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## **HISTORIC BUICK MEDIA RELEASE**

The 1911 Buick building was the first automobile showroom built on Broadway in Downtown Oklahoma City, where some 60 showrooms would appear over the next decade. RED Prime Steak returns the elegant Buick to its glamorous heyday.

Today the building is just four blocks from Bricktown, a bustling entertainment area born as Oklahoma City's 19<sup>th</sup>-century warehouse district. The Buick is the same short distance from the newly restored historic Skirvin-Hilton, also built in 1911.

Around 1916 — when automobiles first outnumbered horse-drawn carriages in OKC, local residents dubbed the area Automobile Alley. It was one of the first downtown districts designated. The Buick is one of many buildings with ample parking along the Alley.

Rand and Jeanette Elliott purchased the Buick in 1999 and completed a meticulous restoration of the original façade based on historical photos. While the elegant limestone remained in excellent condition, plywood had covered the street-level storefront for decades.

Today, historically accurate ribbed glass transoms embellish the facade and a new copper entrance awning built to match the ornate original welcomes visitors. Inside, the original skylights were replaced and a new roof was installed. The building's unique original automobile elevator and an adjacent "turntable" (used to maneuver autos into the elevator) are intact.

The grand storefront embodies the luxury that showcased early automobiles. Built by the Buick Corporation of Detroit, the street-level space was, in every sense, a "showroom." The second story held new inventory, and the basement level served as the service facility, accessed from the rear alley.

### **FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CALL:**

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