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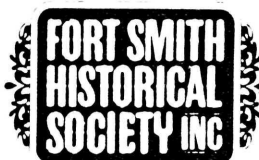
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COVER: Ruins of Fort Smith High School after tornado of 1898.
Courtesy Ken Christopher.

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National Weather Service

Fort Smith, Arkansas

1821 - 1986

Walter L. Newman, Weather Observer
at Fort Smith 1962-1984

Foreword

In the following pages an attempt has been made to set down a history of weather observations and the observers at Fort Smith from the early days when there were not even any instruments to be used to the present days of high speed communications and sophisticated electronic instrumentation.

It is a history which had a beginning, but hopefully will not have an end, although the players and their stage will constantly change. We are, at the same time, the last of a long line of weathermen and women and the forerunners of many more to come.

My thanks are extended to those who have preceded me and have been a part of the history of the Weather Service. My thanks also to those individuals who kept many old records and books intact so that those of a younger generation can look back and see what it was like in those days.

I would like to thank Mrs. Amelia Martin for permission to use some biographical information concerning the early Post Surgeons, from her book "Physicians and Medicine, Crawford and Sebastian Counties, 1817-1976."

The National Park Service has kindly provided information concerning the location of the Signal Service Office in 1882.

A different version of this history was printed in the *Southwest Times Record* in its issues of June 15, June 22 and July 4, 1975.

Part 1 The U.S. Army Post Surgeons

Man has been concerned with weather throughout most of his existence. There are many references to weather signs in the Bible. It was not until the invention of the thermometer and barometer that weather observations could be put on a scientific basis.

In 1653, Ferdinand II of Tuscany established observation stations in Northern Italy and tried unsuccessfully to promote an international meteorological system. In Colonial America, many individuals kept weather records. The Reverend John Campanius Holm made observations in 1644-45 at Swedes Fort near present day Wilmington, Delaware. Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin

kept records and made studies of storm movements. Jefferson knew that simultaneous weather observations were necessary for a better knowledge of weather. He had a plan for providing weather instruments to some person in every county of Virginia so a regular statewide record could be maintained. He envisioned that his idea could be extended to every state.

The first time any United States governmental agency acted officially in regard to weather observations was on May 2, 1814. An order by Dr. James Tilton, Surgeon General of the U.S. Army, directed hospital surgeons of the Army to keep a weather diary. This project did not get started until 1819, under the direction of Surgeon General Joseph Lovell.

Fort Smith had been established on December 25, 1817, but it was not until March 7, 1821, that the first "official" observation was taken at the fort on Belle Point.

The Post Surgeon, Dr. George B. McKnight, had no instruments, and in those first observations he gave only the wind direction and a brief description of the day's weather. In his remarks, he noted: "The weather during the month (March 1821) has been very variable. Vegetation was progressing rapidly at the commencement of the month, on the 13th the peach trees were in blossom, but the fruit is probably destroyed by the severe frosts on the nights of the 21 and 29th. The only rain that has fallen was on the night of the 20th accompanied with thunder and lightning and high winds from the northwest. The Martins made their first appearance on the 25th, but the subsequent cold and unpleasant weather has caused their disappearance."

"Such and so sudden have been the changes during the month that the language of another may with propriety be adopted, 'We lie down in June and rise in January.'"

Temperature observations were not begun until almost a year later on March 4, 1822. A note in the weather diary reads: "I read a thermometer on the last of Feby from Dr. Coleman." Observations of temperature were made at 7 AM, 2 PM and 9 PM and were the only instrumental observations made.

This portion of the record ends at the end of March 1824. The Belle Point installation was abandoned and the troops moved to posts farther west.

Because of a great demand from the people of Arkansas for protection from the Indians, a new fort was begun in 1838, built back from the river. Observations were commenced on July 1, 1838, again by the Post Surgeons and with a couple of breaks are continuous until Fort Smith was again abandoned at the outbreak of the Civil War. The last observation of this period was on March 31, 1861.

A note accompanying the July 1838 observations states: "The Surgeon General is respectfully referred to a communication upon the Medico Topography of this post addressed to the late Surgeon General in 1835. This post has been healthy this season and under similar circumstances may continue to be so. The low marshy and slashy grounds that lie to the south and southeast have been dried up by the dry continued drought. The mud bar which has existed at the mouth of the Poteau River and extended up the Arkansas for a mile or two to the southwest has of late years been covered with a deposition of sand."

"There is no vane or cardinal point to refer to at this post to make a correct statement of the course of the winds. They have been set down upon this return as near as the judgement would enable me to do it. The account of the thermometer is also not critically correct nor can it be during its present situation. It is temporarily placed in a close room, from the present accommodations mated onto the hospital department."

Observations consisted of temperature readings at AM, PM and evening (the times are not otherwise specified on the forms), wind and weather at AM observations and precipitation. The time of the rainfall measurement was not given, but presumably it was for a 24 hour period.

"The course of the winds and the degrees of the thermometer are by no means accurately just. No vane, nor cardinal points have been erected to designate the one, nor is there apt spot by which the latter can accurately test the other. The Hospital at this Camp as well at old Fort Smith, are and were the meanest apology as a refuge for the sick, I have ever witnessed." This note appeared on the quarterly abstract for January, February and March 1839 and was signed by William H. Hammonds, the Post Surgeon.

There were no temperature readings during October and part of November 1839; and this note explains why: "The thermometer was unavoidably broken on the first of the month and could not be replaced until the 18th November. This will explain why this return is not complete — and as the course of the winds at this cantonment is pretty much guesswork — they have not been noticed in as much as this Diary is not complete."

Following are some notes from the records.

On January 17, 1841, the morning temperature was a half degree below zero. By the afternoon observation the temperature had only risen to 4 degrees and at the evening observation was 2 degrees. On the morning of the 18th, the temperature was 0.1 degree below zero.

June 17, 1841 - The Arkansas River very low. On June 18, 3.30 inches of rain fell in 1½ hours after dawn. On the 20th the river rose 11 feet. There was a total rainfall in June of 6.58 inches.

Beginning July 1, 1841, temperatures were read 4 times daily - sunrise, 2 PM, sunset and 9 PM.

A new observation form was introduced on January 1, 1843. Temperatures were read at sunrise, 9 AM, 3 PM and 9 PM. This legend was printed on the form: "Every person into whose hands this form shall fall is requested to keep a journal of the winds and weather, even if he has no Barometer or Thermometer, and forward it monthly to the "Surgeon General, U.S. Army", Washington, D.C., with the endorsement "Meteorology" on the corner of the envelope."

January 4, 1843 - About 8 o'clock PM several shocks of an earthquake at this post and Van Buren.

March 11, 1843 - A comet was visible last night and tonight. It set at 7½ PM. The tail appeared to be 30° or 40° in length, the extreme end being in Orion. The nucleus is not visible perhaps owing to the brilliant moonlight.

