

Thirty years later — Oklahoma! players remembered

By Joani Hartin
Staff Writer

Sometimes if you're lucky, you're privileged to be a part of something big — something you remember years later.

For a handful of folks with strong Marietta ties, one of those rather monumental things happened 30 years ago this spring. It was their involvement in a Marietta High School production of the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, Oklahoma!

The story of Oklahoma! is a romance between cowboy Curly McLain and farm girl Laurey Williams, set in the Oklahoma Territory as statehood nears.

Their love story is woven with the pioneering spirit of a community that is unsure what statehood will bring. The musical is famous for its iconic characters and songs, one of which became our state song.

For longtime choral director Suzanna Reed Robertson, a production like Oklahoma! was something she had long wanted to do.

"I had such talented kids that year," she recalled. "I couldn't let that opportunity pass by, and those kids just seemed to fit Oklahoma! They were good kids — some of the best I ever had. We practically lived in the auditorium for a few months, but they never complained."

Robertson gives much of the credit for the production's success to Charlotte Hudgins, an Ardmore-area music and theater icon. Hudgins helped with every aspect of the musical.

"As far as I know, Marietta hadn't ever done anything as big as Oklahoma!, and we couldn't have done it without Charlotte," insisted Robertson. Eric Gallaway, who's been Marietta's band director for more than 30 years, was the orchestra director.

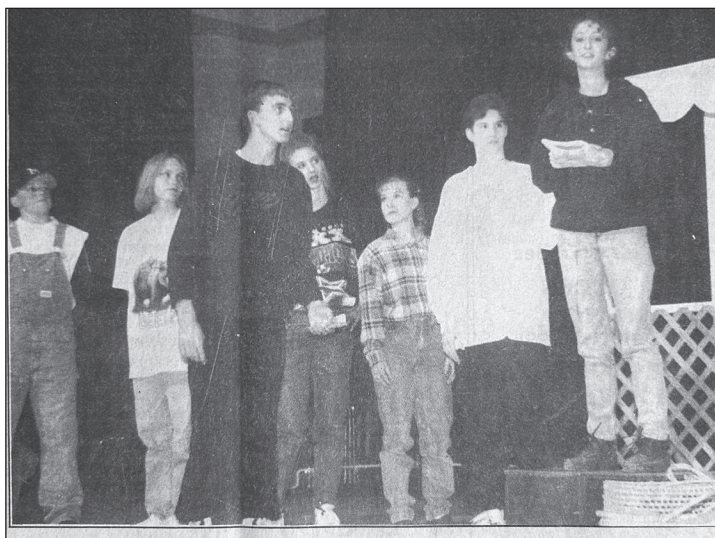
"We didn't have an orchestra pit in our auditorium, so we had to make one by pulling out the first two rows of seating on the south side," laughed Gallaway.

"I did the orchestra with band kids and a couple of adults in the community. I had some pretty salty players."

Gallaway also recalled working with former art teacher Glenn McCraw, who built sets and supplied props.

"That production really gave Glenn a chance to show his creativity, and I had no idea how talented he was," said Gallaway. "We needed pies for a scene, and he took some spray foam insulation and paint, and we had pies. He was really amazing."

Lighting and sound were the collaborative effort of Gallaway and former band director/



THE FARMER AND THE COWMAN SHOULD BE FRIENDS — Tuesday night, Marietta students rehearsed a scene in the musical "Oklahoma" where the bidding for picnic lunch baskets, and the company of the girl who made the lunch, becomes fierce. Tickets for the February 18 and 19 performances are on sale now.

Cast

- Craig King
- Mary Reed
- Jessica Harris
- Dillon Bell
- Jennifer Flanagan
- Jared Neely
- Quentin Bucher
- Lacey Clampett
- Chris Bell
- Michael Hill
- Zach King

principal Jeff Dooley, who also ran the sound booth during the productions.

Although Robertson's show choir was the nucleus for the cast, other students were pulled in, along with community members to serve as members of the cast and stage crew.

Craig King played Curly, one of the main characters. Those blessed to remember the production recall the opening scene when King, dressed in cowboy duds, came strolling down the auditorium's aisle singing "Oh, what a beautiful morning!" perfectly on pitch.

"That was the only time in my life I ever wore Wranglers," joked King. "And I remember my mom put rollers in my hair to try and make it curly, but it didn't work."

