

STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



welcome centers. They mentioned the Texas center, just south of the Red River on I-35, compared to Oklahoma's small facility just north of the River.

The prototype center from which the others will be modeled is open at NE 122nd and I-35 in Oklahoma City.

—GERRY CHERRY
10/14/96

DOING VERY WELL WITH VERY LITTLE

■ (GIT) With a tiny yearly budget of \$129,000, the film commission of the Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation is bringing dollars into the state far in excess of its funding. The legislature's appropriation to the film commission covers three salaries, space rental, trade shows to advertise Oklahoma as a film location and "pens and postage," as Film Commission Director Robert Davis said. The movie *Twister* garnered more than \$11 million for Oklahoma, but Davis said smaller projects and more of them would help just as much as one big film. "The movie industry brings dollars in and does not take anything out," Davis said.

At the monthly Tourism and Recreation Commission meeting in Oklahoma City Monday, Davis listed projects already filmed here and some we may see in the coming months.

After a quick tour of Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Guthrie and Norman by Spelling Productions three weeks ago, Davis got the word this week that a writer has been assigned to craft a series along the lines of *Dynasty*, *Dallas* and the movie *Giant*. "We had four problems that kept Spelling and others out of Oklahoma, Davis said. "We have addressed these problems, and that's why Spelling came here." The problems solved were:

- A sales tax rebate goes directly to the film producers.

- Equipment rental is handled by the film commission. "When the production company needs any item, they tell the film commission and we get it there," Davis said.

- Right to work and crews are no longer problems, after cooperation from the Inter-

national Association of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE). Local 112 of the union agreed to provide workers for films from union rosters. If the union can't fill the jobs needed Davis said, the production company can hire workers from outside who do not have to join the union to work on the movie.

Other filming in Oklahoma included:

- More than \$1.5 million has been spent to film national commercials in Oklahoma this year.

- A portion of a Dick Clark special was taped on the Tallgrass Prairie near Pawhuska.

- HBO filmed a documentary on children and religion at Stroud.

- The Marland Mansion in Ponca City was filmed for a segment of the A&E channel's *American Castles* series.

Coming up, two Oklahoma independent film companies have contracts and funding to make and release *Faded Love*, a movie indirectly about Patsy Cline, with a \$1.5 million budget and *Night Race*, with a \$2 million budget. A remake of the Broadway hit, *Oklahoma* as a miniseries is planned for this winter. Next spring, *The Bill Pickett Story* will begin filming.

Hoping for a bigger appropriation from the legislature next year, Davis is planning to take the state's advantages as a location site on the road, advertising at trade shows.

—GERRY CHERRY
10/14/96

HORSE RACING COMMISSION REQUESTS OSBI CHECK OF APPOINTEES

■ (GIT) At the meeting of the Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission Thursday, Commission member Ralph "Butch" Choate suggested submitting to the Legislature a recommendation to include a specific Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation background check for commissioners. Additional appropriations to the OSBI were also suggested to cover the cost of the additional duties. A level three or equivalent check was recommended. After minimal discussion, members voted to recommend an amendment to Title 3A, Sec. 201 of the Oklahoma Statutes, setting forth requirements for becoming a member of the horse racing commissioner.

RACE DAYS SET FOR SOME TRACKS

Commission members okayed 1997 race day schedules for Remington Park, Blue Ribbon Downs and the Tulsa County and

State Fair venues; but tabled the Cottonwood Racing Corporation schedule — at Cottonwood's request — until the November meeting.

Cottonwood Racing Corporation at Will Rogers Downs in Claremore requested an organization license. A portion of the public hearing for the request was held at the HRC September meeting and commissioners were scheduled to hear the final portion, deliberate and vote on the application for 1997 racing today. At the request of Cottonwood counsel Clark O. Brewster, the remainder of the public hearing was postponed due to the absence of vice chair Tom Drummond.

In other commission action, members added a requirement to the license for Blue Ribbon Downs. Because of their record of delinquent reimbursements to the HRC for race officials and equine testing, Blue Ribbon Downs — in addition to the \$200,000 bond required of all race tracks — will be required to provide personal guarantees. Either the board of directors or the principal owners must sign a personal guarantee for obligations owed to the Oklahoma Racing Commission.

Public comment will be received on a change in rule 325:25-1-10, Horses Ineligible to Start in a Race, with notice of publication set for November 15.

—GERRY CHERRY
10/17/96

AN OMNIDOME IN OKLAHOMA'S FUTURE?

■ (GIT) The score, Rep. Jack Bonny, D-Burns Flat said, is Texas 7, Oklahoma 0. Bonny was speaking at the first meeting of House Interim Study 96-15, Thursday. He was referring to the fact that Texas has seven IMAX theaters, Oklahoma has none, a situation Omnplex hopes to remedy.

The meeting was held at the Omnplex, Oklahoma's premier science museum. Omnplex trustees and representatives of the interim study are working together to figure out a way to help Omnplex fund a \$7.3 million IMAX theater for Oklahoma.

Listing some of the reasons why Omnplex is the obvious site for the state-of-the-art theater, Jerry Austin, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, said:

- Omnplex is among the largest and best attended museums in the U.S.

- Among science museums, average at-

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"No one has a finer command of language than the person who keeps his mouth shut."

Sam Rayburn
quoted

Lawrence Daily Journal-World
Aug. 29, 1978