March 31, 1843 - The comet has been visible every night since its first appearance whenever the clouds would admit of it. It is yet to be seen although becoming every night gradually less distinct.

Davis P. Todd in his book "New Astronomy" published in 1897, said, "This was perhaps the most remarkable of all known comets, was visible in full daylight and at perihelion the outer regions of its coma must have passed within 50,000 miles of the surface of the sun, nearer than any known body. At perihelion its motion was unprecedented in swiftness, exceeding 1,000,000 miles an hour. Its period is between 500 and 600 years."

June 17, 1843 - At 7 o'clock PM it blew almost a hurricane from NW. Several trees were blown down in the garrison. Thunder and Lightning (only .08 rain).

February 28, 1844 - Peach trees in full bloom.

April 17, 1844 - The river has risen to within 2 or 3 inches of the great rise and overflow of January 21, 1843. It is now at a stand.

April 23, 1844 - Thunder and lightning. Two showers of hail at 4½ o'clock, some hail stones being as large as hen's eggs.

May 25, 1844 - The river is 18 inches higher than it has been since the great rise of 1833 - rising slowly.

River records are not available for the period prior to 1879, but published figures show a 38.0 foot stage at Fort Smith in June 1833, a figure that was not topped until the floods of 1943 and 1945.

September 29, 1844 - Frost before sunrise, first this season.

June 30, 1845 - River higher than at any time since last June. The river bottom all overflowed.

July 1845 was very hot with temperatures of 100° being recorded at 3 PM on the 7th, the 10th through the 16th and on the 25th.

September 8, 1845 - At 12 hours 10 minutes, the wind suddenly shifted to the west. At the same time a large column of clouds formed in the west and moved with considerable velocity toward the east discharging some thunder and a few drops of rain.

November 29, 1845 - Light fall of snow - the first for the season.

December 4, 1845 - The river frozen completely across.

March 14, 1846 - Fire in the S, E and NE; no phenomena was observed in a line of the two first mentioned points. A cloud formed over the fire in the NE at 8 PM and after remaining 1 hour 20 minutes slowly disappeared in this same quarter.

April 27, 1846 - At 6½ PM a violent hurricane came tearing trees of a small size up from the earth. At the time the wind was most violent, two different columns of clouds were observed moving with great velocity. At one period it was loaded with hail, some the size of a (illegible), whilst the one from the south was pouring down a large body of rain accompanied with thunder and lightning.

May 17, 1846 - A small meteor shower observed at 7 PM. Came from NW to SE.

June 28, 1846 - River rose 15 feet.

June 30, 1846 - A violent wind from NW at 5 (PM) with rain, thunder and lightning.

September 8, 1847 - River rose 10 feet in one night.

February 18, 1850 - Temperature -1 at sunrise.

The fort was abandoned about the middle of 1850. There was a general agitation from the citizens to have the soldiers returned, but it was more than a year and a half before they did. There is a break in the weather records from the end of June 1850 to the first of April 1852.

April 2, 1853 - At 9 h 15 min AM a cloud came from the NW which caused such darkness that it nearly resembled night for about 10 minutes. So dark that the largest print could not be read - but caused no change in the thermometer.

May 18, 1853 - Thunder and lightning and a violent storm of wind and rain from the W at 6½ PM.

May 22, 1853 - Almost a hurricane from the W at 5 PM. Large hailstones at 5 PM.

August 21, 1853 - A comet . . . appeared at 7½ PM about fifteen degrees above the horizon visible for one hour, its tail pointed upward.

September 30, 1853 - The river is lower now than has been for the last year.

October 19, 1853 - Scarlet and orange coloured clouds S and a rainbow W at sunrise.

January 22, 1854 - The river is frozen over at this point.

February 28, 1854 - The river is too low for navigation of steamboats.

March 8, 1854 - Hailstorm at 3½ PM. A heavy cloud rose rapidly from the SW accompanied by thunder and lightning and heavy wind. The storm commenced with rain and small hailstones but in (illegible) to fall in torrents, the hail in rough jagged lumps like broken icicles and weighing a fraction over an ounce each. During the storm the thermometer fell 8° and at (illegible) wind and its gauge, whose cover prevented the entrance of the hail indicated 1 inch as the amount fallen. A few trees blown down, the roofs of several houses injured by being blown off. All the windows having a SW exposure completely demolished. During the night 55/100 additional of rain.

March 31, 1854 - At E PM thunder and lightning in the north. A few drops of rain and small hailstones. dense clouds at the N. At Van Buren, 5 miles from this (place) was a hailstorm equal or worse than the one that passed over Fort Smith on the 8th inst.

May 26, 1854 - Eclipse of sun.

July 28, 1854 - Grass and plants much parched by the heat and for want of rain.

October 20, 1854 - The foliage of the deciduous forest trees showing autumnal hues.

March 10, 1855 - Peach trees in bloom.

March 24, 1855 - Cane brake a few miles SW on fire. Continuous and dense smoke.

July 7, 1855 - Vegetation burning up for the want of rain.

July 13, 1855 - Storm from SW, force of 8 to 9, blowing down trees and fences and unroofing houses. Lightning killed 5 horses on the Garrison grounds. Weight of storm passed N of us. Rain, thunder and lightning in the distance - not a drop of rain here. Force of wind not quite as great as on the 13th.

On the first of August a new form for recording observations was introduced. Temperatures were read at 7 AM, 2 PM and 9 PM.

September 7, 1855 - A fire broke out in Fort Smith destroying about twenty wooden houses, one brick. Nothing remarkable occurred after that could be perceived.

October 25, 1855 - First destructive frost. Eclipse of moon.

December 30, 1855 - Arkansas River too low for navigation and is blocked up with heavy ice. The morning temperature was -5°, which is the only record of below zero temperature in December.

April 6, 1857 - Hard frost. Total destruction of all kinds of fruit.

December 7, 1859 - 7 AM temperature 1°. This is lower than any recorded temperature on this date since Signal Service observations began in 1882.

July 12, 1860 - 2 PM temperature 105°.

This part of the record ends at the end of March 1861. The U.S. Army abandoned Fort Smith on April 23, 1861, two weeks before Arkansas seceded from the Union. Although Fort Smith was recaptured from the confederate forces, no other observations are on record until December 1, 1866. The Reverend Francis Springer, the Post Chaplain, made observations for the Smithsonian Institution through March 1867.

With the reports of December 1866 and January 1867, the Reverend Springer attached this letter.

Post of Fort Smith, Ark.
Feby 2, 1867

Hon. I. Newton
Comr Bureau of Agric

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge of your monthly report for several months past and also the annual reports of your office for the years 1862, 1863 and 1864. For all these highly valuable interesting documents, I am truly thankful.

Please accept the accompanying thermometric observations at this post for the months of Dec 66 and Jan 67.

