



News From The President

I love this time of year. It is cool, but not yet cold. You can feel fall in the air. As some of you may know, Gary and I have a new hobby. We bought a Harley. So it is sometimes very, very cool on the back of that motorcycle. I never thought I would enjoy riding down the road in the wind. Maybe it is the fact that you are thinking about the next obstacle in the road and you can not think about work, kids, and stress so much. We are having fun, but as most of you know, I always have fun.

I am glad we had such a great turn out at the CODA meeting. It was good to see everyone and have a low stress time. Now it's back to reality in the office to do tax roll corrections on SBC and to check over our ratio studies.

So everyone work hard for the next six weeks and then plan to come to the Assessor's Convention and have a wonderful three day break. We have lots of fun and interesting things planned. As I told you at the CODA meeting we will have great speakers, CEU's, bingo, a costume contest, hospitality rooms, and casino games. But not necessarily in that order.

Please send your registration in to Denise Heavner as soon as possible and get your costume ready. I promise you will not be bored, unless Scott Warren tell some more really bad jokes!

I have a new e-mail address - kathi@okassessor.com. Send me an e-mail if you have any ideas you would like to share at our meeting or just to say hi.

See you in October.

Sincerely,
Kathi Mask



October Flower - English Marigold
October Gemstone - Multi-Colored Opal

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

<i>Cathy Hokit</i>	<i>Stephens</i>	<i>Oct 1</i>
<i>Melissa Anderson</i>	<i>Rogers</i>	<i>Oct 1</i>
<i>Scott Kirby</i>	<i>Murray</i>	<i>Oct 4</i>
<i>Glenda Cypert</i>	<i>McClain</i>	<i>Oct 8</i>
<i>Vickie Hamm</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>Oct 11</i>
<i>Maxine Elston</i>	<i>Beaver</i>	<i>Oct 16</i>
<i>Rosemary Neely</i>	<i>Blaine</i>	<i>Oct 28</i>

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Reporter News

How fast this year has gone. We have just two more newsletters to write and then we'll pass it on to the next reporter.

Last week I attended the CODA Fall Conference. We had some good meetings provided by CLGT. The highlight of the week was Jeff McMahan's fish fry at the Governor's Mansion. We rode the trolley from the Biltmore to the mansion and back. That made it nice not to have to worry about parking. We want to thank Jeff and his staff at the auditor's office for the good food, and the band that entertained us during the evening.

The Fall Assessors Conference will be October 29th through the 31st. We are planning some new things this year including "Casino Night" and a Halloween costume contest headed up by Donna Giddens. There will be prize money given for the best three costumes. First place will receive \$75, second place \$50, and \$25 for third place. So plan to dress up and have a great time.

If you have anything you would like put in the newsletter, just let me know. See you next month!

Your Reporter,

Ralph Wilson 

We would like to send our thoughts and prayers to Karen Perkins, Ellis County Assessor. Her uncle passed away this month. She was very close to him and took care of him until his passing. We are sorry for your loss, Karen.

Also, Joy Anderson, Pottawatomie County Assessor would ask that anyone with information on deputies and assessors that have passed away since last year's Fall Assessor Conference contact her. She will need their names, years served and the county they worked for. Her fax number is 405-273-6450, or you can email her the information at Pottawatomie@OKAssessor.com.



HALLOWEEN

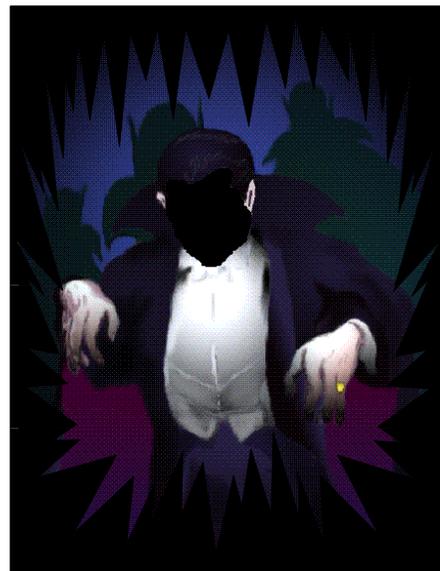


Can you identify these scary Assessors?



Don't forget to bring your costume to the Fall Conference next month. Plan to loosen up and have a good time. Perhaps a little liquid courage from the Hospitality Room would be the ticket. This is going to be a very special night and you won't be disappointed. Donna Giddens, Greer County Assessor, has put a lot of time and energy into making this a fun time. She encourages everyone to participate.

If you have any questions or thoughts concerning the contest, contact Donna at 580-782-2740.



The first 3 people to call 580-227-4821 and identify correctly these monsters will get a 2003 County Assessor Directory.

IAAO News

An IAAO Course may be just what you need!

Have you ever thought about taking an IAAO course? If you were like me, just the mention of it made me nervous. After much persuasion by a couple of my fellow IAAO buddies, I decided to go for it! I was encouraged to take the course to add to my expertise in better defending myself in some pending court cases.

I took my first course this past summer on Assessment of Personal Property, taught by Steve Sutterfield. He did a wonderful job incorporating his personal life experiences into the course to make the learning experience quite enjoyable. By the end of the week, one felt confident to take the test.

