

STAGE 2

Beginning South of Broken Arrow
Continuing to Bixby North on Riverside Drive North on Denver
To Washington Irving Monument south on Union to Newblock Park
Ending at the springs in Sand Springs

⇒ **BROKEN ARROW**

- On 131st Street, you travel through the outskirts of Broken Arrow.

⇒ **BIXBY**

- Continue west on 131st Street to Memorial Avenue and turn left/south.
- Travel south to Washington Irving Park.
- Turn to the right/west into the park just before you reach the Arkansas River.

⇒ **TULSA**

- Leave Washington Irving Park and turn left/north on Memorial.
- Continue to 101st Street and turn left/west.
- Travel west on 101st Street. Traveling to the river here allows today's traveler to experience Tulsa's Arkansas River.
- Turn right/north at the Arkansas River.
- Often the Tourists left the banks of the river and traveled across country. Sometimes the banks of the river were too overgrown and tied up with vines to travel there. There are several trails down to the Arkansas River that match Irving's description. One might choose 81st or 71st or 31st or 21st. A route that must have intrigued early Tulsans was between Easton and Newblock Park by way of Union. The monument to the Tour can be found at Easton and Vancouver. Washington Irving Elementary School was once here and Irving neighborhood is in the area. And if you take the trip down Union yourself; as you come over the wooded ridge and see the park, it is remarkably evocative.

⇒ **JENKS**

- Jenks is immediately across the river as you come over the ridge on 101st Street.

⇒ **TULSA**

- As you travel up the river, Delaware becomes Riverside Drive.

⇒ **Riverside Drive**

- Turn left/west at the 19th Street Port.

⇒ **Council Oak**

- Take a short trip to the Council Oak.
- Continue left/north on Riverside Drive and turn right/north on Denver.
- Turn right/east on 18th Street to Cheyenne.
- Retrace your path to Riverside Drive.

⇒ **Route 66**

- Turn right/north on Riverside Drive.
- Continue to Southwest Boulevard and turn right/northeast.
- Continue on Southwest Boulevard to West 7th and turn right/east.
- Continue east on West 7th to Denver.

⇒ **Three Nations Monument**

- Turn left/north on Denver and continue until you reach Edison.
- Turn left/west on Edison and turn left/south at the entrance to Owen Park.

⇒ **Owen Park**

- Go through Owen Park.

⇒ **Washington Irving Monument**

- Turn left/south on Quannah.
- Turn right/west on Easton and continue and circle the Washington Irving Memorial.

⇒ **Newblock Park**

- Travel east to Union and turn right/south.
- Go under OK 64 and continue to the end of Union. You will come over a ridge and curve down toward Charles Page Boulevard and Newblock Park.
- As you look at the park, it is easy to imagine the scene on October 13, 1832 when Irving saw the “Robin Hood scene.”
- Enter and survey Newblock Park.

⇒ **Gilcrease, America’s Museum**

- Turn left/west on Charles Page Boulevard and continue to Gilcrease Drive.
- Turn right/north on Gilcrease Drive and take a side trip to Gilcrease, America’s Museum.

⇒ **Post Oak Lodge**

- Turn left/north on Gilcrease Drive to continue the side trip to bald hill.
- Turn left/west on Apache.
- Turn left/north on Gilcrease Drive.
- Turn left/west on Apache.
- Angle right/north at 41st Street North.
- Travel to 31st Street North and turn left/west toward Post Oak Lodge.
- Travel to the lodge gate and from the gate to the lodge.
- You now see bald hill up close.
- Retrace your path back to Charles Page Boulevard.

⇒ **SAND SPRINGS**

- Turn right/west on Charles Page Boulevard and continue to Adams Road. 📍
- Turn right/north and continue to Drug Warehouse and turn into the east parking lot.
- Get out of your car and go to the back of the parking lot toward the highway. There you will see a bike and hiking trail which goes all the way to Tulsa. Here you will find one of the original sand springs that gave the city its name.
- Leave Sand Springs and continue west on OK 64.

Enjoy!

⇒ **BROKEN ARROW**

- **On 131st Street, you travel through the outskirts of Broken Arrow.**

A little farther, perhaps in far south Broken Arrow, they saw something wonderful. If you do not see the beautiful wood ducks here, you will certainly see them at the 19th Street Port on Riverside Drive.

In our course through a forest, we passed by a lonely pool, covered with the most magnificent water-lilies I had ever beheld; among which swam several wood-ducks, one of the most beautiful of water-fowl, remarkable for the gracefulness and brilliancy of its plumage. WI 41



⇒ **BIXBY**

- **Continue west on 131st Street to Memorial Avenue and turn left/south.**
- **Travel south to Washington Irving Park.**
- **Turn to the right/west into the park just before you reach the Arkansas River.**

At noon the morning of October 12, 1832, the bugle sounded to horse and the Tourists were on the march to their campsite north of Bixby. They passed an Osage village. Earlier Irving described the Osages.

