A Great Design
The Story of the Oklahoma Flag

This musical is based on the book
“The Oklahoma Flag – Designed by a Fluke”
by Marquetta Brown

A musical play prepared by Earl Sutton,
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Cast of Characters

Soloist ............................................ Boy or Girl soloist
Pioneer Woman Statue .................. Girl for long speeches
Dr. J. B. Thoburn ........................... Dignified gentleman about 40
Mrs. Josephine Hickam .................. Self-assured lady about 50
Louise Funk Fluke ......................... Young lady about 20
                          (Must be capable of singing a solo)
Mrs. O. J. Fleming ....................... Lady about 40
Mrs. Jennie Cannon /Judge ............. Lady about 30
Mrs. Freda Hunt/Judge .................. Lady about 50
Miss Mildred Humphrey/Judge ...... Lady about 50
Gov. Martin Trapp ....................... Man of dignity about 50
Gen. Baird Markam ...................... Military Man about 55
Adj. Gen. Charles Barrett .............. Military Man about 40
George Fluke ................................ Husband of Louise about 25
Mrs. Ethel Neff ............................ Spunky lady about 65
Ladies Flag Chorus ....................... D.A.R. lady singers of any age
Ladies 1, 2, 3 ................................. Can be judge ladies or new ones
Soloist ............................................ Can be previous soloist or new one
Accompanist ................................. Can be a student or adult
Prologue: Solo: “Our Toast to Oklahoma” score on page 35

SCENE 1

TIME: 1924

SETTING: The office of the Oklahoma Historical Society with a narrator dressed in a costume as the Pioneer Woman Statue.

Pioneer Woman: (She enters, walks across the stage to examine items on stage, Illus. # 2, 3, 4, 5, plus additional artwork. She glances around, turns to realize there is an audience. Speaks from stage right.) Hello. I don’t suppose you thought you would see me here...Yes, it’s me, the Pioneer Woman. I know you expected to see me standing in Ponca City at 14th and Lake Road, on that large pedestal. Well, I’ll let you in on a secret: Sometimes, when nobody is looking, I like to climb down, stretch my legs, and see what’s going on. I represent all the pioneer women who helped to settle our great country. (Cross to center stage) The woman we are honoring today made a contribution that we use and see daily. Louise Fluke was the artist who painted the design for our state flag. In addition to honoring her, we will honor the organization that inspired her to create the flag, the Daughters of the American Revolution. The D.A.R. is one of my favorite organizations because, in a way, they are responsible for me. They conceived the “Madonna of the Trail” project. Statues of pioneer women were placed in twelve states on the wagon trails which led to the settlement of the American West. My statue was based on that idea. The statues of those ladies weren’t quite as handsome as I am, but it certainly was a worthwhile project. The D.A.R. was responsible for those statues and the current state flag of Oklahoma...the story begins just a little over 80 years ago...It was 1924 in Oklahoma City...
We find Dr. J. B. Thoburn in his office at the Oklahoma Historical Society. He has invited Mrs. Josephine Hickam, the State Regent of the Daughter of the American Revolution to come and visit with him.

(A knock on the door is heard from off stage. He stands up and opens the door).

Dr. Thoburn: Mrs. Hickam...How good of you to come. (He shows her to a chair and both are seated, Mrs. Hickam first).

Mrs. Hickam: You know I always enjoy visiting the Oklahoma Historical Society, Dr. Thoburn...And how could I resist your mysterious phone call? Just what is the important project you wanted to discuss?

Dr. Thoburn: Well, Mrs. Hickam, I wanted your help in designing a new flag for the State of Oklahoma.

Mrs. Hickam: My help??? What makes you think I could help with such a project? I’ve had no experience designing flags...aaaaaand what is wrong with the flag we have now?

Dr. Thoburn: Have you ever seen our state flag?

Mrs. Hickam: Well, let’s see...it’s... it’s kind of...like a...I’m afraid I can’t quite remember...

Dr. Thoburn: You see... that’s just it... nobody knows what the state flag looks like...and that’s because nobody ever sees it.

Mrs. Hickam: And why is that?

Dr. Thoburn: Nobody likes it. (He goes to the corner of his office where the red Oklahoma flag is hanging on a flag stand. He takes hold of the upper corner and pulls the flag out to show the pattern on it.) Here is your state flag, Mrs. Hickam.

Mrs. Hickam: (She walks over and joins him.) Why...it’s...it’s so RED!
Dr. Thoburn: And that’s part of the problem...People think it looks like a quarantine flag that warns people to keep away from homes where there is a contagious disease.

Mrs. Hickam: But those flags help prevent the spread of disease.

Dr. Thoburn: The red flag frightens people and we don’t want our state flag to frighten anyone. Then...there is the problem of the state soldiers at Fort Sill. They think it looks like the red banner of the revolution...and with all the talk about Communists and the Bolsheviks these days, the people of Oklahoma don’t want to fly this red flag. (He drops the flag so it hangs from the flag stand in the previous way. He moves over to his desk and she follows.)

Mrs. Hickam: Well...I can see their point. (She looks back at the flag. He motions for her to be seated and takes his place behind his desk.)

Dr. Thoburn: Most of all, Mrs. Hickam, it is boring...it is unimaginative. We should be able to create a flag better than that one. (He points to the flag.) A flag we all could be proud to display.

Mrs. Hickam: I agree, Dr. Thoburn...But I am afraid...I’m not a flag designer.

Dr. Thoburn: But you are the state regent of The Daughters of the American Revolution. And this is just the kind of patriotic project that the D.A.R. does so well.