On a more serious note, King remembers how the production increased the sense of belonging and community within the school.

"Marietta was a small school, so it seemed like everybody was involved," he said, "and it gave me the chance to make connections with people that I hadn't spent a lot of time with."

Like King, many of the cast members have moved away from Marietta to live and raise families, but there are a few who are still around.

One local, Quentin Bucher played the part of Ali Hakim, a peddler who made a comedic

- Curly
- Laurey
- Aunt Eller
- Will Parker
- Ado Annie
- Jud Fry
- Ali Hakim
- Gertie Cummings
- Andrew Carnes
- Ike Skidmore
- Cord Elam

contribution to Oklahoma! Bucher has great memories of the production.

"I wanted to play Jud Fry, but I was the only one who could do the accent for Ali Hakim, so I agreed to be the comedian," stated Bucher.

"At that time in my life, some friends and I had a Nirvana cover band. I thought it would be cool to cut two slashes in my eyebrow. That didn't fit Ali, so we had to cover the slashes with makeup. For some of us, the parts we played clashed with our personalities. I would go from listening to punk rock in my car to practicing for Oklahoma. But it was fun to see people make those switches."

Bucher recalled the pieces of his costume and how they came together.

"I had some bowling shoes

of my dad's from the 1960s, and Johnna Bell came up with an old suit. We found a bowtie, and when we put it all together, I was Ali Hakim," he said.

Many costumes were comprised of vintage items borrowed from parents, grandparents, and other family members and pieced together much like Bucher's.

While many cast members like King and Reed were in show choir and some, like Bucher, were pulled from Speech and Debate, others were athletes or students who didn't participate in extracurriculars.

But the one common denominator was the willingness to spend time together in rehearsal running lines, learning songs and dances, and the multitude of other details that make up a musical.

"We had more 'hangout' time then, probably because we didn't have social media," added Bucher, "but for whatever reason, we just clicked and I think that's what made it work."

The last of the unsung heroes were parents. Both Robertson and Gallaway said that the production wouldn't have been possible without parents who provided whatever help was needed, mostly behind the scenes and probably by now, largely forgotten.

"There were a lot of people involved in the success of that program," insisted Gallaway. "Parents, the maintenance people at school, other faculty, friends from church choir. To do something like that was daunting, but it was a lot of fun, too."

That's another thing that the Oklahoma! gang agreed about, and maybe something unexpected: how much they enjoyed the production, despite how hard they worked.

"It was enjoyable to be with those kids," said Robertson. "We just had so much fun — that's what I remember most about it, not the work or the time, but how much fun it was."

King's memories are much the same.

"We knew we were a part of something special, personally and for our community," he said. "I don't remember the songs or the lines, but I remember how much fun we had being together for hours rehearsing. Thirty years later, that's what sticks with me."

Public Notice

IN THE DISTRICT COURT
IN AND FOR THE TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
MARIETTA, LOVE COUNTY, STATE OF OKLAHOMA

ETHAN PARKER, LLC.,)
a Texas limited liability company,)
Plaintiff,)
vs.) Case No. CJ-2025-00020
MYKIM HOANG, VINCENT HOANG,)
UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS,)
THE COUNTY TREASURER OF LOVE)
COUNTY, STATE OF OKLAHOMA and)
THE BOARD OF COUNTY)
COMMISSIONERS OF LOVE COUNTY,)
STATE OF OKLAHOMA,)
Defendants.)

NOTICE OF SALE
NOTICE is hereby given that on the 13th day of May, 2026 at 10 o'clock a.m. at the District Court of Love County 405 West Main, Marietta, Love County, State of Oklahoma, the undersigned Sheriff of said county will offer for sale and sell for cash or terms made, prior to sale, at public auction to the highest and best bidder, with appraisal, all that said real and personal property in Love County, State of Oklahoma, described as follows, to-wit:

SURFACE RIGHTS ONLY:
The North Half(N/2) of the North Half(N/2) of the North Half(N/2) of the Northwest Quarter (NW/4) of Section Thirty-Two (32), Township Eight (8) South, Range Two (2) East, Love County, Oklahoma.
The real property or its address is commonly known as 16855 Tabler Rd., Marietta, Oklahoma 73448.