. . . their dress . . . (consisted) of blankets, leggings, and moccasins. . . their hair was cropped close, excepting a bristling ridge on top, like the crest of a helmet, with a long scalp lock hanging behind. They had fine Roman countenances, and broad deep chests . . . WI 21

It was in this village that Count Pourtalès purchased some real necessities. Commissioner Ellsworth certainly gave him credit for that.

. . . we started without a single dish, or plate, and thus far, eat out of the top part of a tin kettle. M. Pourteles, purchased three Osage bowls, made out of knots of a tree—the largest hold 4 quarts, & the smallest 3 pints-- . . . The bowls were distributed, as follows. The middle size one, to M Irving & myself, the largest, to M Latrobe, Pourteles, & Brailey, & the other, to our 3 servants. HLE 21 22

The party pushed on passing Creek villages and farmhouses.

(The Creek men wore) . . . calico hunting shirts of various brilliant colors, decorated with bright fringes, and belted with broad girdles, embroidered with beads . . . WI 22

It was twilight when weariness overtook them. The Rangers were still ahead . . . hoping to reach the camp of the rangers before nightfall, we pushed on until twilight, when we were obliged to halt on the borders of a ravine. The rangers bivouacked under trees, at the bottom of the dell, while we pitched out tent on a rocky knoll near a running stream. WI 42

They spent the night across the Arkansas River from Bixby, a community named for Tams Bixby, Indian agent in the early days. Washington Irving Park is north of the Arkansas River to the south of 131st Street on Memorial. It is on the west side of Memorial. The actual campsite was perhaps closer to Mingo, but this park is a poetic place to start. As Irving and party settled in to sleep that night, some Osages were mingled among them and their ranger escorts. The young Osage men enjoyed a meal and coffee. Then they lay, side by side, before the campfire.



(They) . . . began a low nasal chant, drumming with their hands upon their breasts, by way of accompaniment. Their chant seemed to consist of regular staves, every one terminating, not in melodious cadence, but in the abrupt interjection huh! Uttered almost like a hiccup. . . . they spoke of the young Count, whose animated character and eagerness for Indian enterprise had struck their fancy, and they indulged in some waggery about him and the young Indian beauties that produced great merriment.

. . . WI 43

The young Count had something to say about this 1832 rap session.

. . . they treated us to a half dozen erotic songs which sounded like the far-off howling of wolves on a winter night. Then they lay on their backs, tapped their stomachs to give a very pleasant tremolo wound to their voices, and groaned several arias in which even the most expert ear could not have found the slightest melody, although the tremolo marked the measure quite clearly . . . After the song session and several libations made to the god of tobacco, they rolled up in their blankets, as we did, and slept soundly. CP 48

Irving saw the Indians they met as full human characters, not just stoic.

(I) have occasionally noticed . . . Osages sitting around a fire . . . in the most animated and lively conversation . . . making the woods resound with peals of laughter . . . No one weeps more bitterly or profusely at the death of a relative . . . the Indian of poetical fiction is . . . personification of imaginary attributes. WI 44

All day on the 12th the tourists had traveled hard and fast. They were so weary they slept through a persistent rain shower that lasted the night.

Washington Irving Park | In Bixby | 13700 South Memorial Drive

1825 Osage Land Ceded to Muscogee Creeks.

1832 Commissioner Ellsworth passed through.

1897 Tams Bixby of the Dawes Commission came to Indian Territory.

1899 Bixby Post Office was established. A street was named Dawes.

2002 World Trade Center Memorial was dedicated.

2005 Washington Irving's Sunnyside is the backdrop for a new amphitheater.

As you enter the park, you will see a distorted sculpture that brings 2001 crashing down on the tranquility of 1832. A portion of the World Trade Center sits between the blustering noise of the highway and the forested park.



**WORLD TRADE CENTER MEMORIAL
DEDICATED SEPTEMBER 11, 2002**

This steel beam is from the September 11, 2001, World Trade Center terrorist attack.

This memorial is dedicated to the innocent victims who lost their lives.

Beyond the 9-11-01 Memorial is the plaque honoring Washington Irving and the tour. Get out and look at the plaque that describes the site. It reads:

In A Tour on the Prairies the great writer Washington Irving describes his tour on the prairies on horseback in Oklahoma with the U.S. Rangers from Fort Gibson. Irving camped on the creek near here on October 12, 1832.