In making the daily average or mean temperature, I followed the New York rule, viz: Take the sum of the 1st observation twice the 2nd and 3rd together with the first of the next day and divide the sum by 6. The quotient is the mean temperature of the day.

I am particular to mention my method because I am not instructed as to that of your department.

In a few instances during December, I failed to make all three observations. In these cases, I divided the sum of the first twice the 2nd plus the 1st of the next day by 4 instead of 6.

My thermometer is Fahrenheits.

Snow. There was a light snow at this post Dec. 29th - the only snow that has whitened the ground to date.

Very respectfully
Your ob't Servt.
Francis Springer
Post Chaplain

This note accompanies his February 1867 report: "Have been making rough entries of the direction and intensities of the wind but suppose they are not accurate enough for the use of your office. My only

vane is the flag of the garrison. Have been paying some attention to the weather ever since I came to this post (Sept. 1, 1863). The greatest degree of cold ever noted at this post occurred at sunrise of January 1, 1864. The mercury then stood at twelve degrees below zero. It had once previously (I cannot learn the time) been as low as 6° below zero.

Very respectfully, Francis Springer, Chaplain, U.S.A."

This temperature of -12° on January 1 is much colder than any registered since that date on January 1.

There is a break after March 1867 to June 1870 when observations were again made by the Post Surgeon. This period of observations lasted only through July 1871 when Fort Smith was abandoned by the U.S. Army, this time for good.

There are a couple of items worth mentioning from the records during this time. On December 19, 1870, the entry reads: "Heavy snowstorm beginning at 9 PM last night ended 7:30 AM today. Melted water 1.16." The depth of snow is not given, but it must have been nearly 12 inches.

March 11, 1871 - Heavy storm commencing at 10:49 PM, ending 10:59 PM. Large drops of rain falling heavily. Incessant thunder and lightning. Air impregnated with an odor of sulphur. Next morning sulphur found in water barrels. Some collected which burned with a bluish flame and the same suffocating fumes as sulphur.

The early records show the latitude of the station as 35° 30' N and the longitude as 17° 30' W which is approximately correct when Washington is used as the prime meridian. This location is about 10 miles northnorthwest of the actual location of the fort. Records beginning in 1870 show the location as 35° 23' N and 94° 30' W.

Part 2 The Signal Service

The U.S. Army Signal Service was established in 1860 and was primarily a communications service, using telegraph, heliograph, flags, etc., to transmit messages.

Several networks of weather observers had been established by various institutions by this time and their worth had been demonstrated. The Federal Government was the only means of securing enough money to set up anything like a national system. The Signal Service had the most efficient means of communication and as it was believed the Army could do the job cheaper than a civilian organization, a joint resolution was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate and signed by President Grant on February 9, 1870 designating the Signal Service as the official meteorological agency.

Unfortunately, no one in the Signal Service knew much about meteorology and civilians handled much of the forecasting until officers and enlisted men could be trained to take over the duties of forecasting and making observations. In the beginning, most of the observers were stationed at military posts, but later were stationed in or near some of the larger cities, often far removed from the military.

The Signal Service Office in Fort Smith was not established until June 1, 1882, more than 12 years after the beginning of weather observations by the Signal Service. However, observations of river stages had been made for the Signal Service, beginning April 13, 1879.

In its issue of May 26, 1882, the *Fort Smith Elevator* ran this story: "Fort Smith is now made a signal service station, Mr. J.B. Campbell who has had charge of the Fort Gibson station for several years having been directed to abandon it and establish his quarters at Fort Smith. He has arrived here and for the present will occupy the building at the end of Washington St. on Garrison Ave., formerly occupied by Judge Parker and Hon W.H.H. Clayton."

The Fort Gibson weather station was opened April 1, 1873. It was located in the town of Fort Gibson in the Nash Building, and not at the nearby military post.

After the evening observation of May 12, 1882, the weather station at Fort Gibson was closed in preparation for moving to Fort Smith.

"Observations commenced this AM . . . Authority for moving office from Fort Gibson, I.T. to Fort Smith, Ark. See letters received A032.34 current series. Clear and pleasant. No aurora. Fair weather sunset verified."

This entry on June 1, 1882 marks the beginning of Weather Service operations in Fort Smith.

Private Joseph B. Campbell, the last observer at Fort Gibson and the first at Fort Smith, was born in Perry County, Missouri about 1846. He enlisted in the Signal Service at St. Louis, Missouri on April 19, 1872. After his training at Fort Whipple (now Fort Myer), Virginia, he served at several stations and was in his third enlistment when he came to Fort Smith.

The first weather office was housed in what has been described as a dilapidated two story wood frame building located on the southwest corner of Washington (now 2nd St.) and Garrison Avenue. This building had been built by the post sutler and used as a store. Later it was purchased by the Government. It had been used for a time by Judge Parker as an office and later by the U.S. Commissioner.

The building was 50 by 25 feet with a 10 foot wide porch on the northeast and southeast sides. It is believed the Campbell family occupied the first floor. The office was on the second floor.

A drawing of the building shows a door opening onto the roof of the porch on the northeast side. There must have been a ladder to the roof where the rain gauge and wind instruments were located. The thermometers were in a shelter on the northwest side.

War Department Form 129 in the front of the Daily Journal gives us a brief description of the office and its surroundings.

Latitude 35° 22' Longitude 94° 24' west of Greenwich.

Location of office: South side of Garrison Avenue two blocks east of the river. (Govt. Building)

Office faces northeast. Date of occupation May 23, 1882.

First observation in present office June 1, 1882.

Height of barometer cistern above ground (some fixed point at base of building in which located): "A large stone formerly used as a step securely imbedded in the earth at northwest corner of office. (The upper surface of the stone is on a level with surface of the ground.)" 16.29 feet.

Height of fixed point above "plane of reference". "Railroad track in front of L.R. and Ft. S. Telegraph office. (Two blocks north of Garrison Avenue)" 19.260 feet.

Height of "plane of reference" above mean tide at Galveston, Texas 415.000 feet.

Height of Barometer cistern above mean tide 449.203 feet. (A later form shows this value to be 450.910 feet, which is correct.)

The instrument shelter is placed on the northwest side.

Height of bulb of exposed thermometer above ground under instrument shelter 17.500 feet.

Height of wet bulb thermometer above ground under instrument shelter 17.917 feet.

Height of bulb of maximum thermometer above ground under instrument shelter 18.667 feet.

Height of bulb of minimum thermometer above ground under instrument shelter 18.833 feet.

Height of top of rain gauge above ground 29.500 feet.

Height of anemometer 36.583 feet.

Height of anemoscope 36.500 feet.

Judging from these latter figures, the thermometers must have been in a shelter reached from a door or window on the second floor and the rain gauge and wind instruments were located on the roof of the building.

