



The Historian

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Evelyn Shopp, Retires Editor of The Historian

Ever since I had a poem published in the “Daily Oklahoman” over 70 years ago, I have had dreams of being a writer of some kind. The dream never materialized, beyond a few professional articles. Instead, I found creating newsletters for various groups and producing family stories to accompany genealogical research an interesting substitute. That was the background I brought to the Historical Society when I was elected to the Board in 1985. Immediately I was elected as its Secretary, a job that was mine for 8 years. Minutes do not really substitute for “writing.”



Evelyn Shopp – 1988

The Historical Society had a two page publication in early years. This was expanded to a small four page publication, but it was never published on a regular basis and the editorship seemed rather haphazard. As President, 1993-94, I edited the newsletter and it was produced when there was news enough to warrant it. During the next three years, as 2nd Vice President, the newsletter became secondary to our desire to increase membership and to the ever-pressing need for a building of our own. Each issue carried the names of new members, contributions, and of upcoming programs and trips. In 1996, I prepared a mock up of an eight page newsletter and proposed a bimonthly publication. The board agreed and the next month the president appointed an editor!

Shortly thereafter, I somehow again became the editor, and have served in that capacity, as well as five years as president, until this, my swan song.

What is it like to be an editor, publisher, columnist, researcher, and frustrated writer all in one? I suppose it depends on the attitude and the aptitude of the individual. After a lot of advice, I am still virtually computer illiterate. As a result, The Historian became more and more time consuming. However, it was rewarding because many people took the time to tell me how much they enjoyed my articles.

Being your editor has really been a wonderful experience.