Another plaque lists the modern tourist the park's benefactors. **Parking Lot & Park Trails Project Bixby made possible by partnerships with the National Recreational Trails Fund Program the Oklahoma Tourism & Recreation Department and the Friends of Irving Foundation**

Look north into the park. In a straight line from the park gate is a mighty elm that could prove a lovely refuge. Walk around and experience native Oklahoma plants. Walk back into the park to see

Irving's Sunnyside and the amphitheater. Note the photo of Irving and on the porch of Sunnyside in Bixby, a gift of the Bixby Rotary. Note the way Irving's New York Sunnyside looks

today on the banks of the Hudson River. The park in Bixby offers the home from a different perspective, but the stepped Dutch Colonial roof is there in both places.

A bronze of Washington Irving sits on the porch of Sunnyside in Bixby. Irving camped at or near Washington Irving Park on October 12.



⇒ TULSA

- Leave Washington Irving Park and turn left/north on Memorial.
- Continue to 101st Street and turn left/west.
- Travel west on 101st Street. Traveling to the river here allows today's traveler to experience Tulsa's Arkansas River.
- Turn right/north at the Arkansas River.
- Often the Tourists left the banks of the river and traveled across country. Sometimes the banks of the river were too overgrown and tied up with vines to travel there. There are several trails down to the Arkansas River that match Irving's description. One might choose 81st or 71st or 31st or 21st. A route that must have intrigued early Tulsans was between Easton and Newblock Park by way of Union. The monument to the Tour can be found at Easton and Vancouver. Washington Irving Elementary School was once here and Irving neighborhood is in the area. And if you take the trip down Union yourself; as you come over the wooded ridge and see the park, it is remarkably evocative.

On the morning of October 13, Mr. Manhattan was gone. All the travelers felt the loss, the Count most of all. He wouldn't see the exceptional youth again.

. . . we searched in vain for my friend . . . Manhattan. He had disappeared, with his horse . . . I found out later that his relatives, cousins, etc., had dissuaded him from going off with the whites; they had terrified him! . . . Good-by, then, oh mighty marksman. CP 48

That morning, the Tourists traveled due north on what is now Memorial or Mingo. Stands of native trees pop up all along the path through Tulsa. On Memorial, look between 121st and 131st on the right. A settlement of houses on the right at 115th is enveloped in native trees. You are in the city of Tulsa.

We had not ridden above three or four miles . . . a couple of miles further . . . the rangers set up a shout, and pointed to . . . horses grazing in a woody bottom . . . A few paces brought us to an elevated ridge, from whence we looked down upon the encampment. WI 47

Tulsa, Oklahoma | Tulsee Town | Lochapoka

1825 Osages ceded this big bend in the Arkansas to the Muscogee Creeks.

1832 Washington Irving traveled Riverside Drive from south to north.

1836 Muscogee Creek settlers chose a Post Oak Tree for their Council meetings.

1849 Lewis Perryman ranched from the Arkansas River to many miles east.

1870 The Osages began to move back to northeast Oklahoma.

1872 The Osages purchased land in what would become Osage County.

1898 Tulsa was incorporated on January 18.

- 1901** Oil was discovered right across the river from Tulsa.
- 1906** The Midland Valley Railroad was built.
- 1915** The Washington Irving Monument was dedicated.
- 1920** Tulsa's spectacular skyline began to rise.
- 1926** Tulsa banker James H. McBirney built a mansion near a natural spring.
- 1974** The River Parks Authority was formed.
- 1992** The first stage of the Creek Expressway was completed.
- 1994** NatureWorks dedicated its first bronze of a native animal.

⇒ JENKS

- **Jenks is immediately across the river as you come over the ridge on 101st Street.**

To get to the Arkansas River, the tourists turned west at some point. It could have been as early as 101st and as late as 71st. Probably it was somewhere in between. The most beautiful route, one with all the beauty of natural Oklahoma vegetation and all the beauty of Tulsa neighborhoods is 101st Street. Just before the Arkansas River, 101st travels over an elevated ridge at Jamestown and offers an immediate view of the river in all its 21st Century glory. It was over just such a ridge that Irving traveled in 1832 and overtook the Rangers. Today it is pulsing with 21st Century life. The opening up of the Arkansas River to development, the new Creek Turnpike, the power plant, the NatureWorks bronzes, and flourishing Jenks are all within your sight as you come down toward the river. In 1832, the sight from the elevated ridge was pulsing with the romance of the frontier. They camped.