In addition to the formal observations of temperature, wind, pressure and rainfall, a Daily Journal was kept which recorded weather happenings that would not be reflected in the regular observations.

July 4, 1882 - Clear and pleasant. The German population celebrated the day at the Scheutzen Park.

September 1, 1882 - A long needed heavy rain fell this morning ending at 10:28 AM. Cleared off in the afternoon.

September 24, 1882 - 1st Cl. Pvt. J.B. Campbell relieved from in charge of and duty at station by Sergt. Lee M. Melbourne in accordance with Special Order No. 95 dated Office of the Chief Signal Officer, Washington, D.C. Sept. 16, 1882.

September 25, 1882 - Pvt. Campbell departed early this AM enroute to Hot Springs, Ark.

October 22, 1882 - Clear. Earthquake, preceded by a dull thundering sound; three distinct shocks, in all lasting about thirty seconds, and from the SW.

November 11, 1882 - Sgt. Lee M. Melbourne relieved from duty in charge of this station (by Pvt. J.B. Campbell) in compliance with extract Par. 2 Special Orders No. 108 . . .

December 6, 1882 - Heavy frost. Many of the citizens with smoked glass observed the transit of Venus. A few minutes after 9 AM a small dark spot made its appearance and continued its course across the sun's disc until after 3 PM when it disappeared. At 6:25 PM high wind suddenly set in from the northwest. Dense stratus clouds generated rapidly covering the entire sky at 7:10 PM. Temperature fell 35.3° during the evening.

During the period February 3-6, 1883, there was a storm of freezing rain, snow and sleet, completely covering all exposed objects with a solid coat of ice.

February 6, 1883 - The oldest inhabitants say they have never seen the streets in so dangerous a condition. I was compelled to visit the anemometer several times during the day, to prevent the ice from forming on the several parts, and stopping the motion of the cups. Telegraph wires have been interrupted all day. Casualties on the streets. Thos. Doyle fell, sprained his arm badly. Miss Mattie Fields fell and broke her collar bone. Mrs. Sengel fell, broke her thigh. Others slightly injured, could not learn their names.

May 29, 1883 - A dense stratus cloud was seen at 4:30 AM in the east, increasing rapidly in violence and at 5:30 covering the entire sky, accompanied with intense lightning and deafening peals of thunder at 5:50 AM. A wind suddenly burst upon us, threatening to carry everything from the earth's surface. A great many of the citizens were yet sleeping, but upon the approach of the storm jumped from their places of rest without due attention to their toilet. The excitement lasted about fifteen minutes, quickly succeeded by a heavy shower. The damage by wind as far as the observer could ascertain can be summed up as follows: The tin roof on the Southern Hotel was violently lifted up and dropped on the Courthouse. Twenty-five or thirty trees blown down in different parts of the town. Chimneys toppled over, signs, window shutters, etc.,

removed from their places of usefulness. The air moved directly from the east without any spiral motion accompanying it. The weather remained cloudy throughout the day, threatening another storm late in the evening with rapid flashes of lightning and peals of thunder.

The annual report for the year ending June 30, 1883 follows in part: "There has been no change in location of the office since last report. Through the courtesy of Hon. Thomas Boles, U.S. Marshal, the office is furnished free of rent. Private J.B. Campbell has remained in charge during the year except from Sept. 24 to Nov. 11, 1882, during which time Sergeant Lee M. Melbourne was in charge, Private Campbell being absent on sick leave.

Telegraphic facilities have improved some since last report. The W.U. Tel. Co. reached this place with a new line about December 1st, 1882.

There are no meteorological committees, Cotton Exchanges, etc. A Cotton Exchange is advocated by the citizens.

The AM Indications have been frequently solicited by the citizens, and the observer has made every effort to have them sent, but up to this date without success. The 'Local Press' have not given publicity to the reports in a tabulated form, but have been communicated with and requested to do so.

Three weather reports and one cotton region observation are telegraphed daily. During the months of May and June the telegraphing of the regular weather reports were discontinued on account of the appropriations being insufficient; telegraphing the reports to be resumed July 1st proximo.

A new river gauge has been erected on the south bank of the Arkansas River, about three hundred yards from the office and gives better satisfaction than the defective one mentioned in last report.

The highest water during the year was 15 feet and 9 inches on June 11, the gauge indicating several inches higher than any time since June 7, 1877. A further rise of a few inches would seriously damage those living in the low lands of the Arkansas Valley.

Navigation on the Arkansas River between this point and Little Rock is very limited except for small boats. The upper end of the river is traversed by light draft boats as far as Fort Gibson, I.T. during the entire year.

Capt. W. Blakely (steamer Ft. Smith) says he will place a good river gauge at his own expense, on the Arkansas at the crossing of the Missouri Pacific R.R. one hundred fifty miles above this point.

I. (or J.) Kouts has been partly instructed in meteorological work and J.M. Campbell has been fully instructed in the manner of taking observations, care of the instruments and is competent to take entire charge of the station in the event of illness of the observer."

November 21, 1883 - "Rain of yesterday ended this 3:50 AM. Lightning continued during the entire night. Heavy rain in the forenoon accompanied with thunder and lightning. Clouds breaking and disappearing at 9:30 AM with slight indications of clearing off. At 10:50 AM, heavy, dense clouds were rapidly approaching from the west. At 11:30 AM a destructive gale of wind, approaching fifty miles per hour for five minutes, accompanied with rain, thunder and lightning, swept over this station doing considerable damage. The smokestack and shed over the boiler were blown down at the G.T Sparks furniture factory, killing one man and wounding another. Damage to factory about five hundred dollars. The Riverside Hotel was damaged six hundred dollars. The meter room of the gas works was torn down, damage \$500. The compress was damaged \$300. The roof on the Miller block was torn off. Trees and fences were blown down in various parts of the city. The Signal Office Building was damaged. The corner post and lattice work supporting the porch were carried away. Cleared off about 3 PM."

An appendix to the Abstract Journal of November 1883 states: "The citizens, business men, factories, mills, etc., are using local time, obtained from the ringing of a church bell, three times a day. Central Standard Time is advocated and will probably be adopted at an early date. The railroads reaching this place have adopted Central Standard Time which is seventeen (17) minutes faster than our local time."

December 6, 1883 - At sunset a peculiar greenish tinge was noticeable in the western horizon, a few minutes later changing to a red, rapidly spreading until at least one fourth of the western sky presented a deep red. Near the horizon the color was more vivid gradually assuming a rose color as it approached the zenith, becoming inappreciable at a height of 25°. To the inexperienced observer, the spectacle would have solicited an impression of a vast conflagration raging only a few miles distant. The illumination lasted one hour after sunset, far surpassing in beauty, gradeur, brilliancy and appreciation anything of its character ever witnessed by the observer.

