

was five years old. She was an expert horsewoman even as a small child. When her older brother died, Lucille took up roping and bareback riding in an effort to fill in as her father's helper. At ten years of age, Lucille and her younger brother, Charlie, were entertaining the ranch hands by riding bucking broncos. The mayor of Guthrie began sending for the Mulhall kids to entertain visitors. Organized rodeos didn't exist at that time, but in the local competitions among cowhands, Lucille earned a great reputation. When she was injured in an accident roping a steer, her mother threatened to send her, as she had Lucille's sisters, to boarding school. Lucille couldn't seem to resist the temptation to rope big steers, though, and when she was hurt again -- and the steer was killed -- she spent a year at boarding school. Her teachers wrote to her mother, "Although her school work is good and she relates well to the other girls, it is breaking her heart to be so far away from the ranch."

The next year Lucille attended a school in Guthrie and came to the ranch on weekends. Lucille started to get recognition and was invited to take part in many competitions and exhibitions. Later, the Mulhall Wild West Show featured such famous entertainers as Will Rogers, who gave the Mulhall Show the credit for his success. Lucille won her first roping contest and \$1,000.00 at Krebs Park in McAlester, Indian Territory. In 1900, Theodore Roosevelt came to Oklahoma City for a Rough Riders Reunion.



There he saw Lucille perform her rope tricks to his delight. Lucille trained a horse her father bought her and in 1901 exhibited him publicly for the first time. "Governor" performed tricks and he and Lucille were a tremendous hit. The spring Lucille was 15 years old, she was invited to march in the Inaugural Parade for President Roosevelt. That same year she entered the El Paso Steer Roping Contest, her first big opportunity to compete with men. She won.

By the time she was 17 years old, she was in constant demand as a performer and competitor. She performed across the country for 15 years. She married Martin Van Bergen, a cowboy singer

from her act, but they were married for less than two years. They had a son, and due to Lucille's traveling, he was raised by Van Bergen's parents. Lucille retired in 1915 and returned to the ranch to care for her mother and father. She began promoting rodeos and took shows across the Midwest. She married again, a Texas cattleman named Tom Burnett, but it only lasted for three years. Lucille again returned to the ranch and cared for her parents until their deaths in 1931. Just two months before Lucille's 55th birthday she was killed in an automobile accident. She is buried in front of the mausoleum built by her father on the family ranch. In December, 1975, Lucille Mulhall was inducted into

the Rodeo Hall of Fame, part of the National Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City. She was recognized for her achievements as a Wild West star, as the World's First Cowgirl, and a world champion. Will Rogers, who worked with her many times, said "She was the only woman who rode like a man -- a top cowhand."

### **CARRY NATION -- (1846-1911) -- PROHIBITIONIST**

Carry Nation was a formidable woman, six feet tall and 175 pounds, even without a Bible in one hand and a hatchet in the other, as she is so often remembered. Usually dressed in a black and white deaconess uniform and long black cape, Carry Nation lectured throughout the territories about the evils of alcohol, tobacco, and Teddy



Roosevelt. She published a magazine called *The Hatchet*, for many years promoting the cause of temperance. She was a founder of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the movement that eventually resulted in amending the U.S. Constitution, creating complete prohibition of alcohol. Born in Kentucky, Carry was the oldest daughter of a prosperous stock dealer and planter. She had many household responsibilities, and befriended the slaves who worked on the farm. She was saddened when these friends left after the Civil War.

In 1867, Carry married a Missouri physician, Charlie Gloyd. Charlie caroused and drank over Carry's objections, and she eventually moved back to the family farm. A few months later Charlie died of alco-

holism, and Carry was left with an infant daughter, Charlien. She moved to her mother-in-law's house and earned a teacher's certificate at the normal school in Warrensburg, Missouri. She was teaching school and supporting both her daughter and her mother-in-law when she met David Nation, a lawyer, minister, teacher, and editor, who was 19 years older than she. Carry supported David and the family by managing a succession of boarding houses in Texas, while he made attempts to practice law. Along the way, Charlien became alcoholic, and Carry began to formulate plans to abolish alcohol. In 1892, the Nations moved to Seiling, Oklahoma Territory, where Carry established Workers for Christ, and the Oklahoma State Sunday School Association in El Reno.

Soon after, they moved to Medicine Lodge, Kansas, where Carry helped organize the Women's Christian Temperance Union. This was the beginning of Carry's "smashing crusades."

Carry wanted all illegal saloons closed down, and even though Kansas was a prohibitionist state, "joints" were everywhere. In Wichita, Carry wrecked the Hotel Carey and other expensive saloons, smashing mirrors, windows, bars, pornographic paintings, and liquor stocks valued at thousands of dollars. She was arrested and jailed. The two-week jail term was the best thing that could have happened to her. The publicity made her efforts known across the U.S. She sold newspapers.

By 1900, she had traveled all over the Midwest, smashing saloons and even invading the Governor's chambers in Topeka. She was arrested more than 30 times and accumulated huge fines. The public sentiment she aroused helped tighten enforcement of state and local prohibition laws everywhere, especially in the Midwest. By 1901, fines forced her to temporarily give up smashing saloons in order to travel across the country to earn money giving lectures. She traveled to New York, Washington, Pittsburgh, Rochester, and San Francisco.