It was a wild bandit, or Robin Hood, scene. In a beautiful open forest, traversed by a running stream, were booths of bark and branches, and tents of blankets, temporary shelters from the recent rain . . . (Rangers) were cooking at large fires made at the feet of trees; some were stretching and dressing deer skins; some were shooting at a mark, and some lying about on the grass. Venison jerked, and hung on frames, was drying over the embers in one place; In another lay carcasses recently brought in by the hunters . . . horses were grazing here and there among the thickets. WI 47 48

The young Count loved the future Tulsa.

. . . the main troop of Rangers camped in a superb spot. Large, beautiful trees shaded a little valley covered with abundant vegetation, reeds, and horse-bean plants, which made an excellent pasture for our horses. A stream supplied us with rather clear water, a rare and precious gift in this country. CP 49 50 Later the party went out on a bee hunt making Tulsa the Honey Camp. The party was headed by a veteran bee-hunter, a tall lank fellow in homespun garb . . . a straw hat shaped not unlike a beehive . . . We . . . traced the honey-laden bees to their hive, in the hollow trunk of a blasted oak . . . bee-hunters now plied their axes vigorously . . . down came the tree with a tremendous crash, bursting open . . . all the hoarded treasures of the commonwealth . . . the party now fell to, with spoon and hunting-knife, to scoop out the flakes of honey-comb . . . WI 51, 52

When the rangers and their guests left the honey tree, a quantity of honey was left behind in the hollow. Irving wanted to know what would happen to the tree.

It will be cleared off by varmint . . . bears, and skunks, and racoons, and 'possoms . . . bears is the

knowingest varmint for finding out a bee-tree . . . They'll gnaw for days together at the trunk till they make a hole big enough to get in their paws, and then they'll haul out honey . . . bees and all. W1 53, 54

Commissioner Ellsworth had something to say about the bees. They were “good natured” at the end because of the smoke.

. . . a small fire was made . . . the bees poured out upon us, in great numbers but we stood still, and did not show fight, and they soon became “good natured”. . . HLE 30

It is possible, depending exactly where the honey hunters actually were, that someone at the top of Tulsa’s skyline could have seen the honey eaters that night on the river.

⇒ TULSA

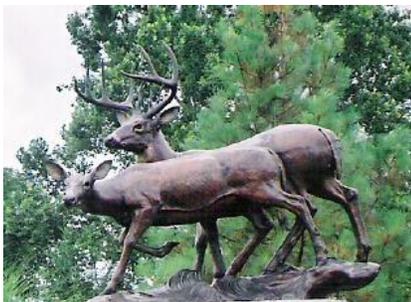
- As you travel up the river, Delaware becomes Riverside Drive.
- Turn left/west at the 19th Street Port.

⇒ Riverside Drive

When you reach the Arkansas River turn right/north. Immediately you will cross under the Creek Expressway, well named for the first Tulsans. At 96th and Delaware you will see the first native animals in bronze, gifts of **NatureWorks**, a non-profit organization located in Tulsa, Oklahoma. It assists in the development and conservation of wildlife preserves, wildlife habitats, and educational opportunities for adults and children on the values of sharing our homeland with wildlife. NatureWorks dedicates beautiful sculpture to people who support conservation. You will be traveling against traffic. The best way to see the sculptures is to pull into a side street and look across. If you see a place to turn and park along the river, do so. The first bronze you see is a group of **Cimarron Pronghorns** which were sculpted by Stephen C. LeBlanc. They are dedicated to John Nickel who was honored with the 2004 Wildlife Stewardship Award.



All the other bronzes you will see will be dedicated to Wildlife Stewards. Irving mentioned antelopes, but didn’t describe them. Near the pronghorns you will see a sculpture of **Oklahoma Whitetails**. These deer



were surely the game of choice in 1832 Oklahoma. The sculptor was Ron Lowery and the sculpture was dedicated to J. M. “Jack” Graves.

. . . we passed through a luxuriant bottom of meadow bordered by thickets, where the tall grass was pressed down into numerous “deer beds” where those animals had couched the preceding night . . . we beheld several deer bounding away in wild affright, until, having gained some distance, they would stop and gaze back . . . W1 65

When they caught up with the Rangers, the Tourists’ mess joined many others.

There was nothing so pretty as our camp site with its fourteen fires which lit up the forest. The animated groups around the fires cast long, moving shadows against the tree trunks. CP 51

The hunter's repast that night before sleep was very good eating. They had everything in abundance with a profusion of honey. The cooks and the hunters actually served the Tourists very well until the last hungry miles before they were again back at Fort Gibson. It was that hunger and the November weather that turned the group east long before the Red River. Tonight in Tulsa though, the lack of food was far from Irving's mind. This dinner scene was repeated campsite after campsite until coffee, sugar, flour, salt pork, and finally game disappeared.