During much of December 1883, mention is made of brilliant red sunrises and sunsets. They were probably caused by dust thrown into the atmosphere following the eruption of the volcano Krakatoa on August 27, 1883, in the Sunda Strait between Sumatra and Java.

On January 5, 1884 the temperature dropped to 5 degrees below zero and the river froze over from bank to bank, except for a narrow passageway for the ferry.

January 11, 1884 - At 7:30 PM the ice gorge which has been forming in the river for the past several

days broke loose and with great force came rushing down the river. The steamer Ft. Smith, which was tied up at the wharf was struck on her side about halfway from her bow, the pressure of the ice forced a large hole in her side through which the water rushed, causing her to sink in a few minutes. The boat was owned by J.W. Huff and valued at \$3000. She is a total wreck. Two floating sawmills, the property of -- Wybark, sank in the same way entailing a loss of \$1500. The steamers Jennie May and Webb City took harbor in the mouth of the Poteau River, just before the Arkansas froze over, or they would have been destroyed. They will probably escape serious damage.

The next day the river was again frozen over. At 2:30 PM the ice gorge broke loose again and by 4 PM the river was open for a considerable distance above and below the city.

January 18, 1884 - *The Daily Independent-Free Democrat* changed its heading to the *Daily Fort Smith Tribune*.

During the middle part of February 1884, the river rose to a point six feet above the danger line (flood stage), which was within a foot of the high water mark of 1877 and within 2 feet of the high water of 1844. The gauge reading was 21 feet and it is believed this would correspond to about 28 feet on the later gauge at Fort Smith.

June 21, 1884 - The market is well supplied with all kinds of vegetables and at very low rates. Irish potatoes 40¢ per bushel.

The early part of 1884 must have been good for agriculture because in several places Campbell mentions the great yield of corn and cotton crops. However, hot, dry weather in August and September caused some crop damage.

The following is from the Annual Report for the year ending June 30, 1884 to the Chief Signal Officer.

"I have the honor to submit the following report of this station for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1884.

There has been no change in the location of the office since last report, and is situated on the corner of Garrison Avenue and Washington Streets. The building belongs to the Government and is occupied by permission of Hon. Thomas Boles, U.S. Marshal, to whom the observer is indebted for favors extended for the past two years.

Private J.B. Campbell has remained in charge of the station during the year, avoiding all expenditures whenever possible.

The three tri-daily weather reports were sent over the L.R. and F.S.R.R. wire until March 19, 1884, since which time they have been telegraphed to the Observer St. Louis, Mo. over the Western Union lines. Much better service is secured from the latter company . . . Telegraphic facilities will be increased within the next few months.

In consequence of the high stage of water since January 14, 1884 the observer has not been able to make . . . repairs (to the river gauge). Navigation on the Arkansas River between this point and Little Rock is looked upon as one of the relics of the past. Light draft boats are occasionally observed, though no regular packets are soliciting trade."

July 27, 1884 - Heavy rain in the morning; the atmosphere was heavily charged with electricity and thunder and lightning was intense from 2 AM to 5:20 AM. Storm moved from north to south. At 7:30 PM lightning was observed in the north, the clouds were rapidly a darker hue, and seemingly more agitated. Light rain commenced at 8:10 PM, ten minutes later a loud roaring noise was heard in a northwesterly quarter moving to the southward, followed by hail lasting fifteen seconds. The observer readily appreciated the dangerous element that threatened death and destruction to everything in its path, and watched closely the phenomenon that was passing only a few miles westward of his position. The darkness shut off from view many of the features attending the storm, although the electric display following in the wake of the tornado was vivid and impressive. The altitude of the cloud above the earth's surface could only be estimated, the observer thinks one half mile would have reached its lower influence. The direction of the storm changed after passing from the Cherokee Nation into the Choctaw Nation to a southeasterly direction crossing into Arkansas some fifteen miles south of here. Corn and cotton were badly damaged on several farms in the southern portion of the county where hailstones of unusual size fell and in some places covered the ground to the depth of ten inches. Owing to the thinly settled territory and the entire absence of telegraphic facilities, reports regarding the storm are very limited. Heavy rain at midnight with the atmosphere heavily charged with electricity.

In its edition of August 1, 1884, the *Fort Smith Elevator* said the storm passed 2 miles northeast of Greenwood doing considerable damage to crops. Some hailstones were said to be as large as goose eggs. The town of Greenwood suffered some damage, but there is no report as to the kind and amount.

Private Campbell was promoted to Corporal during the latter part of 1884 and died on November 25 of that year.

On November 28, 1884, the *Fort Smith Elevator* reported: "Sergeant J.B. Campbell, signal service officer at this place, died Wednesday morning very suddenly of heart disease. Deceased has been for years in the signal service department and for a long time was stationed at Fort Gibson, I.T. He leaves a wife. His remains were interred in the National Cemetery with Masonic Honors."

Private Isaac M. Cline was ordered to Fort Smith from Little Rock to take charge of the station. At that time, Private Cline was studying Medicine at Little Rock and this detail interrupted his studies.

Cline evidently did not think much of the Signal Office and its location. Lieutenant J.H. Weber came from St. Louis, and they decided that if possible the office should be moved to a new building being constructed in the heart of town.

December 9, 1884 - Western Union Telegraph Company took their line out of office without assigning any reason.

In a letter dated December 22, 1884, Private Cline wrote to the Chief Signal Officer: "I have the honor to request authority to remove the office from where it is now situated to the corner of Knox Street (now 6th Street) and Garrison Avenue into a building just being finished and situated in the business part of the city. It is the most suitable building for the exposure of instruments in the city, being three stories high and no other buildings near it higher. Two rooms facing the north on the third floor and the use of the roof for the exposure of instruments can be had for \$16.00 per month. The rooms are about 18 feet square and would be ready to go into by the 15th of January.

The office is now on the out edge of town, nearly five squares from the telegraph office charged with the transmission of reports. We have had a private wire connecting the signal office with the telegraph office but the R.R. officials have recently had it taken out. It being such a distance to the telegraph office it is very difficult to take the observation and file it in time to get in on the circuit. The building I referred to above is half a square from the telegraph office.

The office is now in an old dilapidated two story frame building that was until lately on the reservation but is now the property of the city and is likely to be taken away at anytime. The office is on the second floor, is hardly accessible in good weather and dangerous in bad weather. Access to the instruments on the roof is dangerous at all times. The room is open and cold. The roof leaks with any ordinary rain. The exposure of instruments is nothing like what it should be to give accurate results.

It is impossible to make the service of interest to the citizens while the office is thus situated. A number of prominent businessmen have asked me why the office is not in the business part of the city, why we do not receive any reports here and why we do not have a cold wave signal. These things would be of great benefit to the citizens and also to the service as this section of country has good influence in Congress. It would be impracticable to use them where the office is situated at present.