We are in positions that require a lot of trust and respect from the public and must constantly defend our work and the ability to do our jobs professionally. When taking the opportunity to learn and receive more education, we raise the bar to a higher notch. Being knowledgeable and professional go along way in dealing with the public. One can prove that one has actually been educated in this position when a taxpayer accuses us of “just pulling numbers out of the air”.

Prior to the course, one of the biggest negatives I had (besides taking a test) was the expense. Being from a small county without extra money, these classes are considered expensive. However, Jewette Farley once said, “Ignorance is more expensive the education.” Think about that statement. How can we not afford to better ourselves when given the opportunity? It makes for a better work environment and should aid when the next election rolls around.

I'd like to encourage everyone to consider taking advantage of the educational opportunities when they are offered in Oklahoma.

Monica Schmidt

??? DID YOU KNOW ???

Wanda Mapp from the Tillman County Assessor's Office is retiring effective the first day of January, 2004. She has been in the Assessor's office for twenty-three years, five months, thirty days, six hours, fifty-nine minutes, and sixty seconds. During that time, she has worked for two Assessors. Her plans are moving, traveling, and enjoying her grandchildren. Congratulations Wanda !!!



Ad Valorem Update

“On Reinventing Things and Old Standby’s”

Each new generation defines things in their own way. What works for us may be approached differently by our kids. The only constant is the fact that things like energy and originality seem to work for all years.

Talk about a new wave. I had a chance to visit the Country Music Hall of Fame last week in Nashville and it was pretty amazing. I’ve got one of my radio buttons set on “The Twister,” but in the Hall of Fame, they go back a long way. I’m not sure my daughter, who’s a big country western fan, has ever heard of Earl Scruggs, Mother Maybelle Carter, Hank Williams Senior and a hundred other names of early performers.

What struck me was the fact that the Grand Ole Opry was one of just dozens of barn dance talent shows, but when they put it on the radio, the sound reached into every valley and hollow in Kentucky and Tennessee. Our guide told us that the radio show decided to let the public attend live broadcasts and they were astonished at the literally thousands of people who came to listen. Without even realizing it, radio had created a community of people who were interested in country western music. Now it looks like country western music has re-invented itself again.

Speaking of re-inventing things, the new CAMA Windows program installation will officially begin for all counties starting the first week in October. The CAMA Windows looks and functions like a typical Windows program, but still has the things you’re familiar with in the software.

CAMA Windows should continue to help your office make good use of your time and resources, and will provide a powerful tool for valuation of the homes and businesses in your county. Our County Support and Training staff will contact you to let you know when you will receive the new Windows update.

Enough about re-inventing things—Back to an old standby—like the old familiar Country Music songs and artists, we’re looking forward to the “old standby” County Assessor Fall Meeting, October 29th through the 31st. It is always a good opportunity to come together as a group and share information and ideas, as well as swapping stories and complaining to each other about our fates in life.

Keep up the good work out there, even if it seems like an impossible task sometimes, and we’ll see you at the Fall Meeting!

Sincerely,
Jeff Spelman, CAE

P.S. Quote in the Daily Oklahoman: *“Those who believe it cannot be done should not interrupt those that are doing it”* (Anwar Caddo actually wrote the original Chinese proverb quoted in the newspaper).

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Women like silent men, they think they’re listening.

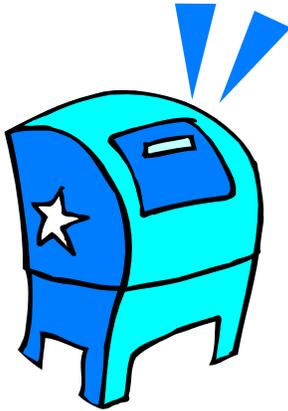
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OF
OKLAHOMA**

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IF I HAD MY LIFE TO LIVE OVER

This column was written by the late Erma Bombek after she learned she was dying from cancer.

If I had my life to live over, I would have gone to bed when I was sick instead of pretending the earth would go into a holding pattern if I weren't there for the day. I would have burned the pink candle sculpted like a rose before it melted in storage. I would have talked less and listened more.

I would have invited friends over to dinner even if the carpet was stained or the sofa faded. I would have eaten the popcorn in the 'good' living room and worried much less about the dirt when someone wanted to light a fire in the fireplace.

I would have taken the time to listen to my grandfather ramble about his youth. I would have shared more of the responsibility carried by my husband. I would never have insisted the car windows be rolled up on a summer day because my hair had just been teased and sprayed.

I would have cried and laughed less while watching television and more while watching life. I would never have bought anything just because it was practical, wouldn't show soil, or was guaranteed to last a lifetime.

Instead of wishing away nine months of pregnancy, I'd have cherished every moment and realized that the wonderment growing inside of me was the only chance in life to assist God in a miracle. When my kids kissed me impetuously, I would never have said, "Later, now go get washed up for dinner." There would have been more "I love you's." More "I'm sorry's."

But mostly, given another shot at life, I would seize every minute ... looked at it and really see it ... live it and never give it back. Stop sweating the small stuff. Don't worry about who doesn't like you, who has more, or who's doing what. Instead, let's cherish the relationships we have with those who do love us. Let's think about what God has blessed us with. And what we are doing each day to promote ourselves mentally, physically, emotionally, as we only have one shot at this and then it's gone. I hope you all have a bless day.