The surrounding country . . . abounded with game . . . camp was overstocked with provisions, and, as no less than twenty bee-trees had been cut down . . . everyone revelled in luxury . . . The cooking was conducted in hunters' style; the meat was perpendicularly into the ground . . . before the fire, where it was roasted or broiled with all its juices retained in it in a manner that would have tickled the most experienced gourmand . . . (bread) a paste made of flour and water, and fried like fritters . . . some adopted a ruder style, twisting it round the ends of sticks, and thus roasting it before the fire . . . A large dish . . . on the ground before us, and into it were emptied . . . wild turkey hashed . . . we had to proceed in hunters' style, cutting off strips and slices with our hunting-knives and dipping them in salt and pepper . . . our beverage was coffee, boiled in a camp- kettle, sweetened with brown sugar, and drunk out of tin cups . . . WI 58 59

They ate, drank, and were merry. The evening of October 13 had a different musical accompaniment than the night before. Instead of Osage hunters, the vocals came from the rangers. It was as Irving stated, a nasal melody.

. . . there suddenly rose a strain of nasal melody . . . at which a choir . . . were uniting their voices in a most lugubrious psalm tune . . . led by one of the lieutenants . . . who . . . had officiated as schoolmaster, singing-master, and . . . as Methodist preacher, in one of the villages of the frontier. The chant rose solemnly and sadly in the night air . . . WI 60

Before Irving headed north again along the river, he slept under Tulsa stars. Irving camped along the Arkansas River between 101st and downtown on October 13.

. . . a beautiful pale light gradually sprang up in the east, a precursor of the rising moon . . . A bear-skin spread at the foot of a tree was my bed, with a pair of saddle-bags for a pillow. Wrapping myself in blankets, I stretched myself on this couch, and soon fell into a sound and sweet sleep, from which I did not awake until the bugle sounded at daybreak.

WI 61 62

On the morning of October 14, the camp was full of food and frolic. The rangers set off with whoop and halloo. For nearly ten miles, you will parallel the Arkansas River as Irving, the guides, and the rangers did. You will look at more animals placed on the river by NatureWorks and read Irving's comments about them.

It was a bright sunny morning, with a pure transparent atmosphere that seemed to bathe the very heart with gladness. WI 63



Even with the development of the 21st Century, there are the remains of forests and prairies to the east and rolling hills to the west. Maybe one of those shadowy hills was Turkey Mountain, evident at 71st Street.

We are about eighty or more in number, and our group looks absolutely warlike. . . a long line of individuals on good mounts, armed with carbines, dressed in moccasins, leggings, leather shirts, coats, trousers, hats of all possible descriptions, part American, part Indian . . . CP 50

As you travel north, Delaware Avenue becomes Riverside Drive.

Sometimes we scrambled up broken and rocky hills, from the summits of which we had wide views stretching on one side over distant prairies diversified by groves and forests, and on the other ranging along a line of blue and shadowy hills beyond the waters of the Arkansas. WI 64



At 71st Street, you can see **Bruins' Riverpark Picnic**. Robert E. Lorton was honored with the only bears left here today, a bronze of mother and cubs. Bears and the signs of bears were common sights in Oklahoma in 1832. Until Tulsa Irving saw recent signs of bear, not the bear itself. Soon he would see bears.

The broad, sandy shore where we had landed, was intersected with innumerable tracks of elk, deer, bears, raccoons, turkeys, and water-fowl . . . the claws of bears were to be traced on various trees. "A bear! A bear!" was the cry. WI 68

Note the landscape. Beside the river are trees that Irving may actually have seen. Watch for the beautiful and ancient giants that stand among the others.

. . . we travelled in Indian file, one following the other . . . indicating our line of march by a narrow, deeply indented trail . . . CL 37

The bronze of the **Arkansas River Otters** at 69th was dedicated to Kenneth R. Greenwood. The sculptor was Robert Ball. These delightful animals were all over the watercourses of the continental United States in 1832. They were once endangered, but are making a comeback. Remember that Commissioner Ellsworth wore an otter skin hat on the Tour along with a pistol on one hip and a cornucob on the other.



The **Wichita Wapiti** on 63rd was sculpted by Jocelyn Lillpop Russell and was dedicated to L. Beauchamp Selman by NatureWorks. Wapiti is a Shawnee word for elk. One day after Riverside Drive, a young ranger killed an elk.

. . . young rangers came parading round the various fires, carrying one of their comrades in triumph on their shoulders. He had shot an elk for the first time in his life, and it was the first animal of the kind that had been killed on this expedition. The young huntsman . . . was the hero of the camp . . . WI 66



At 59th and Riverside you will see an **Osage Cougar** dedicated to W. C. “Tiny” Tomsen and sculpted by Jim Gilmore. Another name for cougar is panther. Sergeant Isaac Bean, brother of Captain Bean told about his experience with one of these fierce beasts. Washington Irving retold the story.