Mrs. Hickam: Hmmmm...and just what would you like us to do?

Dr. Thoburn: I would like to turn this flag project over to the D.A.R. You could sponsor a statewide contest to design a new state flag. You could get all of the Oklahoma chapters involved. I’m sure some talented person could come up with a design that we all would be proud to fly...one that the state soldiers would be happy to carry as they represent our beautiful state.
Mrs. Hickam: This is quite an undertaking you are asking us to do... But I agree, it is a worthwhile project...and we really do need a new state flag (She indicates the red flag)... All I can say, Dr. Thoburn, is that I will try my best to convince the D.A.R. to take on this project.

Dr. Thoburn: I am so glad to hear you say that Mrs. Hickam. Your organization is perfect for this type of project...You know, the word “Oklahoma” comes from the Choctaw word meaning “home of the red man.” I think the state flag should reflect our Oklahoma Indian heritage.

Mrs. Hickam: You are absolutely right, Dr. Thoburn... (Both of them stand up.) Well, if you don’t mind, I am going home to start writing letters and making phone calls...I can hardly wait to get started...(Talking to herself; she walks to the door to leave.) We’ve got to get the word out ...organize the contest ...find people to judge the entries...There is a lot to be done! (She turns back to face him.) Dr. Thoburn, I am so glad you called me.

Dr. Thoburn: Well, it looks like I called the right person...Good luck, Mrs. Hickam...And don’t hesitate to call me for help...please keep me informed about your progress.

Mrs. Hickam: I certainly will Dr. Thoburn and thank you for thinking of the D.A.R. (Lights out)

Scene 2

SETTING: The seats of a trolley in 1924.

Pioneer Woman: Well, that is how it all started. Mrs. Hickam contacted all the state D.A.R. chapters and she asked Mrs. O.J. Fleming from Enid to run the State Flag contest. The word gradually spread throughout
Oklahoma. **Anyone could enter.** Louise lived in Shawnee, Oklahoma.  
(Pause) The Oklahoma Trolley Company had a line between Oklahoma City and Shawnee. The trolley stopped in Shawnee every 3 hours, all day long. Let’s see what happened at 2 p.m. at the trolley station in Shawnee.  
*(We hear the sound effect of the trolley as the lights go off the Pioneer Woman and light the trolley scene. Mrs. Hickam enters the trolley from the side. She sits facing Louise on the trolley car. Louise is holding a shopping bag. Several other ladies are seated on the trolley car...just jostling and riding along, visiting silently.)*

**Mrs. Hickam:** Louise! I was hoping I would run into you while I was in Shawnee...But I didn’t expect to meet you on the trolley!  
**Louise:** Mrs. Hickam! How nice to see you. How are things in Oklahoma City?  
**Mrs. Hickam:** Everything is fine. And how has 1924 been treating you?  
**Louise:** Oh, it has been quite exciting. You know I am engaged to be married soon!...(She holds up her ring finger to show her ring)...In December, as a matter of fact.  
**Mrs. Hickam:** Why that’s wonderful! And who is the lucky fellow?  
**Louise:** His name is George Fluke. Do you know him?  
**Mrs. Hickam:** Well...actually, no. But I know the family. They are very prominent here in Shawnee. My best wishes to you, Louise. I know you and George will be very happy.  
**Louise:** Thank you very much.  
**Mrs. Hickam:** In a way, though, *(pause)*, I am kind of sad to hear of your wedding plans.  
**Louise:** Why Mrs. Hickam, whatever do you mean?
Mrs. Hickam: I had a meeting a few days ago with Dr. Thoburn, the Research Director of the Oklahoma Historical Society, and he invited the D.A.R. to be involved with a very challenging and important new project.

Louise: And what would that be?

Mrs. Hickam: Designing a new state flag.

Louise: But, don’t we have a state flag?

Mrs. Hickam: Have you seen it?

Louise: Well...I guess not.

Mrs. Hickam: That’s the problem. Very few people have seen it. Oklahomans don’t like to fly it.

Louise: Why is that?

Mrs. Hickam: It’s...it’s actually...ugly...and it’s boring and it’s so RED. No one wants to fly it. I hate to say that, but that is the way it is.

Louise: That’s too bad Mrs. Hickam. Our state should be able to do better than that. I’m sure your project will come up with something much more attractive.

Mrs. Hickam: That is the reason I am so glad I ran into you, Louise. Mrs. Fleming of Enid has agreed to chair the contest to design a new state flag. She is going to contact all the Oklahoma D.A.R. chapters and get them involved. By the way, has anyone talked to you about it?

Louise: Yes.

Mrs. Hickam: I know you are an artist and I hope you will enter our contest, if you are not too busy with your wedding.

Louise: I learned about it from my mother after she attended the D.A.R. meeting last week. It sounds like a very challenging project...but with my wedding coming up, I am going to be very busy.
Mrs. Hickam: I understand ... But Louise you are one of the best artists in our state. You have had artistic training, in New York City, Chicago...real painting and design experience. You must create a flag entry for us. Your design might be chosen.

Louise: I’ll think about it, Mrs. Hickam, I truly will. And if I can find the time, maybe I can paint a design.

Mrs. Hickam: That would make me very happy, Louise. Please give it some serious thought.

Louise: I will... (She stands.) Well, this is where I get off. Have a nice trip back to Oklahoma City, Mrs. Hickam.

Mrs. Hickam: It was a pleasure talking with you, Louise... Goodbye. (Louise gets off the trolley. All the ladies leave the trolley. Dissolve the trolley scene with the trolley bell sound effect in the background.)

