

So representatives of the Film Office took the Warner Bros. people to various locations around the state. They looked for roads, for tractors, for the small town look. They looked for "just the right house" which they finally found in Waukita. They looked for a drive-in movie theater which they ended up building in Guthrie.

"We have great topography in Oklahoma," Fallin said. We have mountains, forests, sand dunes, lakes, flat lands and mesas as well as great four seasons. Just about anything a producer might be looking for can be found right here in Oklahoma," Fallin said.

But the biggest attraction for the film industry in Oklahoma is that "everything from dry cleaning to catering to movie extras is more affordable in Oklahoma," Fallin said. That means it costs much less to film in Oklahoma, Fallin said.

And in this particular film, a big urban renewal project was also taken on by Hollywood in Waukita. "There were some old dilapidated buildings in Waukita that they wanted down," Fallin said. The movie crew came in, blew them all down and cleaned up the mess, Fallin explained, leaving Waukita with the benefits of the film crew's work.

When asked if bringing the movie production to Oklahoma cost the state anything Fallin answered, "No. As a matter of fact when *Twister* came here they filmed for 133 days, spent more than \$11 million dollars, and employed over 2,500 people."

"We showed them (Warner Bros.) that Oklahoma can have a first class premier like you would have in Hollywood, that you can save money making the film in Oklahoma, and that you have great settings for film making in Oklahoma," Fallin said. Warner Bros. takes that information back to California with them and soon the word spreads through the movie-making community, she added.

Fallin revealed that the Film Office is currently meeting with a director who is

looking at filming another \$10 dollar movie in Oklahoma.

"He's looking for steam locomotives and old depots. The Film Commission is scouting for these things and is taking the Hollywood visitors to the locations," Fallin said. "We're very optimistic that *Twister* is just the first of many multi-million dollar projects in Oklahoma."

In addition to box office favorites, the Film Commission under Fallin's direction has generated more than \$1 million in revenue for Oklahoma with the filming of commercials for several major corporations including Phillips Petroleum, Hardee's, Southwestern Bell, AT&T, and Integris.

### OTHER INTERESTS PURSUED

Mary Fallin doesn't just have "stars in her eyes" for the movie industry. Making movies in Oklahoma makes money for Oklahoma. During her tenure in the House of Representatives, Mary Fallin was presented the "Guardian of Small Business" Award by the National Federation of Independent Business. In her role as Lieutenant Governor, Fallin continues to work at helping to expand Oklahoma businesses.

Fallin created the Lt. Governor's Business Round Table. She describes it as one of her "major projects." "The Business Round Table is designed to bring Oklahoma business people in so we can learn what we can do to help the Oklahoma economy grow," Fallin said.

"We've learned that the number one issue for Oklahoma business, regardless of what some legislators may say, is workers' compensation. The premiums are still too high," Fallin said. "Workers' comp rates is the number one issue and we're going to try to solve it."

The Lt. Governor is also working with Oklahoma's Tourism and Recreation Commission to re-focus on the tourism industry in Oklahoma, reviewing the operation of state lodges and looking at optimizing the state's investment in tourism.

The Lt. Governor's office is knowledgeable of the issues and listens to the people. Under Fallin's leadership, Oklahoma has established its place as a major contributor to the motion picture industry. Making a difference to business in Oklahoma; making improvements in the tourism industry in Oklahoma; making movies in Oklahoma; making millions for the state's economy; Mary Fallin is making history. That's Good for Oklahoma!

### Mary Fallin

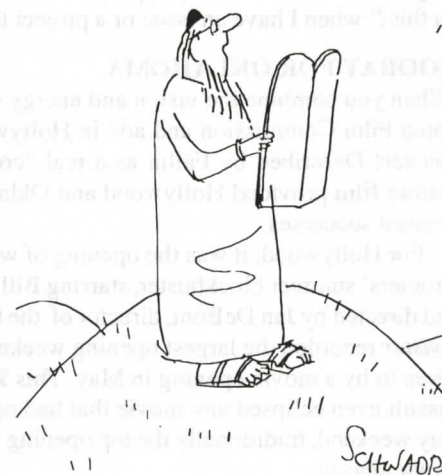
Raised in Tecumseh, Oklahoma, Mary (Copeland) Fallin went on to attend Oklahoma State University and completed some of her graduate work at the University of Central Oklahoma. Public service is a Copeland family tradition; her father, the late Joseph "Newton" Copeland, served as Tecumseh's Mayor, and her mother Mary Jo Copeland, served as the first woman mayor of Tecumseh.

Keeping in that tradition, Fallin served as a state representative from Oklahoma City from 1990 until 1994. As a leading House Republican advocate on health care issues, Fallin wrote several health care reform laws. She was instrumental in getting a major piece of legislation passed into law that reformed small business insurance, called the "Small Business Health Insurance Reform Act." Additionally, Fallin continues to receive national attention for her stalker legislation.

The Lieutenant Governor lives in Oklahoma City with her husband, Dr. Joe Fallin, a dentist, and their two children, Christina and Price.

### Lt. Governor's Staff

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"Nothing about flossing?"