I heard a strange dismal cry . . . it was not an owl, but must be a panther. I kept watch . . . nodded and dozed, and started awake . . . and looked round, expecting to see the glaring eyes of the panther . . . somehow or other . . . I fell asleep outright. In the morning I found the tracks of a panther . . . as large as my two fists. WI 79 80

Behind the panther is another beautiful view of Turkey Mountain. On a nearby plaque there is a dedication to Charles W. Estes by the Department of Wildlife Conservation. He protected that beauty. Stop and read why he was honored.

OKLAHOMA
Game Warden
Charles W. Estes
1878-1911

You will see **Tishomingo Canadas** in flight at 49th and Riverside. These geese are dedicated to James W. Pielsticker and sculpted by Geoffrey C. Smith.

Above us, a streaming flight of wild geese, high in air, and making a vociferous noise, gave note of the waning year. WI 40



Prairie Wolves are at 42nd and Riverside. Dedicated to the Indian Nations Council Boys Scouts of America, the statue was created by Jocelyn Lillipop Russell.

. . . a grand burst after what they supposed to be a gang of bears, but soon pulled up on discovered them to be black wolves, prowling in company. WI 98

There is a park at 31st Street. You will see the **Southern Bald Eagle** dedicated to John S. “Jack” Zink. Bald eagles can be sighted over the Arkansas River.



Also in this park are **Riverside Mallards** dedicated to Ducks Unlimited. The sculptor is Ronnie Wells.

Turn left, west, off Riverside Drive at the 19th Street Port and you will see an **American Bison** sculpted by Stephen C. LeBlanc and dedicated to Joseph H. Williams. He alerts you that the crossing of the Arkansas River is near.

... we shall reach the Red Fork to-morrow; then cross the Arkansas above it, into the Pawnee country, and then in two days we shall crack buffalo bones. WI 57



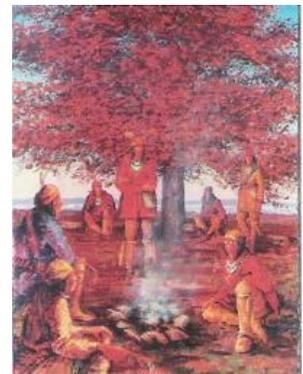
⇒ Council Oak

- Take a short trip to the Council Oak.
- Continue left/north on Riverside Drive and turn right/north on Denver.
- Turn right/east on 18th Street to Cheyenne.
- Retrace your path to Riverside Drive.



The Tourists continued parallel to the Arkansas River. You are going to take a short side trip to an important Muscogee Creek landmark. Travel on Denver to 18th Street and turn right/east. Travel two blocks to 18th and Cheyenne where you will see the Council Oak of the Tulsa's earliest citizens. This ancient and mighty post oak stood sentinel when the Creeks came to Lochapoka (Tulsa), named for their lost home in the east. Lochapoka meant place of the turtles, but though there were plenty of turtles here, it was the Alabama turtles they were remembering. Here the Muscogee Creeks of this community met in government. The street sign is in English and in Muscogee.

The first view of the Council Oak is at the state Capitol. The artist was Mike Larsen and it was sponsored by Governor Frank Keating. When you have seen the Council Oak, travel north on Boston to see a National Historic Landmark, the Boston Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church. It was built during Tulsa's Art Deco 1920's, it surpasses the best in its Art Deco beauty.



Travel back to Riverside Drive. When you turn east/north, travel a few blocks farther to Galveston and you will see the **Black Mesa Muleys**. The sculpture of two mule deer, a buck and doe is dedicated to George Miksch Sutton Avian Research Center. The sculptor of the larger-than-life piece is Daniel Parker.

⇒ Route 66

- Turn right/north on Riverside Drive.
- Continue to Southwest Boulevard and turn right/northeast.
- Continue on Southwest Boulevard to West 7th and turn right/east.
- Continue east on West 7th to Denver.

When you pass Hudson, look to your right to see the McBirney Mansion. It is a typical mansion from Tulsa's oil boom days. Today it is an elegant bed and breakfast. At the far northwest edge of the property is a natural spring. Passing here and enjoying this spring would have been wonderful – limpid, potable water along a river not noted for being limpid and often not noted for being potable. The luxury when you visit the mansion is as gratifying as Irving's night in Tulsa on a bear-skin under the moon.

Continue on Riverside until you reach Southwest Boulevard. You now turn away from the Arkansas River. Irving and his fellow Tourists often did this because the vines and undergrowth along the river were sometimes just more than they could handle. For one block, you will be on Route 66, Tulsa's Main Street. Later you will travel parallel to Route 66 at a far west point on the Tour. Be careful to follow the directions exactly.