Sale will be made pursuant to an Execution issued upon a judgment entered on the 3rd day of February 2026, in the District Court of Love County, State of Oklahoma, in Case Number CJ-2025-20, wherein Ethan Parker, LLC, is Plaintiff, and Mykim Hoang, Vincent Hoang, Unknown Occupants, The County Treasurer of Love County, State of Oklahoma, and the Board of County Commissioners of Love County, State of Oklahoma, are Defendants, to satisfy said judgments of Plaintiff rendered in its favor as against the Defendant, Mykim Hoang, which is in the total sum of \$474,044.74 as of April 23, 2025, plus pre-judgment and post-judgment interest accrued and accruing at the contractual rate, until satisfied, all costs incurred herein including a reasonable attorney fee to be determined by the Court.
Said lands and tenements have been appraised according to law at \$500,000.

Pursuant to Title 12 O.S. § 764 (C), the successful purchaser at Sheriffs Sale is required to post cash or certified funds in the sum of 10% of the amount bid for the property within 24 hours of the sale.
WITNESS my hand this 23rd day of March 2026.

Andy Cumberledge, Sheriff,
Love County, State of Oklahoma
By: /s/ D Wilhite
Deputy

MORDY, MORDY, PFREHM & WILSON, P. C.
110 West Main Street
P. O. Box 457
Ardmore, Oklahoma 73402
(580) 223-4384
ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF
Published in the Marietta Monitor on March 25 and April 3, 2026.

Public Notice

The Southern Oklahoma Rural Transportation System (SORTS) will be holding an open forum April 15, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Big Five Community Services conference room, 201 A. St. SW Ardmore, OK.

The purpose of the meeting is to take comments and suggestions on our applications for funding of the FTA Public Transportation Program operated in Love and Carter Counties.

SORTS staff will be on hand to answer questions and take comments on the current operations of the program and future needs of the community.

For more information please contact SORTS Director Tanya Gleghorn at 580-924-5331.

Big Five Community Services, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Published in the Marietta Monitor on March 27, 2026.

Public Notice

March 16, 2026
Board of County Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Agenda was posted March 12, 2026, 12:00 PM on the door of the Courthouse Annex and at exit doors of the Courthouse.

Present: Commissioners David Magee, Mike Mayes and Stacy Rushing; Minutes by County Clerk Shelly Russell; Sheriff Andy Cumberledge, Chad McMillan, Bryan Reick, Trent Barrick, Diana Dandridge-Rystron, Carol Wolfe, Assessor Missy Tunnell, Chris Munn, Josh Schoenborn, Bill Owen, Grant Owen, Jerrod Carpenter.
Called to order by Chairman Mike Mayes.

Quorum Call. Present Magee, Mayes and Rushing.
Love County did meet the criteria for a burn ban; Board adopted Resolution #2026-11 for a 14-day county-wide Burn Ban, beginning 3-16-26 and ending 3-30-26. Motion Magee Second Rushing. Vote Yes — Magee, Mayes and Rushing.

Discussion of bid procedure, budget and cost estimate with Fenix Constructors incurred. Board approved to proceed with releasing the Love County Health Department plans to bid. Motion Magee Second Rushing. Vote Yes — Magee, Mayes and Rushing.

Board approved a Letter of Support for SEED, a community development corporation, in regard to a grant for solid waste management, representing Love, Carter, Stephens and Murray Counties. Motion Magee Second Rushing. Vote Yes — Magee, Mayes and Rushing.

Board approved minutes and proceedings of Board of County Commissioners March 9, 2026, meeting. Motion Magee Second Rushing. Vote Yes — Magee, Mayes and Rushing.

Board adopted Resolution #2026-10 Declaration of Surplus for Assessor's Office; copier/printer, SN: E175M411130, cost \$449.00. Motion Magee Second Rushing. Vote Yes — Magee, Mayes and Rushing.

Sheriff February Monthly Officer Report was approved. Motion Magee Second Rushing. Vote Yes — Magee, Mayes and Rushing.

November and December 2025 and January 2026 Sheriff Monthly Officer Reports were approved. Motion Magee Second Rushing. Vote Yes — Magee, Mayes and Rushing.
Board approved for Love County to opt-in on the "Six Remnant Defendants Settlement Overview", a national opioid settlement. Motion Magee Second Rushing. Vote Yes — Magee, Mayes and Rushing. County Clerk to e-sign docs and submit.

Requisition—Purchase Order-Claims presented for payment the week of 3/5 — 3/12, 2026 were approved. Motion Magee Second Rushing. Vote Yes — Magee, Mayes and Rushing.