Scene 3

SETTING: A gallery in the Oklahoma Historical Society Building.

Pioneer Woman: That is how it all began, there in Shawnee. Louise decided to look into the flag project. She didn’t sit down and start making sketches. She did research at the Oklahoma City Carnegie Library, as well as at the Oklahoma Historical Society in the basement of the State Capitol Building in Oklahoma City. She was very interested in Oklahoma Indian lore. One day at the Historical Society, she came across an old Osage War shield.
(Lights out on the Pioneer Woman – lights up on Louise at the library table doing research.) Illus. # 2, 3, 4, 5 plus artwork from scene 3 listed as properties on page 24. (Louise gets up and walks from display to display taking a moment to make a drawing in her notebook...turning the page after each drawing.)

**Louise:** (Thinking out loud to herself) I’ve read hundreds of pages of Oklahoma history, I’ve studied all the lore I could find, I’ve looked at all the exhibits here at the Historical Society, and I keep coming back to this old Osage War Shield Illus. #3. (She walks to the shield displayed on the wall and checks her sketch in her notepad.) The other thing I like is this old Indian peace pipe. Illus. #4. (She points at the pipe and checks her notepad.) It is wonderful that there is finally peace after so many wars were fought in the west as it was settled. Illus. #5. (She walks to the Civil War flag.) I am also very intrigued by this large Choctaw flag that was carried during the Civil War. If I can work these things into a flag design...I just might have something. Let me think...what I need is a symbol of the white man’s **peace**...the universal peace symbol is the olive branch. **That’s it!**...the olive branch and the peace pipe. (Louise puts on her coat, picks up her belongings and walks into the scene that is her artist studio. She takes off her coat, and puts on her paint smock. She picks up her palette and brushes and starts to paint on the canvas at her easel, talking as she paints.) Dr. Thoburn says the symbols on the war shield were considered “good medicine” by the warriors ...they felt the symbols protected them. The crosses on the shield represent the stars...and I like the idea of the calumet...the peace pipe. The ceremony of smoking the peace pipe is the Indian’s way to show they have peace between nations.
(She looks back at her sketch notepad)...like...oh yes, the olive branch! 
Now if I could find something to pull all these symbols together...(She takes time to look, paint, look, etc.) Yes...we might have a flag that says something about Oklahoma and its heritage. Yes, that would work. 
(Louise continues to paint at her easel. She sings as she paints.)

Louise solo: “My State, Oklahoma”  

(Hold for applause)

Scene 4

SETTING: Meeting room with long table

(The three lady judges are standing behind a long table, silently visiting or may enter together silently visiting. Lights up for Pioneer Woman, who has appeared on the other side of the stage.)

Pioneer Woman: Louise made three final sketches and submitted them to the contest. In a couple of months the D.A.R. judging committee met to judge the entries; and select the three final designs to send to the state judging committee.

(Dr. Thoburn enters from one side to greet each of the ladies. Then Mrs. Hickam enters from the other side with all of the 9.5” X 12.5” flag entries in her arms. She places the entries on the table.) Illus. #6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 plus any additional design choices made as props.

Mrs. Hickam: As you know, we are here today to look at all the entries submitted for the new State Flag Contest. Mrs. Fleming, you have done a wonderful job of heading our flag project. Thank you for being so helpful.
Mrs. Fleming: I have enjoyed this assignment. It has helped me meet so many good people in Oklahoma. We must narrow the choices down to three finalists before we submit them to the judges who are appointed by the Governor.

Mrs. Hickam: We must make some hard choices – There were excellent designs submitted.

Mrs. Fleming: Let’s go through the entries and make two stacks – one for designs we like...and another stack of the other entries. (They all begin deciding “yes or no” on each contest entry. Have area on the table for “yes” and “no” selections. All of the ladies shake their heads in agreement with Mrs. Fleming. One lady holds up each flag entry for the audience and actors to see the flag design on it. A second lady takes that entry and puts it in the correct stack of pictures. Repeat action until all entries are shown.)

(Comments may be made...such as)

Mrs. Fleming: I don’t care for the colors.

Lady #1: Illus. #6. I think that looks like the flag of another country.

Lady #3: Let’s keep looking.

Lady #2: Illus. #7. What does that design mean?

Lady #1: It must mean we are the 46th state to enter the Union.

Dr. Thoburn: (He likes one of the non-illustrated entries.) That is very nice. The colors and symbols are easy to understand.

Mrs. Fleming: (Picks up a non-illustrated entry that is similar to the American flag.) This looks too much like the American flag.

Lady #3: Illus. #8. Oh look, our state bird.
Dr. Thoburn: [Illus. #9] (Looking at the entry with an Indian headdress in the flag’s center.) Oh, look! There is no more recognized symbol of the Indian than the feather headdress. Let’s put it in the “best choice” stack.

Lady #2: I like that too.

Mrs. Fleming: (Picks up example of a non-illustrated flag with mistletoe on it.) The mistletoe is too plain. People in other states won’t know that is the Oklahoma state flower.

Mrs. Hickam: [Illus. #10] I like the buffalo entry.

Lady #1: [Illus. #11] This is a pretty picture of our state.

Lady #3: [Illus. #11] It is only the outline of the state. I vote no.

Lady #2: [Illus. #12] Purple is just not a color that represents our state.

Mrs. Fleming: (Picks up a non-illustrated flag design.) This one will not work.

(When judges come to Louise’s 9.5 x 12.5 inch sketch, they all nod in agreement).

