

## Reflections

# Taming the Tongue

I called the preacher today and told him he was “meddlin’” in his sermon Sunday. His sermon “Taming the Tongue” started a tongue wrangler week for me. He mentioned that a part of taming the tongue is telling the truth ... telling the truth! Well, I’m here to tell you! The *truth* is in the eye of the beholder! Just let me tell you a story!

September 1930s, Seminole, OK (the names have been changed to protect the somewhat innocent). It seems that “Miss Thang” was walking down the street in front of “Ola Bitty’s” house in a pair of shorts! The actual account was recorded in a Seminole newspaper. The true story!

“Shorts for Seminole women were upheld in a peace justice trial late yesterday in Peace Justice “James Champion’s” court.”

*Question:* Aren’t we glad they were upheld... and not down-pulled?  
How short were *all* those shorts for *all* those Seminole women?

Miss Thang, 23-year-old wearer of the shorts, was acquitted by a six-man jury on a charge of disturbing the peace of a neighbor, Mrs. Ola Bitty.

*Question:* Would it have made any difference if it had been six women?  
Disturbing the peace...was she playing a tuba??

Mrs. Bitty “testified heatedly” that Miss Thang “moseyed up and down in front of my house” wearing shorts and “waiving two beer bottles in the air.” Mrs. Bitty claimed that Miss Thang, “a waitress at a local pig stand, cursed her and among other things called her an old holy roller.”

*Question:* How slow is moseyed?  
Is it fair to the pigs... we don’t call KFC a chicken stand?

Mrs. Bitty replied that she was not a holy roller! “And I think shorts are indecent, if anybody asks me!”

Miss Thang said she “considered the acquittal verdict a victory for shorts and she intended to wear them again.”

See! Truth is in the eye of the beholder! So. lean a little closer... have I got a scoop for you! You won’t believe it when you hear it... but it is the truth. Why, when a certain bunch of storytellers get together you never know what’s going to happen next! Just turn the pages of this *Tattler* and read on! And by-the-by... there will be no tongue taming around here because,, we’re the Territory Tellers and we’re telling it like it is... The Truth... and nothing but The Truth.

*Bonnie Smith*  
President

## Executive Board

### President

Bonnie Smith  
*bonniesmith1943@outlook.com*

### Vice-President

Liz Parker  
*elizabethparker862@yahoo.com*

### Secretary

Rosemary Czarski  
*rarczarski@yahoo.com*

### Treasurer

Paulette Geeslin  
*pdgeeslin4701@yahoo.com*

### Board Members

Lorie Carmichael  
*lorie.carmichael@chickasaw.net*

Sheron Rodgers  
*sheronrodgers@cox.net*

Richard Czarski  
*rarczarski@yahoo.com*

Letty Watt  
*lettywatt65@gmail.com*

Barbara Jones  
*bwjbook@yahoo.com*

David Titus  
*davethestringman@gmail.com*

### Liaison Director

Shaun Perkins  
*okiestoryteller@gmail.com*

### Parliamentarian

Kathryn Thurman  
*KMThurman@cox.net*

### Past-President

Tony Hardman  
*tony.hardman@opsu.edu*

### Webmaster

Shaun Perkins  
*okiestoryteller@gmail.com*

### NSN Liaison

Vacant

### Tattler Editor

Tina Saner  
*twosaners@aol.com*

## 2018 SOOSF Recap

We were so lucky to have Elizabeth Ellis as the featured teller at our 2018 festival. As festival chair I had the privilege to work out the details with Elizabeth for our festival. Twelve people attended her workshop on Friday afternoon about building a better story. It was a joy to learn from one of the masters of storytelling. I have already applied some of her instructions in a story that I'm writing. Both Friday and Saturday evenings, Elizabeth told stories from her heart as our featured teller. She didn't just participate in activities where she was the star. She was a judge along with Fran Stallings and David Titus all day on Saturday. She listened to all four of our story swap categories and helped to select the four tellers for The Best of the Best part of the Saturday evening concert. Our mission as Territory Tellers is to promote the oral tradition of storytelling and Elizabeth Ellis helped us do that at our festival. Elizabeth showed what the heart and soul of storytelling is truly about.

— Liz Parker



Chester Weems

Elizabeth Ellis transports listeners into story at Saturday night's concert.

## Plans underway for Winter Retreat

Mark your 2019 calendars for the TT Winter Retreat the weekend of January 25-27. Negotiations are underway for room rates at Sequoyah State Park. Be watching for more information in the *Tattler* and online!

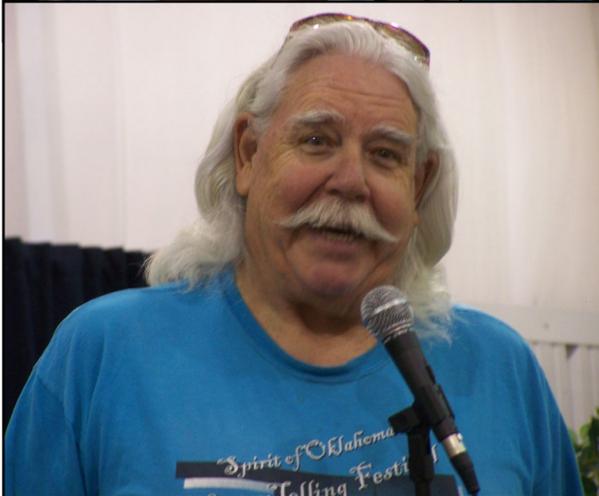
# Spirit of Oklahoma Storytelling Festival in photos



