



OCIE ANDERSON checks a 1959 yearbook in the Top of Oklahoma Museum to see what the class was up to in those halcyon days at Blackwell High School. (J-T Photo by HS)

Anderson will be immortalized with sculpture

By HELEN SEUBERT
J-T City Editor

Blackwell residents can watch sculpting in action next week thanks to Mike Dirham and Ocie Anderson.

Sculptor Dirham is expected in town Friday from Redondo

Bracken wisely guided me in rethinking the manner in which we raise money for this effort. Elaine (Bradley) Thomas helped from the start, taking action in Blackwell to bring this idea to life."

Thomas took his request for a studio directly to Windy Turner.

Oard tosses hat in ring to force March 4 runoff

There will be a runoff in Blackwell for Commissioner of Finance, the seat being vacated by Dick Ireland.

Dale Oard created a three-way jam when he tossed his hat in the ring Wednesday on the last day of municipal filings in Kay County.

Oard joins previously announced candidates George Morgan and Ray Davis.

The trio will have a runoff March 4. The top two vote getters advance to the regular election on April 1.

Blackwell is the only municipality that will have a runoff.

The municipal filings:

Blackwell
Commission of Finance, three-year term — George Morgan, Ray Davis and Dale Oard.

Braman
Trustee No. 1, two-year term — Rusty Partee.
Trustee No. 3, four-year term — Pamela A. Kelle.

Town Treasurer, four-year term — Mary V. Lunn.

Tonkawa
Council Member Ward 1, four-year term — Kenneth Vogt
Council Member Ward 2, four-year term — Wayne Duvall and Kevin McCullough.

Kaw City
Ward I, Seat 1, four-year term — Brian S. Buckbee.
Ward II, Seat 1, four-year term — Gary Kellam.
Ward III, Seat 1, four-year term — Doris A. Samuel.
Ward IV, Seat 1, four-year term — Gerald D. Loney and Gene Randolph
Ward II, Seat 2, unexpired two-year term — Cindy Traffas and T. Don Ford
City Treasurer — four-year term — Winifred L. Myers

Ponca City
Commissioner No. 2, three-year term — Dick Bird and Chris Hand
Commissioner No. 4, three-year term — Tom Leonard and Greg Gregson

Overview given for giant remediation of zinc sites

Monty Elder, of the Oklahoma Department of Environment Quality, met with a few interested citizens at City Hall Wednesday evening.

She, along with Mark Whitson, senior environmental engineer for PTI Environmental Services and Joseph Flynn, project manager for Titan Environmental, answered a number of questions — mainly from Mrs. Bill Coussens.

Almost every area of the giant project was explained and answered properly to those attending.

Whitson presented large draft maps of the sites, showing an overview of the sampling that has been an on-going project during the past several months, on and around the old Blackwell Zinc Smelter site. Blackwell Zinc announced its closing in May of 1972 but actually closed the plant Dec. 1, 1973.

The site is now the present location of the Blackwell Industrial Park and contains several industries. Hundreds of samples have been taken in and around the old smelter site and even included drainage ditches in other parts of the city.

Remediation and site work were

explained by the officials and some target dates given for finalization of the second draft proposal.

Whitson's presentation was more focused on surface materials. Most areas in question are in non-leaching regions.

Jack Whytlen, former city commissioner and now city engineer, brought to the officials' attention an important point — that property owners would be notified of any danger of future excavation.

Some areas will be cleaned out from six inches to 24 inches, depending upon the location. The remediations could begin as early as this summer.

Over 500 samples have been taken and studied in three different residential areas. Results of these tests were forwarded to the State Department of Health and the owners of the wells in question.

Earlier an EPA field team found smelter residue mixed with top soil throughout the 160-acre industrial park. Up to 140 additional properties, throughout Blackwell, will be looked at — following a request for sampling.

Temporary storage sites are

being discussed by the Department of Environmental Quality Whitson explained. He said surface erosion areas will be addressed.

Whitson also explained how the ground would be fixed, yard removal and capping plans.

Titan Environmental was hired to complete a sound plan to do the actual remediation.

Flynn said they are considering some future safety check plans to eliminate almost all erosion dangers. He also said they gained a lot of valuable information from talking to Blackwell property owners.

The earth moving work will be bid out to a subcontractor, who will have an on-site project manager and a working phone number for inquiries and messages.

Up to 28 workers will be hired once the giant project begins. At least 20 men will be involved in constructing the drainage ditches on site. The contract work will also be bid out.

The final drafts of this giant medial project will be given public notice in about three weeks.

The public is urged to attend these open meetings.

Dayle McGaha