Lady #3: [Illus. #13] This is a lovely blue color...it looks like the sky.

Lady #2: [Illus. #13] I like the Indian war shield.

Mrs. Fleming: This design represents peace with the olive branch and the peace pipe. Three very good ideas.

Lady #1: We should put it in the “best choice” stack for the state judges.

(Judges keep evaluating entries until all are seen. Judges finish their work and end up with the three “best choice” entries in a stack.

[Illus. #9, 10, 13] Mrs. Hickam picks up the “best choice” entry stack.)

Mrs. Hickam: Are we all in agreement with these three designs? (All of the ladies shake their heads “yes”.)
Dr. Thoburn: I believe we are.
Mrs. Fleming: Oh, yes, we all agree.
Mrs. Hickam: Dr. Thoburn, I hope you are pleased with these selections. *(She hands the three to him.)* Will you deliver the final three to the Governor’s office?
Dr. Thoburn: I would be happy to do that.
Mrs. Hickam: Ladies, thank you for helping on this flag project. You have made my job as a D.A.R. Regent easier during this contest.
Dr. Thoburn: Oh, yes, any of these would make a meaningful flag for Oklahoma. *(Dr. Thoburn walks toward another table that represents the governor’s office. Lights out.)*

**Scene 5**

**Time:** Three days later

**Setting:** The Governor’s Office

*(The Governor is standing behind the table as the lights come up. Each man enters and salutes the Governor, then removes his hat, shakes hands with the Governor and speaks a greeting. The three men are standing behind the table when Dr. Thoburn enters. They remain unmoving as the light also comes up on the Pioneer Woman.)*

**Pioneer Woman:** The judges were Governor Martin Trapp, General Baird Markam of the National Guard and Adjutant General Charles F. Barrett. As
commander of the National Guard, General Markam was very aware of the problem created by the first state flag of Oklahoma which looked so much like the Russian flag...or a quarantine flag.

**Dr. Thoburn:** Good day, Governor, gentlemen. Here are three choices for our new flag. They are excellent. *(Dr. Thoburn places the three entries on the table for the men.)* [Illus. #9, 10, 13]

**Gov. Trapp:** Gentlemen, I am delighted that you have agreed to serve on this selection committee. Dr. Thoburn has asked us to make the final choice from these designs. The three finalists were sent to us from the statewide competition held by the Oklahoma Daughters of the American Revolution. Any of these will be an improvement on the current flag...I am sure.

**Barrett:** I see that the designs all try to show something about our state and its history.

**Markam:** [Illus. #10] This one has a buffalo on it. That certainly is one of the symbols of Indian Territory before statehood.

**Barrett:** What do you think the four stars stand for on that one with the buffalo? When one looks at it, there isn’t much connection between the four stars and a buffalo.

**Gov. Trapp:** [Illus. #9] This one has an Indian headdress on it.

**Markam:** The yellow background is not as pleasing as the blue one.

**Barrett:** I especially like the blue background, which represents the beautiful Oklahoma sky.

**Markam:** [Illus. #13] This has the peace pipe and the olive branch across the war shield.

**Barrett:** The peace pipe is certainly a symbol of peace to all Oklahomans.
Markam: Yes, this entry represents “peace”...the peace of the white man and the red man.

Gov. Trapp: I think we are all in agreement then. Gentlemen, please accept my thanks for helping with the selection of the new flag for the state of Oklahoma. I feel we have made an excellent choice. A flag all the citizens will be proud to display. (The Governor then shakes hands with each man and goes to the telephone. The men leave.)

Scene 6

SETTING: The governor’s office with telephone.

Gov. Trapp: (The Governor picks up the phone.) Shawnee, Oklahoma. Number three, eight, seven. Please. (Lights come up on Louise’s studio and the phone rings. Louise picks up the telephone.)

Louise: Hello.

Gov. Trapp: Mrs. Louise Fluke?

Louise: Speaking.

Gov. Trapp: This is Governor Trapp calling from the Capitol Building. How are you this afternoon?

Louise: Fine, thank you.

Gov. Trapp: [Illus. #13] (He holds up her design.) I would like to thank you for submitting your designs for a new state flag. I can see that you have worked very hard on your design. It shows that you put a lot of thought and research into your choice of symbols. It is my pleasure to inform you that
your entry of the blue flag with the war shield has been selected for the new flag of Oklahoma.

**Louise:** Oh, that is wonderful Governor Trapp. *(Louise smiles and holds up her identical sketch. [Illus. #13] (She is very happy.)*

**Gov. Trapp:** You are to be commended for your artistic work. I have another request to make of you. I want to ask if you would please paint a new flag on fabric as soon as possible with your design. We would like to it fly over our State Capitol Building, as soon as it is adopted by the Legislature.

**Louise:** Yes, what an honor. I will get the flag painted as soon as I can. My flag over the State Capitol?

**Gov. Trapp:** Yes, ma’am. Thank you for entering the flag contest … and for agreeing to paint a flag for the Capitol. Your dedication... and service to the state of Oklahoma are much appreciated. *(Lights go off on the Governor’s Office but remain on Louise.)*

**Louise:** *(She holds a copy of her design as she talks loudly.)* [Illus. #13] George, honey, you’ll be amazed when I tell you who just called me. That was the Governor of Oklahoma on the phone. The judges have chosen one of my designs for the state flag. *(She holds up her copy of the design.)* They picked the one with the blue background, the war shield with the feathers, the peace pipe and the olive branch to be the new state flag. I am so excited!