Route 66 | Main Street of America | The Mother Road

1832 Tourists traveled Route 66.

1916 Congress passed the Federal Aid Road Act.

1921 Cyrus Avery, a Tulsan, was President of the Associated Highways Association.

1926 Route 66 was named and its path decided. It would go right through Tulsa. In 1926, Route 66 concrete, gravel, asphalt over brick, dirt, and wooden planks.

1937 The last small fraction of Route 66 was paved.

1956 The Federal Aid Highway Act set guidelines for an Interstate Highway System.

1984 The final bit of Route 66 was replaced in Oklahoma Interstate 44, between Tulsa and Oklahoma City by the Turner Turnpike.

1990 Michael Wallis wrote *Route 66, The Mother Road*.

Go under the bridge on Denver, turn left, west on Edison. Travel under another bridge. You will see Owen Park on your left, south. As you enter the park you will see a monument that sums up a great deal of what makes Tulsa a wonderful city.

⇒ Three Nations Monument

- Turn left/north on Denver and continue until you reach Edison.
- Turn left/west on Edison and turn left/south at the entrance to Owen Park.

The Signing of the Osage Treaty is at the Oklahoma Capitol. The artist was Mike Wimmer and it was sponsored by the Tulsa World/Lorton Family.



The artwork on the monument illustrates the Indians' gifts of corn, beans, and squash.



Indian Memorial

682 feet east of this marker the territories of the Cherokee – Creek – Osage Tribes of Indians join in a common boundary point.

On June 2, 1825, the Osage Nation, under treaty with the U.S. granted certain lands to the government for the use and benefit of the Cherokee and Creek Tribes who were being removed from the southern states. This monument is to commemorate that treaty and to mark that spot where the lands of the three great Nations joined.

⇒ Owen Park

- Go through Owen Park.

You will see:

... a luxuriant bottom of meadow bordered by thickets ... WI 64

⇒ Washington Irving Monument

- Turn left/south on Quanah.
- Turn right/west on Easton and continue and circle the Washington Irving Memorial.

Turn left/south out of the park on Quanah. Quanah was named for the great Comanche leader, Quanah Parker. Turn right, west, on Easton and continue until you see the Washington Irving Monument which contains quotes from *A Tour on the Prairies*. It is dedicated to Dr. Robert Stuart MacArthur, D.D., L.L.D. and to Charles Dillon, journalist. It was erected and donated by Mr. & Mrs. Gabriel Norman Wright in 1915.



East

*It seems to me as if these beautiful regions
Answer literally to the
Description of the land of promise,
A land flowing with milk and honey.*

West

*As the night advanced we perceived above the trees to the west a ruddy glow
flushing up the sky.*

“It is at the Red Fork(Cimarron),” said Beatte .

Regarding the sky.

“It seems but three miles distant.

Yet it perhaps is twenty.”

North

If you keep along yonder, by the edge of the prairies you will come to a bald hill with a pile of stones upon it.

Well those stones were set up by the Osages as a land mark.

*From that spot you may have a sight of the
Red Fork (Cimarron).*

⇒ **Newblock Park**

- **Travel east to Union and turn right/south. Go under OK 64 and continue to the end of Union. You will come over a ridge and curve down toward Charles Page Boulevard and Newblock Park.**
- **As you look at the park, it is easy to imagine the scene on October 13, 1832 when Irving saw the “Robin Hood scene.”**
- **Turn right/west and continue west on Charles Page Boulevard.**
- **Enter and survey Newblock Park.**

Our march continued parallel to the Arkansas, through rich and varied country; sometimes we had to break our way through alluvial bottoms . . . where the gigantic trees were entangled with grape-vines, hanging like cordage from their branches; sometimes we coasted along sluggish brooks, whose feebly trickling current just served to link together a succession of glassy pools, imbedded like mirrors in the quiet bosom of the forest, reflecting its autumnal foliage, and patches of the clear blue sky. W163

⇒ **Gilcrease, America’s Museum**

- **Turn left/west on Charles Page Boulevard and continue to Gilcrease Drive.**
- **Turn right/north on Gilcrease Drive and take a side trip to Gilcrease, America’s Museum.**

Bald hill is north into the Osage Nation. Irving and company saw it, but didn’t climb it. You can see bald hill from Gilcrease, America’s Museum. To get to Gilcrease, continue on Gilcrease Drive until you see the museum on your left. America’s Museum is a stunning gift from a great Muscogee Creek Tulsan named Thomas Gilcrease.

