

# SEE YOU IN 2020 Catoosa, Oklahoma

Home of the Blue Whale on Historic Route 66

July 7-11, 2020

## 2020 Convention

### Preview #3 by David Dorman



As I prepare this article, the newest incarnation of the popular Broadway play “Oklahoma!” has just received two Tony Awards, including one for *Best Revival of a Musical* and another for actress Ali Stroker who brought the packed house to tears with an extremely powerful acceptance speech. Portraying Ado Annie in the acclaimed revival of the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, Stroker won the award for *Best Featured Actress in a Musical*, becoming the first wheelchair-bound actor to be nominated for and to win a Tony. Congratulations, Ali!

## More POCI Tours Announced

As the Indian Nations Chapter looks ahead to welcoming you to the great State of Oklahoma for the 2020 POCI Convention, we’d like to share some history surrounding the destination of



Ann Marie “Ree” Drummond

yet another of our bus tour offerings.

Join with us in Pawhuska, Oklahoma for a visit to the world renown “Pioneer Woman Mercantile” along with other attractions including restaurants, museums and more shopping.

“The Merc’s” proprietor, Ann Marie “Ree” Drummond, is a blogger, author, food writer, photographer and television personality. Her family is one of the largest land owners in the United States with a ranch covering over 400,000 acres. She spent many years renovating her combination restaurant, bakery and store which opened in October 2016, attracting many thousands of fans there each year.

The town of Pawhuska itself is located in northern Oklahoma and is known for its Native American culture. Photography, tribal objects, and artwork at the Osage Nation Museum trace the history of the area’s Osage people.



Pawnee Bill

Our tour will also stop at Pawhuska’s famous wood-planked Swinging Bridge, built in 1926 over Bird Creek.

Other downtown attractions include shopping at the Bucking’ Flamingo, The French Nest, and The Gypsy Cowgirl. Nearby restaurants include P-Town Pizza and Grill 125.

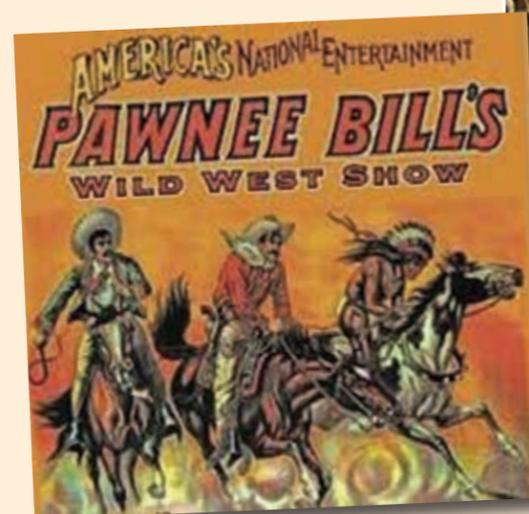
An interesting part of Oklahoma history will also be featured with our visit to Pawnee Bill’s Ranch.

Gordon William Lillie (1860–1942), was an American showman and performer who specialized in Wild West shows and was known for his partnership with William “Buffalo Bill” Cody.



Lillie had a rather unusual upbringing. At the age of 19, he was working on the Pawnee Indian agency in Indian Territory. First given the chance to work as the Pawnee interpreter with Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show in 1883, he gained the nickname “Pawnee Bill.”

Five years later, Lillie, now married, launched his own outdoor show called “Pawnee Bill’s Historic Wild West.” His wife, May, was featured in the show as the “Champion Girl Horseback Shot of the West.”



Their first season in 1888 was a financial disaster. They later re-organized as a smaller operation called “Pawnee Bill’s Historical Wild West Indian Museum and Encampment Show” which was a bit more successful.

The couple gradually expanded the show and refined the concept until, when in 1908, Pawnee Bill and Buffalo Bill joined forces to create the “Two Bills’ Show.”

In 1936, Lillie and his wife celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Later that same year upon leaving a local celebration in Tulsa, Pawnee Bill lost control of their automobile. May died as a result of her injuries and Pawnee Bill never fully recovered. He died in his sleep on February 3, 1942, at the age of 81.



Our POCI bus trip journey will include a tour of their museum and ranch home ...along with some fun surprises!

As you can tell, Oklahoma has quite a rich and colorful history, so please join us July 7-11, 2020 for an experience you will always remember!