**George:** (He enters.) I am proud of you. That was my choice of the entries you painted.

**Louise:** That was my favorite.

**George:** I thought your design would be selected.
Louise: Oh, I am so happy. Our flag won’t look like any other state flag in the whole United States of America. (The lights go off Louise and come up on the Pioneer Woman.)

Pioneer Woman: So that is how it all happened. The State Legislature adopted Louise Fluke’s design as the official state flag of Oklahoma on April 2, 1925, over 80 years ago. The new flag painted by Louise Fluke flew over the State Capitol the day that the legislature adopted it. Soon new flags were made for the entire state. Louise’s hand painted silk flag was returned to her as a keepsake.

*The next two sentences should be cut from the script when using the alternate ending.*

*But that is not the end of the story. In 1937, the ladies of the D.A.R. had a battle on their hands.*

Scene 7

SETTING: Louise Fluke’s studio. 1937.

(Louise is standing by her painting easel, she is holding the telephone.)

Mrs. Neff: (Phone rings at Mrs. Neff’s scene. She walks to the phone and picks up the handset.) Hello.

Louise: Mrs. Neff, this is Louise Fluke.

Mrs. Neff: Hello, Louise. How nice to hear from you.

Louise: Congratulations! I am so happy you were elected as our new state regent.

Mrs. Neff: Oh, thank you, Louise. How kind of you to call.

Louise: Since you are the Oklahoma D.A.R. Regent, I thought you should know...there is a resolution in the Legislature to change the Oklahoma flag.
Mrs. Neff: What are you talking about Louise?

Louise: My mother, in Shawnee, just looked at the Senate calendar. There will be a resolution introduced next Monday to do away with the present state flag. It will be replaced with a flag that has the state seal on a blue background.

Mrs. Neff: And who is going to do that?

Louise: It is Senator Whitaker from Eufaula. He is the one who is sponsoring the change.

Mrs. Neff: Why do you think he is introducing this change?

Louise: He thinks the Seal of Oklahoma will make a better flag.

Mrs. Neff: We need to see about this. Monday, you say?

Louise: Yes, Ma’am.

Mrs. Neff: That does not give us much time. Today is Friday, this means we only have the weekend to get organized.

Louise: Who do you know at the capitol that would help us?

Mrs. Neff: (She pauses to think for a moment.) There is Senator Nat Taylor of Strong City. Just last week the D.A.R. members helped him get enough votes to pass legislation designating the Red Bud as our state tree.

Louise: He sounds like the person who would help us.

Mrs. Neff: I will phone some of the Daughters...we will go to the Capitol Monday morning to visit all the legislators, one at a time.

Louise: I will prepare information about the flag to hand out. I am sure a carload of Ponca City members will be glad to come with me. We will meet you on the Capitol steps on Monday morning, 10 a.m. sharp.

Mrs. Neff: Wonderful! I will start calling chapter Regents and see how many Daughters can travel to Oklahoma City to help us. We need to make the legislators realize the beauty of our flag as you painted it.
Scene 8

SETTING: Steps of the Capitol Building

(Ladies entering from both sides and gather as a group, visiting. As Louise speaks the women continue visiting silently.)

Louise: Hello, Mrs. Neff.

Mrs. Neff: Oh, Louise, I am so glad the Ponca City delegation is here! We need all the help we can get. We need to plead with the legislators to save our state flag. Can you believe all these ladies are joining us here at the Capitol?

Louise: It is a long drive from Ponca City to Oklahoma City, Mrs. Neff, but nothing could keep us away!

Mrs. Neff: When you told me there was a bill introduced in the Senate to change the flag, I waaaas...shocked!!!...and bewildered.

Lady #1: Why on earth would they want to change the flag?

Mrs. Neff: Oh, it is Senator Whitaker from Eufaula. He wants to change the flag from Louise’s artistic creation, to one consisting of only the Great Seal of Oklahoma.

Louise: Why???

Mrs. Neff: I understand that no one can tell that your flag design represents Oklahoma. And even more surprising...General Barrett, who was on the original flag selection committee...he is backing Senator Whitaker’s efforts.

Lady #1: I can’t believe all this.
Louise: That is surprising...I remember General Barrett seemed so pleased with my design when he was on the selection committee in 1924. We need to remind him of that.

Lady #2: Well I certainly don’t understand it...why, if people adopt his new idea, our flag will look just like the flag of TEXAS...(All the ladies stop talking and quickly look at her in surprise.) You know, the one with the big star in the center.

Lady #3: Do you want to be marching in some big parade and have everyone think we are from Texas?

Lady #2: I should say NOT!

Mrs. Neff: I am thankful that Louise brought this bill to our attention... we must talk with every legislator we can find this morning. If we visit the legislative session, those men will know we support our flag as it was adopted in 1925!

Lady #3: Citizens can make a difference when they get involved.

(Each lady brings out her small Oklahoma Flag and waves it and sings.)

SONG “Wave That Flag” score on page 45

(Hold for applause, then light the Pioneer Woman on the side of stage.)

Pioneer Woman: Well, the ladies were right. They visited with the Senators and the bill was ultimately withdrawn. Louise’s design remained the official flag of Oklahoma. In 1941 the Oklahoma legislature voted to add the word OKLAHOMA on the bottom of the flag. (Pauses) On April 7, 2005 the original flag was returned to Oklahoma. George Fluke, Louise’s son, treasured it all these years. The family had it encased in a protective frame. He and his family donated the original hand painted flag to the State Capitol Building. It is displayed for people to view. (Pauses) Now you know all about the state flag of Oklahoma. You can see why all of us
owe a debt of gratitude to Louise Fluke and the D.A.R. (She walks to center stage.) Some times people would refer to Louise as Oklahoma’s “Betsy Ross”... but I will never forget what Louise would always say to that. (A small spot light shines on Louise’s face only.)