Chester Weems



*Clockwise from top left: Kathryn Thurman leads audience volunteers in a little impromptu music; Connie Fisher; Nancy Lenhart Matthews; Participants listen intently to Elizabeth Ellis' morning workshop; Fred Peters; Letty Watts; Hall Duncan. Center below is Barbara Jones.*



# News and notes of interest

**Fran Stallings** has had a few summer library programs, but the bigger storytelling activities (in addition to the Spirit festival) were at the Tejas Summer Conference in Fort Worth where she did a fringe performance about “The Dismissal of Miss Ruth Brown” (notorious Bartlesville librarian) and told about the role of Lynn Moroney in TX, OK, and nationwide storytelling. Prior to the National Summit in Kansas City, she did a July 24 evening concert of environmental stories and songs in Columbia, MO. At the Summit pre-conf of the Youth & Education Storytelling (YES) SIG, Fran also presented a workshop about telling science as story July 25. On the morning of July 26 morning a concert of environmental stories & songs for kids at the Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center, then emceed the Summit’s culminating concert Sat evening July 26, and stayed over for the NSN board meeting Sunday.

NSN welcomes **Chester Weems** as the new NSN State Liaison for Oklahoma. At the KC Summit, Chester was introduced to fellow SLs and boardies. Please be sure to keep Chester updated about your storytelling activities, triumphs, and concerns.

Speaking of NSN, the location for 2019 has been announced: Fremont CA! That is a southern offshoot of San Francisco and Silicon Valley, readily accessible by air or Amtrak via Uber/BART.

Speaking of **Lynn Moroney**: She now lives in Wilmette IL in a beautiful retirement facility full of lovely but conventional people who think a Chickasaw storyteller from (gasp) Oklahoma is triply exotic. She appreciates phone calls from old friends (847) 853-2433. And if you are going to be in the Chicago area, she would love to see you.

**Tony Hardman** participated in a unique storytelling event on July 18th, The Goodwell Methodist Church decided to use the theme of Christmas in July for their summer Vacation Bible School. Tony was one of three storytellers and was

*Fran Stallings, TT member from Bartlesville telling at Tejas in Fort Worth June 30th.*

asked to tell stories about the Magi. He borrowed a costume from the Guymon Community Theatre and was able to tell the stories in costume. He gave two performances one for older children and the other for younger children. Tony also performed in the musical *Spamalot* where he played the Historian, Brother Maynard and Herbert’s Father.

## TT T-shirts available

We now have a stock of Territory Tellers t-shirts. They are short-sleeved, black with the TT logo on the front in color. If you are interested in purchasing one, please contact Paulette Geeslin via email at [pdgeeslin4701@yahoo.com](mailto:pdgeeslin4701@yahoo.com)

## Tellabration™

If you are planning a Tellabration™ for this fall, be sure to let us know. We’d love to include your location and information in both the next issue of the *Tattler* and on our website!

## Chicken Festival

Make your plans now for the Chicken Festival, January 18-20, 2019. In Sedalia, MO at a good motel. Everyone who attends IS the featured teller! The first day is spent in the community telling stories to schools, senior centers, community groups, and promoting storytelling as “Your Own History.” The rest of the weekend with music and stories in a two day giant story swap! Great fun! It’s been going on for 25 years. — *Steve Otto*



Chester Weems



## Oklahoma State Liaison

This is to introduce myself as the new Oklahoma State Liaison to NSN. Fran Stallings asked me to serve in this position some time ago and since that time I have been trying to figure out what that means and how to do it. Still learning.

At this time my email list will include the known NSN members in the state and the Territory Tellers Google Group.

I think I am supposed to share future events and similar information with you and the folks at NSN. The trick is to find information to send. My request to you then is to ask for your assistance and send me information which might be appropriate to share.

The stories will never die, but perhaps the current organizations dealing with story are changing. Where do we fit in?

Looking forward to helping in this little endeavor.

*Chester Weems  
cjweems@cox.net*

## TT Board Meetings

The Board Meeting dates have been set for the remaining organizational year. Remember that members are invited to attend any of the Board Meetings. Locations have not been finalized for all of the meetings at this time but they will be posted to the website once known. If you would like to host a meeting in your part of the state, please let Bonnie Smith, president, know of your interest!

October 20, 2018, location TBA

January 26, 2019, Winter Retreat

March 16, 2019, location TB

May 4, 2019, Eastlake Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Moore.

### Tattler Deadlines

**We want to include the information you are interested in! Please have information in by the following dates for inclusion in the Tattler:**

**October 1, 2018 • January 15, 2019  
March 1, 2019 • July 15, 2019**

**Is your membership current? Send in your renewal today!**

**T**erritory Tellers is a growing network of individual tellers, listeners and local storytelling circles. Get connected by joining our statewide organization! Dues are \$25 for individual and \$40 for family membership per year.

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Web site (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a storyteller? \_\_\_\_\_ a story listener? \_\_\_\_\_

\$25 individual                       \$40 family                       \$40 organizational

Please complete this form and mail it with a check payable to Territory Tellers to:  
Territory Tellers · 6619 S 4382 · Locust Grove OK 74352

Address Correction Requested

6619 S 4382  
Locust Grove OK 74352

**Territory Tellers**