In 1903, Carry received word that David, her husband of 23 years, was divorcing her on the grounds of cruelty and desertion. After that, she turned her attention to Oklahoma Territory. It was the wildest country left, with bars on every corner. She wanted to make sure Oklahoma became a dry state. She decided to make Guthrie her permanent home and bought a house where she resided for five years. Oklahoma was

admitted to the Union as a dry state. The night before statehood day, gallons of liquor were poured into the streets across the Territory, and 556 saloons closed overnight. Carry Nation died in 1911 in Leavenworth, Kansas, and is buried in Belton, Missouri. The inscription on her tombstone, as she requested, reads, "She hath done what she could."

### **ALICE ROBERTSON -- (1854-1931) -- U.S. REPRESENTATIVE**

In 1922, in answer to a reporter's question about how she felt about her term in office as a U.S.

Representative, Robertson replied, "If you asked a housekeeper, what do you think she'd say? I've been busy keeping house for the Nation, just like a woman would her own home - - busy, busy, everyday, in every way, without any outstanding thing to show for it." Robertson had been elected to the U.S. House in 1920, the first and only Oklahoma woman to serve there. She was the second woman in the entire U.S. to hold the office, and while a representative, she presided over the House several times, making her the first woman to do so.

Robertson's grandparents were missionaries to the Cherokee in Georgia, and moved with the tribe to Indian Territory in 1835. Her parents spent their lives as missionaries and educators to the Creek near present-day Muskogee. Robertson's mother was given an honorary Ph.D. by Wooster College in 1892 for her translation of the Bible into the



Creek language, making her the first woman in the U.S. to have the degree.

Alice was born January 2, 1854, at the Creek mission, Tullahassee. When she was seven, her family was forced to flee from the mission because of the Civil War. During this time the family traveled to Kansas, Wisconsin, and Illinois. In 1866, the family returned and rebuilt the mission. Alice was sent to Elmira College in New York when she was 17 years old. She studied English, history, and civics. She was forced to leave school due to lack of money, but in 1866, was awarded an honorary master's degree from the school she attended. Alice took a job as clerk at the Indian Office of the Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C. At nineteen, she was the youngest and the only female clerk in the service. In 1888, she became secretary to Capt. R.H. Pratt, superintendent of the Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania. Soon afterward, she learned her parent's mission had burned.

She returned to Indian Territory, and found her father had died and her mother was trying to run a small school but was heavily indebted. She helped her mother, and for two years traveled church-to-church, college-to-college, giving fund raising talks to support Indian missions. In 1884, she had raised enough money to start the Nuyaka Mission School and the Minerva Boarding School for Girls in her home in Muskogee. She never married, once saying, "the kind of man who would want a woman like me would not be the kind of man I would be interested in." The Minerva Boarding School grew and was taken over by the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions in 1894. Years later, the school was moved to Tulsa, and in 1920, it became the University of Tulsa.

In 1891, Alice addressed a conference, where a hundred editors, writers, teachers, and government officials heard her talk about the education of the Five Civilized Tribes. Theodore Roosevelt was in the audience and was evidently impressed with the Indian missionary and began a long friendship with her. They exchanged letters for many years, and Roosevelt paid tribute to Robertson in his book, *The Rough Riders*. In 1900, she became U.S. School Supervisor for Creek Schools, and served until 1905. Later that year, when Roosevelt became president, one of his first appointments was Alice as Postmistress of Muskogee. She was 50 years old at the time of her appointment, and held the job until 1913. A Muskogee newspaper described her as "Muskogee's postmaster, who can bake bread or throw a lariat, who can write a story or make a speech, who can decorate a church or talk practical politics."

In 1910 she built her house at historic Agency Hill, now known as Honor Heights, near Muskogee. The home, called Sawokla, which means "gathering place" in Creek, became the site of many events. Alice also opened the Sawokla Cafeteria, and during WWI, began feeding soldiers and supplying canteens. From there she launched her successful campaign for U.S. Representative. Her campaign for office was quite unusual. With only \$2,940.00 to spend, and both the Muskogee newspapers against her election, Alice devised an original way of getting votes. She promoted her campaign in the classified sections of the newspapers, writing about her political views and positions, and she included the menu of the day for her cafeteria. This strategy worked. In the 1920 primary, from a field of five candidates, she received the majority of all votes cast. She won the general election, although by fewer than 300 votes. Alice walked around fashion-conscious Washington in her long black skirt and thick cotton stockings.

When "Miss Alice," America's only woman member of Congress, met Lady Astor, England's only woman member of Parliament, newspapers emphasized the contrast in the appearance of the two women: "Lady Astor, a graceful figure in fawn-colored crepe, with pearls, long gloves and a plumed picture hat, and Miss Alice, with her plain black dress, cotton stockings and sensible shoes ..." The two women regarded each other with mutual respect and Alice said being escorted to dinner by Lord Astor was more than she could ever have dreamed possible. Following a single term in office, she returned to Oklahoma, where she died in 1931. Will Rogers wrote about Robertson's death, "You remember, I told you there was some awful good dead Republicans. Well,