Louise: I don’t like being compared to Betsy Ross...she was a seamstress; I AM AN ARTIST!

Pioneer Woman: As we end our program I invite you to join in the pledge of allegiance to the flag of Oklahoma. Would you please stand?

  Attention.
  Salute.
  Pledge.

| Everyone: | I salute the flag of the State of Oklahoma. |
|           | Its symbols of peace unite all people. |

Pioneer Woman: Please be seated.

SONG: “Oklahoma, My Native Land”
      (official children’s state song)
      Composer: Martha Kemm Barrett

SONG: “Oklahoma” (audience please stand for state song)
      Composer: Richard Rodgers

THE END
Alternate ending to the play. If Scene 7 and 8 are omitted to shorten performance time, use the following ending.

Pioneer Woman: In 1941, the Oklahoma Legislature added the word OKLAHOMA underneath the shield of the flag. (Pause) Today I am so pleased to announce that the flag was brought back to the Oklahoma State Capitol in 2005. Louise Fluke’s son had treasured it for many years. The family had it encased in a protective frame. The George Fluke family returned it to our State Capitol and donated the original hand painted flag to the citizens of Oklahoma. Mrs. Fluke’s first flag, which flew over the Capitol in 1925, now hangs in the rotunda area of the State Capitol of Oklahoma for all guests to see. Now, would you please stand and join me in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of Oklahoma.
Attention. Salute. Pledge.

Everyone: I salute the flag of the State of Oklahoma.
Its symbols of peace unite all people.

Pioneer Woman: Please be seated.

SONG: “Oklahoma, My Native Land”
(official children’s state song)
Composer: Martha Kemm Barrett

SONG: “Oklahoma” (audience please stand for state song)
Composer: Richard Rodgers

THE END

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**Production Notes:** In this script two endings of the play are available. You may use the alternate ending if the complete play is too long for your use.

**Costumes:** Designed to match year of each scene.

**Length of Play:** Entire play is one hour. Short version (using alternate ending) is 45 minutes long.

Illustration photos of some characters are shown following the List of Properties.

**List of Properties:**

**Scene 1**
- Woman dressed as pioneer woman with a book in hand.
- Two chairs
- Flag 45”x 60” on red cloth with star and the number 46. *Illus. #1 and using 1B star template.*
- Flag stand for this flag. *Illus. #1A.*
- *Illus. # 2, 3, 4, 5, plus additional artwork of choice.*

**Scene 2**
- Shopping bag with store name on the side for Louise.
- Sound effect trolley (cable car) bell. Available at [www.office.microsoft.com/clipart](http://www.office.microsoft.com/clipart) sounds – cable car
- Engagement ring for Louise.
- Chairs to create the seats of the “pretend” trolley.

**Scene 3**
- Indian Peace Pipe on a display stand. *Illus. #4.*
- Artist sketch pad the size of a clipboard.
- Choctaw Civil War Flag in a picture frame. *Illus. #5.*
- Osage War Shield *Illus. #3.* *(Looks like the one on the Oklahoma flag.)*
- Osage War Shield *Illus. #2.* *(Same size as *Illus. #3.* but with another design.)*
- Portrait of an Indian Chief
- Portrait of an Indian child
- Painting of a western scene

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– Indian War bonnet on a stand
– Painting of a buffalo
– Coat, purse and gloves for Louise
– Paint smock
– Canvas and art easel where Louise can stand and paint
– Pallet and brushes

Scene 4

– [Illus. #6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 plus others] A total of 12 to 15 sheets of paper, 9.5” x 12.5”, with a variety of student created flag designs painted on paper.
– Hats, gloves and purses for ladies.
– Table for judging the flags

Scene 5

– The three “best choice” entries from Scene IV. [Illus. #9, 10, 13]
– Additional table

Scene 6

– Telephone for the Governor.
– [www.office.microsoft.com/clipart](http://www.office.microsoft.com/clipart) sounds – phone – Old Phone Ring5
– Telephone for Louise.
– Duplicate of the 9.5 by 12.5 inch entry with the design selected for the flag on it (for Louise). [Illus. #13]

Scene 7

– Canvas and paint easel.
– Louise telephone.
– [www.office.microsoft.com/clipart](http://www.office.microsoft.com/clipart) sounds – phone – Old Phone Ring4
– Mrs. Neff telephone.
– One small Oklahoma Flag, 3” x 5” on a 10 inch stick for each singer to wave.

Scene 8

– One small Oklahoma Flag, 3” x 5” on a 10 inch stick for each singer to wave.
– One large current flag of Oklahoma in a flag stand.

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Set Design Suggestions: An open stage with five “acting” areas. Alternate use of the five areas happens with lights that light each area independently.