If authority is granted to move the office, I have the honor to request that the following articles and instruments be sent from the Chief Signal Officer or purchased at this place at prices not to exceed the following:

One instrument shelter constructed of double lattice and put in position \$25.00.

One large wind vane will be needed with fixtures to work through the roof down into the office. Placing this in position marking the points of the compass adjusted to the time meridian \$8.00.

One telescopic anemometer rod is needed. Placing this in position and running wires to self register \$4.50.

Erection of flagpole on roof of building \$60.00.

Shelves for books \$3.75.

Coal Box \$2.50.

Three stands for snow and rain gauges \$3.75.

Four chairs (as the ones now in use are nearly unserviceable) \$8.00.

One table (as the one now in use looks like an old kitchen table and is about worn out) \$6.00.

I would request that the signals received at Little Rock, Ark. and a cold wave flag be sent this station.

The building I have requested authority to go into is on high ground in the center of the business part and overlooking the entire city."

This building, then known as the Eberle Building was located on the northeast corner of Sixth Street and Garrison Avenue and extended northeastward along Sixth Street. The Esquire Jewelers was one of the last occupants of the building which was torn down about 1978. The original owners were J.F. Eberle and Mrs. Mary A. Eberle.

On December 26, 1884 there was a sleet and ice storm, the sleet ranging in size from a grain of wheat up to a pea. The ice broke down the Western Union Telegraph lines and no reports were sent out for more than a week.

On January 1, 1885 the use of Standard Time was adopted and most observations were made at 7 AM, 11 AM, 2 PM, 3 PM, 7 PM and 11 PM, 75th meridian time.

Late in December 1884, Private Cline had received notification that Private George Hass-Hagen was being transferred from Omaha to Fort Smith, and that he was to return to Little Rock. He pleaded unsuccessfully to be allowed to remain at Fort Smith, since he thought it would be impossible to complete his medical education if he went back to Little Rock.

However, he did go back to Little Rock and eventually received his M.D. Degree. He did not practice medicine, but remained with the weather service. He was at Galveston during the great hurricane and flood and for many years was District Forecaster at New Orleans. He retired in 1935 and died in 1955 at the age of 94.

Private George Hass-Hagen arrived and took charge of the office on January 13, 1885. Within a very short time he was having to justify the necessity of the items requested by Private Cline and supervise the move to the new building. Although the building was ready for occupancy in January, the move to the new office was not made until February 18, 1885.

In a letter to the Chief Signal Officer dated February 23, 1885, he wrote: "I have the honor to report that this office was removed on 18th inst., from the old building formerly used as a sutler's store on the government reservation at the foot of Garrison Ave., to the new building known as the Eberle Block on the N.E. corner of Knox St. and Garrison Ave. - about 5 blocks distant. The office faces N.E. and N.W. and includes Rooms 5 and 6 on 3rd floor. Access to the roof and instruments are immediate and convenient.

The old desk removed from Fort Gibson 3 years ago and which has probably been in use since the establishment of that office in 1873, is still in use though badly worn and of antique pattern. From its crude appearance, I imagine that it was constructed by an Army carpenter."

On April 22, 1885 there was a sudden sharp rise in the river of 10.4 feet between 2 PM and 9 PM. The river continued to rise until it had reached a stage of 28.1 feet on April 25th. In the Daily Journal for April 26 he states: Several bodies said to have been seen floating down the Arkansas River near Van Buren. The preliminary work of the bridge builders at Van Buren destroyed by the flood. The ferry boat . . . has ceased running. Railway track . . . submerged . . .

On May 8th he wrote the Chief Signal Officer: "Having just completed my seventh year as a first class private, I would respectfully ask that my name be placed before the "board of promotions" with such recommendations as my record and experience may justify.

In response to a questionnaire, on May 2 he made this reply: In compliance with your communication... asking . . . cost of living, etc., at this station, I have the honor to reply . . . as follows:

1. Yearly salary: First class private - reenlisted
2. Income made outside of the service: None
3. Cost of board per year: \$258.00
4. Cost of room per year: \$120.00
5. Do not live in office now.
6. Cost of clothing per year (including \$48 for washing) \$228.00
7. Incidental expenses because in the Corps: Janitor \$5 per month, P.O. Box rent 33¢ per month, washing towels 75¢ per month, soap 15¢ per month — \$15 to \$25 per year, total \$631.00.
8. Size of family: None; salary too small to afford such a luxury.
9. Change desired: None unless promoted or given charge of larger office.

Notes: The observers here are treated as gentlemen by the public and are supposed to receive good salaries.

The tradesmen are of the Shylock order and charge strangers and government employees the highest possible prices for whatever they buy, whether for public or private use. On account of the good standing of the observer and a private's income, no change of station is asked, but another observer might ask for a change on grounds of insufficient salary."

This letter may have been at least moderately successful — he was promoted to Corporal in March 1886 and to Sergeant in June 1886.

The annual report for the year ending June 30, 1885 is quite long, so only a small part of it is reproduced:

"Corporal J.B. Campbell who opened the station in 1882 continued in charge until his death Nov. 25, '85 — Pvt. I.M. Cline assumed temporary charge until the arrival of Pvt. Geo. Hass-Hagen Jany. 13, '85 . . . The location of the office was changed Feby. 1st, '85 from the old sutler's store at the foot of Garrison Ave., to the 3rd floor of the Eberle Block NE corner Knox St. and Garrison Ave.

The office and store-room includes rooms 5 and 6 for which a rental of \$16 per month is paid. On account of the invalid condition of Corporal Campbell, the office was allowed to remain in a neighborhood removed from business and in a building scandalous to the service and disgusting to the visitor. As a consequence, the service was very little known and then only in name.

This city has grown from 3 to 10,000 in the past 5 years. The cost of living is very high and the pay of a private is inadequate to meet the necessary expenses."

Sunsets from the 10th of September 1885 throughout the rest of the month were quite colorful with purple, yellow and red predominating. The colorful sunsets continued through the month of December.

Of December 25, 1885, he wrote in the Daily Journal: An elegant day and night — without a possibility of improvement.

On April 25, 1886, a damaging storm struck Fort Smith. From the Daily Journal: A light sprinkle of heavy drops of rain (measuring from one to two inches in diameter on a flat surface) began 8:15 PM followed ten minutes later by hail and rain, the former being from 1/4 to 1½ inch in diameter. A low murmuring thunder accompanied the hail and was incessant during its fall. At 8:30 PM rain poured in torrents, slackening at 9 PM and ending 11:02 PM. Total fall 2.32 inches.

The wind increased in velocity at 8:25 and at 8:30 was blowing a gale. The roof of the instrument shelter and the extra rain gauge were blown away . . . and . . . anemometer . . . damaged.