Valley and Osage Hills | From the Vista Room | Gilcrease Museum

- 1776** A certified copy of the Declaration of Independence is here.
- 1824** The Osages hunted here and claimed this land as theirs.
- 1826** The Osages left and it became part of the Cherokee Outlet.
- 1872** The Osages came back to Tulsa.
- 1905** Land belonging to Thomas Gilcrease in Glenn Pool gushed with oil.
- 1949** Thomas Gilcrease lived in his Osage County home and opened his art collection to the public. It contained treasure after treasure.
- 1955** Thomas Gilcrease deeded his collection to Tulsa.



Stop at Gilcrease and enjoy the collection of art and history. Go to the Vista Room and look out across the valley to the Osage Hills. It is easy to spy bald hill in its grass cover among the forested hills. Enjoy Stuart Park, toward the valley to the back/west of the Museum. Here you will find the sculpture of a **Plains Grizzly** by Jim Agius and dedicated to Harold C. Stuart in 1994.

This powerful and ferocious animal is a favorite theme of hunters' story . . . his enormous claws are worn round the neck of an Indian brave as a trophy . . . The grizzly bear . . . is prone to unprovoked hostility. His prodigious size and strength make him a formidable opponent; and his great tenacity of life often baffles the skill of the hunter, notwithstanding repeated shots of the rifle, and wounds of the hunting knife. WI 158 159

⇒ Post Oak Lodge

- Turn left/north on Gilcrease Drive to continue the side trip to bald hill.
- Turn left/west on Apache.
- Turn left/north on Gilcrease Drive.
- Turn left/west on Apache.
- Angle right/north at 41st Street North.
- Travel to 31st Street North and turn left/west toward Post Oak Lodge.
- Travel to the lodge gate and from the gate to the lodge.
- You now see bald hill up close.
- Retrace your path back to Charles Page Boulevard.

To see a close-up of bald hill, take a side trip north. As you leave turn left/north on Gilcrease Museum Road. At Apache Road turn left/ west, and continue one and one half miles to 31st Street North. A sign on your left directs you to Post Oak Lodge. When you reach the gate to the lodge, travel six-tenths of a mile and stop the car. You can see bald hill and Tulsa's skyline. You can see Post Oak Lodge at the end of the road. Drive on to the lodge and park the car.

⇒ SAND SPRINGS

- Turn right/west on Charles Page Boulevard and continue to Adams Road.
- Turn right/north and continue to Drug Warehouse and turn into the east parking lot.
- Get out of your car and go to the back of the parking lot toward the highway. There you will see a bike and hiking trail which goes all the way to Tulsa. Here you will find one of the original sand springs that gave the city its name.
- Leave Sand Springs and continue west on OK 64.



As you near Sand Springs, you can look to the left/south and see the hills across the river, beautiful champaign country. You might want to read about an extraordinary man named Charles Page, the founder of Sand Springs. Notice that Sand Springs is situated on a series of highlands. The land continues this way with rolling hills and valleys. Sand Springs is named for the sand springs that were so useful to early settlers. They may also have been useful for the Tourists. Stop at a remaining spring just behind the Drug Warehouse on Adams Road and Highway 64. It was perhaps this sandy spring and this stream that welcomed Irving at 8:00 in the evening after an eventful day. Irving camped at or near the sand springs in Sand Springs on the night of October 14.

. . . we struck the Arkansas . . . still below the Red Fork, and as the river made deep bends, we again left its banks we encamped in a beautiful basin bordered by a fine stream, and shaded by clumps of lofty oaks. W165

This was the night described when you viewed the massive bronze elk on Riverside Drive in Tulsa. The young ranger McLellan was the hero of October 14 when he brought in his first elk and fed the camp.

The young huntsman . . . was the “father of the feast” . . . portions of his elk were seen roasting at every fire. W166

Early the next morning a phenomenon occurred that would occur many mornings until the flour and the energy of the young rangers just plain wore out.

. . . a youngster . . . shaking off his sleep, crowed in imitation of a cock, with a loud, clear note and prolonged cadence, that would have done credit to the most veteran chanticleer. He was immediately answered . . . as if from a rival rooster. The chant was echoed from lodge to lodge, and followed by the cackling of hens, quacking of ducks, gabbling of turkeys, and grunting of swine, until we seemed to have been transported into the midst of a farmyard . . . W167

Irving would soon reach the Cimarron and cross the Arkansas River. A buffalo hunt back and forth across today's Interstate 35 between Oklahoma City and Norman was ahead. They hungered and thirsted. They suffered through the iron hard wood and razor sharp briars of the Cross-Timbers. But as of October 15, 1832, Washington Irving left Bixby, Tulsa, and Sand Springs behind forever.

[Go to Stage 3 of the Tour ⇒](#)