Area A  Seats of the trolley car  
Area B  Meeting room with table, changing to Mrs. Neff's house  
Area C  Louise’s artist studio  
Area D  Governors office  
Area E  Historical Society Museum Gallery

Scene 1  Use Area E and Area D  
Scene 2  Use Area A  
Scene 3  Use Area E moving to Area C  
Scene 4  Use Area B  
Scene 5  Area E  
Scene 6  Area D and Area C  
Scene 7  Area B an Area C  
Scene 8  Area E with artwork unlighted – curtain 1/3 closed – cast near front of stage in front of artwork display.
Thank you for making this play possible

Mr. and Mrs. George Fluke
Donors of the Official State Flag of Oklahoma

Marquetta Brown
Author of the monograph on which the play is based

Leslie Alton Rardin
Director, writer and editor

Earl Sutton
Script writer

Suzi Lenhart
Composer

Clyde Otipoby
Creator of examples of the Native American artwork used in the play

Pioneer Technology Center – Ponca City, OK
Faculty and students

Research Division of the Oklahoma Historical Society
Oklahoma City, OK

Ponca City Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution
A Project of the Commemorative Events Committee 2007

Chairwoman: Karen Smith Hunter
khunter54@cableone.net

By the Ponca City Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution

To be used only in the educational and historical venues

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Illustrations

| Illus. #1  | State flag from 1911 to 1925  
|           | 13000 OK State first flag  
|           | © Research Division of the Oklahoma Historical Society |
| Illus. #1A | State flag in stand |
| Illus. #1B | 5 pointed star pattern to use in the construction of flag above |
| Illus. #2  | Sample of war shield on display which was in the Historical Society during the 1920’s |
| Illus. #3  | Photo of the “Osage war shield” Louise saw at the Historical Society  
<p>|           | © Research Division of the Oklahoma Historical Society |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Illus. #4</th>
<th>Design of a peace pipe which she might have seen in the Historical Society</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Illus. #5</td>
<td>Choctaw Civil War flag in frame</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illus. #6</td>
<td>Red, white and green flag design (on 9.5” x 12.5” paper)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illus. #7</td>
<td>Black and gold design with 46 (on 9.5” x 12.5” paper)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illus. #8</td>
<td>Scissortail flycatcher bird flag design (on 9.5” x 12.5” paper)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illus. #9</td>
<td>Indian headdress flag design (on 9.5” x 12.5” paper)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Illus. #10 | Buffalo and 4 stars flag design  
(on 9.5” x 12.5” paper) |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Illus. #11 | State of Oklahoma outline flag design  
(on 9.5” x 12.5” paper) |
| Illus. #12 | Gold and purple flag with OKLAHOMA in center of design  
(on 9.5” x 12.5” paper) |
| Illus. #13 | Example of design Louise painted  
(on 9.5” x 12.5” paper)  
Courtesy of the George Fluke family |
| Illus. #14 | Outline of Louise’s design that can be used to color or paint  
Courtesy of the George Fluke family |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Illus. #15</th>
<th>Louise Fluke as a young woman</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Courtesy of the George Fluke family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illus. #16</td>
<td>Dr. Joseph Thoburn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>© Research Division of the Oklahoma Historical Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illus. #17</td>
<td>Gov. Martin Trapp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>© Research Division of the Oklahoma Historical Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illus. #18</td>
<td>Gen. Baird Markam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>© Research Division of the Oklahoma Historical Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illus. #19</td>
<td>Adj. Gen. Charles Barrett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>© Research Division of the Oklahoma Historical Society</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Illus. #20</th>
<th>Pioneer Woman</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Illus. #21</th>
<th>Seal of Oklahoma</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11796 Great Seal of OK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>© Research Division of the Oklahoma Historical Society</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Illus. #22</th>
<th>Photo of the original flag in the rotunda of the OK State Capitol.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Donated by the Fluke family in 2005</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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(Continued on next page)
Accompaniment to songs and a melody recording are embedded as MIDI files in this document.

If you are unable to hear the songs, check your sound card or contact your systems administrator.

Please click to hear recording.

1. “Our Toast to Oklahoma” accompaniment
   1A. “Our Toast to Oklahoma” melody
2. “My State, Oklahoma” accompaniment
   2A. “My State, Oklahoma” melody
3. “Wave that Flag” accompaniment
   3A. “Wave that Flag” melody

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Additional resources written for adults:

An Oklahoma Flag Designed by a Fluke, Marquetta Griswold Brown, Ponca City, OK, published 1996.

Oklahoma Flags, vertical file, Library Resource Division of the Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, OK


The Oklahoma Almanac, The Fourteen Flags Over Oklahoma section.

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Our Toast to Oklahoma

Music: Suzi Lenhart & Leslie Rardin
Text: Earl Sutton

1. Here's to the sunshine
2. Here's to the land that's near and dear.
3. Here's to the people, strong and true.

on our rolling hills and blue skies we hold dear, our Oklahoma.

Here's to our joy, the fairest daughter of the land, wide, wide their

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Our Toast to Oklahoma/Pg.2

west. quest.
Here's to the flowing rivers and green mountains

so hom high.
Here's to Oklahoma

Home sweet home we love the land that God has rich'ly blessed.

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Our Toast to Oklahoma/Pg.3

See endless golden wheat waving all around,
Hear katydid and locust as the sun goes down,
(\textit{a tempo})

See fields of cotton bloom neath the southern sky.
(\textit{even eighth notes})

See birds singing evening song neath the crimson sky.

See cattle moving slowly 'cross the prairie ground,
At night the lonely coyotes sing their mournful sound,
Our Toast to Oklahoma/Pg.4

Vo

25
26
27
28
CODA

This will be our home until we die.
Ok-la-ho-ma prair-ie lul-la by.

rit
3rd time, Repeat vs 2 to Coda

Pno.