After the storm subsided, 40 buildings were found damaged by hail, wind and rain. Four frame shanties were demolished and one person slightly injured. Many houses were unroofed and most fences lying in the track of the storm were blown away. Estimated damage to property \$20,000; to crops \$2500; cattle (50 hogs drowned); steamer "Border City" \$500.

Storm seemed entirely local and confined to the western limits of the city bordering on the Arkansas River.

The annual report for the year ending June 30, 1886 contains very little new information except for the following paragraph: "A Board of Trade was organized in February 1886 and soon after made application for certain bulletins and signals and promised their assistance and cooperation; through their influence this office has been connected by telephone with the following towns: Van Buren, Alma, Booneville, Central City, Lavaca, Charleston, Bloomer, Chismville, Greenwood, Witcherville, Dayton, Tomlinson and Waldron, Ark., by means of which the AM Indications and cold wave warning will be disseminated."

On January 14, 1887, Private Alfred F. Sims arrived from Dodge City, Kansas to take charge of the office and Sergeant Hass-Hagen finally achieved his wish to be transferred back to Omaha.

Private Sims was promoted to Corporal in July 1887 and was relieved on July 20 by Private John E. Hill who came from Shreveport. A note in the Daily Journal states that Corporal Sims began leave, but there is no indication of his transfer to another station and he did not return to Fort Smith.

Private Hill remained at Fort Smith until November 22, 1887 when he was transferred — there is no indication to where — and Corporal Robert Q. Grant assumed charge.

Corporal Grant, in a letter to the Chief Signal Officer dated November 20, 1887: "I have the honor to announce that I left Fort Stanton, N.M. November 24, '87 and arrived at this station 6:00 PM today. The means of transportation from Fort Stanton to Carthage, N.M. was by stage, from thence to this point by rail."

In another letter to the Chief Signal Officer on the same day: "I have the honor to report that the price of a first class ticket over the stage line from Fort Stanton, N.M. to Carthage, N.M. is \$15.50, from Carthage to El Paso, Texas \$6.90, from El Paso to Little Rock, Ark. \$30.20, from Little Rock to Fort Smith, Ark. \$5.00. The above line of travel was covered by me in changing station from Fort Stanton, N.M. to Fort Smith, Ark. Sixty pounds extra baggage by stage \$3.60."

On July 14, 1888, Private Wilford M. Wilson arrived to relieve Corporal Grant while he was reenlisting and taking 30 days leave. It is not known where he was stationed, but on September 5, he left for St. Louis, so that may have been his home station.

January 1, 1890 found the Signal Office in its third location in Fort Smith. On that date the office was moved to the southeast side of Sixth Street near Garrison Avenue in what was known as the "Office Block" of the Grand Central Hotel. The instrument shelter was on the roof on the southwest side of the building, and the office itself was on the fifth floor. The address was given as 12 No. Sixth Street.

There had been much agitation within the military concerning the Signal Service and its weather functions and it was felt that a civilian weather service would be more efficient.

On September 29, 1890, the House of Representatives passed a resolution transferring the meteorological work from the military to the new Weather Bureau which was to be under the Department of Agriculture. The Senate passed the next day and on October 1, 1890, President Benjamin Harrison signed it into law. However, because of the need to secure appropriations, the Weather Bureau did not actually come into being until July 1, 1891.

Part 3 The Weather Bureau

With the coming of the Weather Bureau, there was for a while very little change. Signal Service observers were discharged to become civilian observers. Sergeant Robert Q. Grant became Mr. Robert Q. Grant, Observer, and continued on duty at Fort Smith.

On September 25, 1891, George J. Heck arrived to take charge of the station while Mr. Grant was on leave. On September 28, Mr. Grant returned and Mr. Heck went back to his home station at St. Louis.

May 16, 1892 - "River reached 30.45 on gauge, the highest point ever reached in history of station. (Probably greatest since Signal Service gauge established). Great damage to crops by overflow of bottom lands. Damage estimated at \$80,000. A few small houses near mouth of Poteau River carried from their foundations. River began to fall at 3 PM. Man drowned by high water on Cravens plantation while attempting to cross flooded field on a mule."

On May 17, after a heavy rain, the river rose to 30.6 feet and on the 19th was at nearly 31 feet. By this time there was an estimated \$200,000 damage from flooding.

On June 25, 1892, Daniel P. McCallum arrived on station to relieve Mr. Grant who was detailed to Pike's Peak, Colorado. The Daily Journal for that date says he came from Memphis, but when Mr. Grant came back on August 24, Mr. McCallum was sent to Nashville, leaving on September 8.

On July 8, 1893, Mr. John J. O'Donnell arrived on station and Mr. Grant left on July 12, but the name of his new station was not given.

The Daily Journal was discontinued in 1895 and the station memorandum book for the period prior to May 1905 is missing, so much of the history of personnel happenings, moves, etc., is not available. From the weather record books we can get some names, but many relief observers are known only by their initials and their names are unknown. From the *Monthly Weather Review* and other publications, we are able to trace the movements of some of these early observers.



Corner Twelfth and A Streets, looking North, showing destruction of many nice homes, and where two lives were lost.

Courtesy Ken Christopher.

Shortly after midnight on January 12, 1898, the worst tornado ever to hit Fort Smith struck in the early morning hours. In the words of J.J. O'Donnell, the observer, as recorded in the *Monthly Weather Review*:

"As the clock was striking midnight and the office was about to be locked up, the barometer reading 28.846 actual, the wind south, not a drop of rain having fallen, the air feeling sultry and very damp . . . a gurgling noise was heard, like water rushing out of a bottle, followed immediately by a rumbling, such as that made by a number of heavy carriages rolling rapidly over a cobblestone pavement, and finally like a railroad train."

The wind had been gusty and the sky cloudy during the early evening of the 11th, but by 9 PM some stars were visible. Lightning was observed at 9:35 PM in the southwest and thunder was first heard at 11:10 PM. About 11:30 PM the lightning was concentrated in the southwest and very frequent.

"The observer went to the landing in the large skylight on the roof of the observatory, whence he saw the tornado cloud 450 feet distant to the southward, a twisted black mass of two clouds accompanied by lightning from the upper parts of the clouds . . . The tornado cloud was seen emerging out of the National Cemetery and passing by the United States Post Office and the County Court-house. In its passage through the cemetery it uprooted forty trees, lifted the iron flagstaff, although

embedded in solid granite, snapped to pieces the 1-inch cable guy of the staff, lifted bodily from its base 500 feet of 12 inch brick wall 4½ feet high, and demolished the keeper's residence. In its passage through vacant property to the principal business street it passed over the residence of Mrs. Mivelaz, the brick walls of which burst outward with a loud explosion, undoubtedly due to the low air pressure at the center of the tornado; a similar fate befell a frame building. Farther on . . . a two story stone building was demolished and a three story brick building was carried entire 25 feet away from its foundation. Thirty-three persons were killed outright and nineteen subsequently died from their injuries; forty-four others were seriously injured."

