her swearing in on the south steps of the State Capitol on January 9, 1995, made her the highest elected woman to public service in state history.

While that date marked a significant victory for Mary Fallin, it was only the beginning. With hard work and a vision for economic growth, Mary Fallin has built upon that first momentous occasion on the south steps to continue to make history for the State of Oklahoma.

In addition to her role as President of the Senate, the Lt. Governor serves on twelve boards and commissions including the Tourism and Recreation Commission, Film Office Advisory Commission, State Board of Equalization, Bond Oversight Commission, Archives and Records Commission, State Insurance Fund, and Oklahoma Futures.

Mary Fallin describes herself as "her own woman" attacking her busy schedule deliberately and methodically. When asked how she works and interacts with the Governor she is very positive.

"We get along well. We have a good balance," Fallin said. "The Governor may ask me, from time to time, to work on a particular project, and that's certainly appropriate, but I don't ask, 'Can I work on this?' when I have an issue or a project that is important to me."

### HOORAY FOR OKLAHOMA

When you combine the vision and energy of Fallin with the Oklahoma Film Commission and add in Hollywood, what do you get? *Twister*! Described by Fallin as a real "coup for Oklahoma," the feature film provided Hollywood and Oklahoma with two of their greatest successes.

For Hollywood, it was the opening of what has become Warner Brothers' summer blockbuster, starring Bill Paxton and Helen Hunt and directed by Jan DeBont, director of the box office smash *Speed*. *Twister* recorded the largest opening weekend box office haul ever taken in by a movie opening in May. This \$37.5 million box office assault even eclipsed any movie that had opened during Memorial Day weekend, traditionally the top opening weekend of the summer movie season.

Not ironically, Oklahoma's success was also related to the opening of *Twister*. But true to the tradition of the Sooners who made this state what it is today, Oklahoma got a bit of a jump on the rest of the nation.

Oklahoma pulled out all of the stops for the May 9 Oklahoma

premier of *Twister* and threw a party that would be the apple of any multi-million dollar movie mogul's eye. Including a pre-reception, a screening of the film, and a black-tie after-party, the gala event focused the attention of the world once again on Oklahoma.

"There was a premier in Hollywood the night before and a premier with Ted Turner the night after — but for Oklahoma to host a premier for such a major motion picture — the door for this state was thrown wide open for us with Hollywood," Fallin said.

Again, the 'Oklahoma Standard' shone like a beacon for all the world to see. Enhanced by the attendance of an ebullient Paxton, along with Hunt and De Bont, the premier was a great success.

But more than a good time was at stake. The people planning the premiere knew it, as did the communities who were involved in the filming and the citizens who attracted the production to the state in the first place. This film was about a subject as familiar to this state as are oil, football and the Sooners who settled here. Severe weather is so much a part of the tradition of Oklahoma, that no one was surprised when the night of the premier was scattered with storm warnings in the northern part of the state.

In the movie, and with its premiere, Oklahoma again set a benchmark for the nation to follow. The beautiful vistas shown in the movies' opening moments and the power of nature portrayed in the storm scenes are breathtaking. The film alone is a scouting location guide for producers who may want to come to the state in the future.

Reflecting on how *Twister* came to happen in Oklahoma, Fallin said Warner Bros. came to the state over a year ago and told her office they wanted to look at some locations around the state. "We're thinking about filming this movie called *Twister* here in Oklahoma they told us," Fallin said.



Lt. Gov. Mary Fallin

### Economic Boost

The filming of a major motion picture brings with it a lot of money in addition to national recognition for the area. For example, Warner Bros. spent a little over \$11.3 million dollars in Oklahoma to film *Twister*.

That money is broken down as follows:

Hotel	\$ 1,098,547
Car Rental	118,587
Catering & other food items	366,669
Hardware & lumber supplies	1,543,780
Local wardrobe purchased	20,870
Dry cleaning	18,500
Gasoline	212,275
Local fees	1,028,426
Off-duty personnel (police, fire, etc.)	244,501
Local extras hired	287,580
Local security hired	172,173
Per diem payments	942,196
Local hires (carpenters, electricians, etc.)	3,451,076
Other rentals	565,356
Other purchases	1,295,516
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$11,366,051</b>