Here's to our state and the land that God has rich-ly blessed.
My State, Oklahoma

Music: Suzi Lenhart & Leslie Rardin
Text: Earl Sutton, Leslie Rardin, Suzi Lenhart

\[ \text{\textit{Look out my window and}} \]

\[ \text{\textit{what do I find, but the beauty of nature that}} \]

\[ \text{\textit{colors my mind. Red for the earth like the}} \]

\[ \text{\textit{sunsets bright hue, Golden the wheat fields now}} \]
My State, Oklahoma/Pg.2

17. spark - l'ing with dew. agitated

19. As I dip my paint brush I

21. think of brave ones who came to make a life on this

23. tough prai - rie sod.

25. In - dians from Ne -

27. bras - ka and the Ca - ro - lines.
Settlers who waited for the shot to cross the line.

My task is to capture what happened back then. Can I capture the spirit of women and men? Place on this canvas our
My State, Oklahoma/Pg.5

land. Farmers from Missouri, and cow-boys who

roam. Folks who had yearned for a great

place they could call home.

Art can show us beauty, sunset and sunrise. But can
art describe courage and history's ties?

This is my challenge, the task that remains, a

flag for Oklahoma, the queen of the plains!
Wave that Flag

Words & Music: Suzi Lenhart & Leslie Rardin

$\text{\textcopyright 2007}$
Wave that Flag/Pg.2

ve

shield from the O-sagein-dian tribe; A field of blue like the Ok-la-ho-ma

Pno.

ve

sky; The o-live branch with In-dian peace pipe in-ter-

Pno.

ve

twined. A flag for OK-LA

Pno.
Wave that Flag/Pg.3

HO - MA, It's a perfect flag design.

Come on and wave, wave it high, Come on and

wave, wave it to the sky. Come on and wave, wave it in your
Wave that Flag/Pg.4

hand, Cause it's the best flag in all this mighty land. 'cause it's the

best flag in all this mighty land.

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A Great Design
The Story of the Oklahoma Flag

Featuring students in the ____ grade

Date:
Time:
School Name:
School Address:

FREE Admittance
Everyone Welcome

A musical made possible by historians of northern Oklahoma.
Our goal is that children will love the stories of early Oklahoma citizens.
A project of the Ponca City Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, 2007.
The musical was prepared by Earl Sutton, Leslie Aton Rardin, Suzi Lenhart and Karen Smith Hunter of Ponca City, OK
Press Release for the play

*A Great Design – The Story of the Oklahoma Flag*

(Teachers – place details about the performance here).

Date:

Time:

Place/Location:

School:

Class:

Teacher’s name:

Principal’s name:

The musical play, *A Great Design – The Story of the Oklahoma Flag* is a collaborative effort by historians, artists, musicians, students and teachers from Ponca City for the 80th anniversary celebration of the historic flag. The original performance took place in Ponca City, April 2, 2005.

On April 7, 2005, the George Fluke family of Houston, Texas, donated the large silk flag, which flew over the Oklahoma State Capitol in 1925, to the citizens of our state during a ceremony in the Governor’s Blue Room. Preserved in a pressurized frame it is now on display in the rotunda area of the State Capitol of Oklahoma.

The play is based on information included in the monograph *The Oklahoma Flag – Designed by a Fluke* written by Marquetta Brown in 1996. Mrs. Brown a long-time resident of Ponca City now resides in Oklahoma City. Earl Sutton of Ponca City wrote the script from that historical account.

The Oklahoma state flag has a very interesting history. The story is told about the need for a new Oklahoma flag in 1924. The first state flag of Oklahoma, which had been adopted in 1911, was a red banner. It became unacceptable to the
Oklahoma military personnel because it resembled the Bolshevik flag and the red quarantine flag used in that era. That concern created a need for a new flag, a banner which citizens and military would be proud to display.

*A Great Design – The Story of the Oklahoma Flag*, the story of the contest, judging and acceptance of the beautiful new state flag, is told by many historic characters throughout the play. The “Pioneer Woman” of Ponca City provides the narration as other historical characters reveal their part in Oklahoma history. Louise (Funk) Fluke, a beautiful, young, highly trained artist who grew up in Shawnee, Oklahoma, was the winner of a state flag contest sponsored by the Oklahoma Daughters of the American Revolution in 1925.

The play includes three original musical compositions, prepared for children’s performance. They were composed by Suzi Lenhart, Leslie Aton Rardin and Earl Sutton.

The play, a gift to the children of Oklahoma during the Oklahoma Centennial, has but one goal: to teach children about the Oklahoma citizens who shaped our state and the lasting impact they had on our young state during the first 100 years.

*A Great Design – The Story of the Oklahoma Flag* was a project of the Commemorative Events Committee of the Ponca City Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, 2007, Karen Smith Hunter, chairwoman.
Word List:

Daughters  shield  emblem  seal  American
Osage  Louise  flag  Fluke  Oklahoma
OUR OKLAHOMA FLAG

NAME: ___________________________ DATE: ____________

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CITIZENS
COMMITTEE
HISTORICAL
STATE
CONTEST
DESIGNS
NATION
SHIELD
PIPE
OLIVE
OSAGE

CITY
LOUISE
FLUKE
RECIPE
ART
SHAWNEE
PONCA
LEGISLATURE
COOK
SEAL
PROTEST

SENATE
GOVERNOR
STATEHOOD
HOMES
EMBLEM
OKLAHOMA
FLAG
DAUGHTERS
AMERICAN
REVOLUTION
INDIAN
If she were alive today, what question would you like to ask Mrs. Fluke?

In the 4 boxes, draw 4 symbols you would put on a flag if it was your job to design a flag today.

List 4 major technology changes which occurred during Mrs. Fluke’s lifetime – 1900 to 1986.

Mrs. Fluke designed the flag in 1925. Please list the names of 4 people who would have been alive in 1925.
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