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# Brady Heights tour keeps history alive



By [LUCAS OSWALT](#) World Staff Writer  
6/25/2000

Oral Roberts University history professor Paul Vickery portrays W. Tate Brady, the original owner of the Tate Brady "Arlington" Mansion, on Saturday during an anniversary celebration and historic home tour in Brady Heights.  
*JOE IVERSON / Tulsa World*

## The Tate Brady mansion is a highlight at this 20th anniversary complete with historical portrayals.

Several hundred people turned out Saturday for the Brady Heights 20th Anniversary Celebration and Historic Home Tour, getting a closer look at more than a dozen homes, two churches and the Tate Brady "Arlington" Mansion.

The mansion served as a centerpiece for the event, featuring ballroom dance demonstrations, a display by artist and educator Don Thompson, and autographed copies of John Walton's book "Tulsa's 100 Historic Homes" for sale.

But the history of the Tulsa came to life -- so to speak -- inside, as local educators narrated the history of the city through the eyes of two vastly diverse individuals.

Paul Vickery, a history professor at Oral Roberts University, portrayed mansion owner W. Tate Brady. Brady was a historic Tulsa entrepreneur and community booster during the turn of the 20th century.



Vickery told the history of Tulsa from the viewpoint of an enterprising salesman and business developer, even reciting some of the jingles that Tate used at the time.

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"Boost the goods that you are selling, boost the place where you are dwelling," Vickery said. "I boosted Tulsa throughout the nation -- politically and patriotically."

Suzan King played the part of Angie Debo, an Oklahoma historian who chronicled the plight of American Indians in several acclaimed books. King

is a professor of English at Tulsa Community College.

"I have written some good things about Tulsa, and I have written some of the worst things ever printed on a typewriter about this city," King said (portraying Debo). "Some things you might not want to hear, but I have to tell them in order to tell the truth."

The two offered a lighthearted, competing vision of the state's growth, showcasing both the tragedy and the heroism of those who inhabited this land a hundred years ago.

"We chose these characters because they show both sides of Tulsa," Vickery explained.

As Debo, King issued everyone in the audience a reading assignment -- Debo's revered piece "The Road to Disappearance: A History of the Creek Indians."

"My own personal goal is to get people to read more of her books," King said. "I hope it wakes them up to their past and gets them to think more about their history."

Waking people up to history didn't stop inside the walls of the mansion, either.

Several fliers were posted on lampposts east of the home decrying Brady's entrepreneurship and the gradual gentrification in the district.

"It was in this house that Brady held meetings of the elite Sons of the Confederate Veterans, whose purpose it was to carry on Southern heritage (i.e. white supremacy and the KKK)," the flier stated.

Both King and Vickery have experience performing regularly at Chautauqua events and "History Alive" presentations. The Oklahoma Humanities Council commissioned the duo for Saturday's event, and was a key sponsor in the 20th anniversary celebration.

"We want people to get excited about history," Vickery said. "You can't understand the present until you understand the past."

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