911 Phone #85, JASON HILLTOP GROCERY, 34.07, fuel #86, HOGANS JIF-E-LUBE, 59.95, service #87, CANON FINANCIAL SERVICES INC, 249.00, contract #88, LANGUAGE LINE SERVICES, 75.79, subscription;
County Clerk-ST #132, WILSON, EMMA, 20.30, mileage #133, RENICK, TINA, 20.30, mileage #134, QUILL, 525.86, supplies #135, STANDLEY SYSTEMS INC., 1992.52, supplies;

Donations #4, JOE COOPER CHEVROLET, 13774.00, vehicle;
Extension-ST #60, LAUREN MINYARD, 649.09, travel #61, ANDREA SNOW, 101.50, travel #62, STANDLEY SYSTEMS INC., 139.22, service;

General #1333, LEAF, 147.82, contract #1334, JASON HILLTOP GROCERY, 43.34, fuel #1335, HENRY ROBERTS EXPRESS PHARMACY LLC, 72.00, supplies #1336, MARIETTA MONITOR, 262.46, publication #1337, MARIETTA MONITOR, 225.06, publication #1338, OG&E, 112.99, service #1339, OG&E, 55.69, utility #1340, OG&E, 1116.10, service #1341, OG&E, 148.90, service #1342, OG&E, 67.43, service #1343, OG&E, 64.03, service #1344, REA, 2311.91, utility #1345, REA, 36.79, service #1346, OG&E, 419.94, service #1347, OG&E, 118.76, service #1348, ANDY CUMBERLEDGE, 187.78, travel #1349, PIKE PASS, 30.20, tolls #1350, MCGEHEE PAINT BODY & WRECKER, 225.00, service #1351, MARIETTA MONITOR, 25.00, service #1352, MARIETTA MONITOR, 25.00, service #1353, COMDATA FLEET FUEL CARD, 2903.83, fuel #1354, AMAZON BUSINESS, 479.59, supplies #1355, SOTC, 180.00, tests #1356, CANON FINANCIAL SERVICES INC, 156.88, contract #1357, MILLER OFFICE EQUIPMENT, 40.45, contract #1358, CULLIGAN OF ARDMORE, 18.00, water #1359, MARIETTA MONITOR, 25.00, ad #1360, PCS SOLUTIONS LLC, 806.97, repair #1361, SERVICE OKLAHOMA, 47.00, tags #1362, SERVICE OKLAHOMA, 47.00, tags #1363, MCGEHEE PAINT BODY & WRECKER, 225.00, towing

#1364, MCGEHEE PAINT BODY & WRECKER, 325.00, towing #1365, MCGEHEE PAINT BODY & WRECKER, 287.25, towing #1366, STANDLEY SYSTEMS INC., 55.60, service #1367, OG&E, 474.32, service #1368, HEARTLAND LLC, 182.21, supplies;

General Gov't-ST #413, PITNEY BOWES, 188.28, lease #414, JUST TRASHIN, 160.00, service #415, FRIENDLY AND FAIR LAWN CARE, 425.00, service #416, AT&T MOBILITY, 521.40, service #417, FRIENDLY AND FAIR LAWN CARE, 75.00, service #418, LOVE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, 200.00, dues #419, CINTAS CORPORATION, 351.95, service #420, SERVICE OKLAHOMA, 46.00, title #421, ABSOLUTE ECONOMICAL FUNERAL HOME, 1075.00, service;

Health #122, PITNEY BOWES, 179.46, fees #123, AT&T MOBILITY, 40.57, service #124, SANGOMA, 193.51, supplies #125, SANGOMA, 26.91, service #126, AED BRANDS, LLC, 236.51, supplies;

Highway #1146, JAMES SUPPLIES & RENTAL CO, 165.00, lease #1147, JAMES SUPPLIES & RENTAL CO, 55.00, lease #1148, REA, 156.48, service #1149, DOLESE, 6317.41, materials #1150, THE WAREHOUSE, 179.00, parts #1151, SERVICE OKLAHOMA, 52.80, tags #1152, JOE COOPER FORD OF YUKON LLC, 67926.00, truck #1153, OSU COUNTY TRAINING PROGRAM, 130.00, classes #1154, MAYES, MICHAEL O., 268.90, travel #1155, MAYES, MICHAEL O., 182.56, travel #1156, TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLE, 360.00, permit #1157, TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLE, 360.00, permit #1158, TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLE, 360.00, permit #1159, CLBOYD INC, 3630.41, repair #1160, OVERLAND MATERIALS & MFG, INC, 4915.30, materials #1161, REA, 107.77, service #1162, REA, 68.51, service #1163, DIRECT DISCOUNT TIRE, 6411.60, tires #1164, AMAZON BUSINESS, 20.84, supplies #1165, REA, 424.33, service #1166, DOLESE, 3708.89, crusher run #1167, BURTON TIRE COMPANY, 1430.00, tires #1168, DOLESE, 6330.22, materials #1169, SECURITY NATIONAL BANK, 3210.27, lease;

Hospital-ST #9, LOVE COUNTY HEALTH CENTER, 259300.00, payroll;
Resale #61, OMECORP GENESIS BUSINESS SYSTEMS, 3015.00, service;

Rural Fire-ST #294, HAAS ALERT, 599.00, service #295, REA, 199.75, service #296, REA, 50.01, service #297, JCAUTO PARTS LLC, 220.00, bulbs #298, REA, 14.24, service #299, REA, 130.66, service #300, REA, 52.46, service #301, RED RIVER PROPANE, LLC, 694.43, propane #302, J C AUTO PARTS LLC, 240.82, supplies #303, REA, 90.55, service #304, OG&E, 64.86, service #305, ALLSTATE TERMITE & PEST CONTROL INC., 135.00, service #306, REA, 112.58, service #307, OG&E, 176.92, service #308, REA, 146.54, service #309, ELLIOTT HYDRAULICS, 55.14, supplies #310, CASCO INDUSTRIES INC, 4850.00, pump #311, REA, 153.80, service #312, REA, 102.77, service #313, OG&E, 86.08, service #314, AMAZON BUSINESS, 1008.39, supplies #315, REA, 181.60, service;

SH Commissary #25, BENCHMARK GOVERNMENT SOLUTIONS LLC, 300.00, supplies;
SHERIFF FUNDING ASSISTANCE GRANT #23, JOE COOPER CHEVROLET, 10000.00, vehicles;

SH Svc Fee #148, CULLIGAN OF SH ARDMORE, 45.00, supplies #149, COMDATA FLEET FUEL CARD, 1451.91, fuel #150, CANON FINANCIAL SERVICES INC, 181.88, contract #151, MILLER OFFICE EQUIPMENT, 104.75, service #152, BADBOY OF CALERA, 6920.34, lawn mower;

SR Cit-ST #35, REA, 184.32, service;
Use-ST #101, AMAZON BUSINESS, 156.79, supplies #102, AMAZON BUSINESS, 422.90, supplies

Blanket Purchase Orders were approved. Motion Magee Second Rushing. Vote Yes — Magee, Mayes and Rushing.

Adjourn. Motion Magee Second Rushing. Vote Yes — Magee, Mayes and Rushing.

Approved this 9th day of March 2026.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
/s/ Mike Mayes
Chairman
/s/ Stacy Rushing
Member
/s/ David Magee
Member

(SEAL)
ATTEST:
/s/ Shelly Russell
Shelly Russell, County Clerk
Published in the Marietta Monitor on March 27, 2026.

Public Notice

IN THE DISTRICT COURT
OF THE TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
MARIETTA, LOVE COUNTY, STATE OF OKLAHOMA
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF)
RUBEN LEE BATES, Deceased.) PB-2026-8

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
All creditors having claims against RUBEN LEE BATES, Deceased, are required to present the same with a description of all security interests and other collateral (if any) held by each creditor with respect to such claim, to the named Administratrix at the law office of LORENZO T. COLLINS, P.C., 16 Stanley, S.W., P. O. Box 1781, Ardmore, Oklahoma 73402-1781, on or before the following presentment date:
May 27, 2026;
or the same will be nonsuited, void and forever barred.
DATED this 19th day of March, 2026.

/s/ Arawi P. Bates
ARAWI P. BATES, Administrator of the Estate of RUBEN LEE BATES, Deceased

LORENZO T. COLLINS, P.C.
16 Stanley, S.W.
P. O. Box 1781
Ardmore, OK 73402-1781
(580) 223-8350
Attorney for Administrator
Published in the Marietta Monitor on March 25 and April 3, 2026.

You won't miss out on local news if you subscribe to the Marietta Monitor. Call 580.276.3255 and subscribe!