Property loss from the storm was given at \$450,000. The path of great destruction was 300 feet wide and 1 mile long as the storm moved toward the east northeast. Apparently the tornado touched down in the National Cemetery, crossed Garrison Avenue in the vicinity of 10th Street and lifted after destroying the new Fort Smith High School (now Darby Junior High School).

Kite observations were made at Fort Smith from June 26 to September 29, 1898. These were to determine temperatures and humidities aloft and to a lesser extent, the direction of the winds aloft. Because of light winds, there were only 19 ascensions and 58 observations made at altitudes above 1000 feet. There were 6 ascensions in June, 4 in July, 4 in August and 7 in September. The highest altitude reached was 5,431 feet. A complete report is found in Bulletin F, Report on the Kite Observations in 1898, and there is also a report in the Report of the Chief of the Weather Bureau for 1897-98. Nowhere is there any indication as to who the observers were.

Mr. O'Donnell remained in charge until May 24, 1898, when he went to Bridgetown, Barbados. He was relieved by Leon J. Guthrie who stayed until June 4, when Wayland Bailey arrived to take charge. On August 4, 1899, Mr. Bailey was transferred to Cedar City, Utah. R.B. Harkness was temporary relief until a permanent observer, George G. Harkness, arrived on August 28, 1899. He stayed until July 20, 1900, when John R. Weeks came to take charge. On February 20, 1901, Mr. Weeks was relieved by Thomas S. Collins.

During this time of rapidly changing observers, the office itself had also been moved several times. On April 1, 1895 the office was moved across Garrison Avenue to rooms 79 and 80 in the Hotel Main at 606-608 Garrison Avenue. On July 1, 1899 the office was moved to the Opera House Building at 422-424 Garrison Avenue on the second floor front. On August 1, 1900, a move was made to the Federal Building at Sixth Street and Rogers Avenue. The office was to remain in that block for the next 45 years.

Thomas S. Collins who became Official in Charge on February 21, 1901 was a veteran of the Civil War, had been a member of one of Custer's expeditions and had entered the Signal Service in 1872. When the Weather Bureau came into being, he became a civilian observer. It is believed he came to Fort Smith from Springfield, Missouri. He was an immensely popular man and apparently the people of Fort Smith held no rancor because of the fact he had been a Union soldier. On February 23, 1908, while out driving with his wife he was stricken with a fatal heart attack. He was buried in the Fort Smith National Cemetery.

During the time Mr. Collins was in charge, there were many relief observers. One early assistant was Benjamin C. Kadel who went from Fort Smith to Curacao, West Indies. Later he became head of the Instrument Division of the Central Office, a position he held for many years.

Upon Mr. Collins' death, Mr. Raymond E. Clark came up from Little Rock to assume charge of the office. Leon J. Guthrie came from Grand Junction, Colorado to be Official in Charge and Mr. Clark returned to Little Rock.

While at Fort Smith, Mr. Guthrie wrote papers for the *Monthly Weather Review* concerning floods on the Arkansas River in 1908 and on the drought in the summer of 1913.

He had several assistants, at least two of whom became Officials in Charge at other stations. John C. Fisher, Jr., later was in charge at Syracuse, New York and Ithaca, New York. His son, Leon J. Guthrie, Jr., was later in charge at Roswell, New Mexico.

From the Station Memorandum Book, April 10, 1922: "Mr. Leon J. Guthrie, Meteorologist, being absent and the office force being unable to locate him, Central Office was advised of that fact and W.C. Hickmon from the Little Rock office was ordered here in charge temporarily.

In the evening about 6:30, Mr. Guthrie was located in a small room, the door closed, cracks stopped, gas fixtures torn from the wall and gas escaping. He was removed to a hospital by Dr. Ridder, O.A. Fentress, E.A. Bly and others."

April 25, 1922 - "A telegram was received from Henry C. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture, notifying Mr. Guthrie of his suspension pending investigation of his case by Central Office Officials. This suspension is without prejudice and if Mr. Guthrie is exonerated, will be with pay, otherwise without pay. A telegram from the Chief confirmed the one from the Secretary giving details. Both were read to Mr. Guthrie over the telephone as soon as received."

On May 20, 1922, Mr. Truman G. Shipman arrived from Indianapolis to take charge of the office, and Mr. Hickmon went back to Little Rock.

On June 11, a revocation of Mr. Guthrie's suspension was received. At the same time, he was

ordered transferred to Atlanta as assistant without change in grade or salary, and received a reprimand from the Secretary of Agriculture. He left for Atlanta on June 17.

Sylvester E. Decker arrived in Fort Smith from St. Louis on July 10, 1922 to be assistant to Mr. Shipman. He was later in charge at Escanaba, Michigan. At the time of his arrival here, the office force consisted of the Official in Charge, an assistant observer and a messenger.

Mr. Shipman wrote several papers for the *Monthly Weather Review*. One of these was "The East Wind and its Lifting Effects at Fort Smith, Ark.". Three other papers concerned tornadoes which occurred in 1926, 1927 and 1929.

On April 23, 1926, about 6 PM, a small tornado moved across the north part of Fort Smith doing about \$10,000 damage and injuring one person. The same storm killed a five month old baby near Ratcliff. Most of the damage seemed to be from straight line winds and those who observed the tornado described it as being erratic.

On April 12, 1927, another tornado struck Fort Smith shortly after 4 PM. The storm had earlier struck in Oklahoma and was first observed here when it struck at 814 Wheeler Avenue. The tornado lifted and dropped several times with the greatest destruction being along Clifton Court and in the vicinity of 34th Street and Grand Avenue. Two persons were killed there and at least 13 were hospitalized. Damage was estimated at \$100,000.

The *Southwest American* of Wednesday morning April 13, reported the storm as follows: "T.G. Shipman, meteorologist, and S.E. Decker, observer at the Weather Bureau in Fort Smith, first detected the forming tornado in the southwest at three minutes after 4 o'clock — soon after a few pellets of hail had come pelting down. Sixty seconds later the black cloud floating over, with its ends clear of the horizon identified itself plainly, funnels having appeared. It moved slowly for a tornado, requiring eight minutes to traverse the city and disappear from view. In that eventful eight minutes all the damage was done. The funnel clouds, instinct with their terrible and terrific power of suction, formed, reached devastatingly down to earth and were withdrawn into the boiling, heavy-laden cloud. Swirls of shingles sucked off dry roofs mingled with heavier debris, swung by, in the twisting wind like grotesque birds. One sharp clap of thunder, like the vicious bark of a small cannon, came in the very midst of the visitation. It was like a signal of some grim wrecking crew armed to the teeth with destruction. A prodigious flash of lightning preceded this huge remark of the tornado. Then the rain plunged in behind the swirling column, drowning the tension and dissipating the danger."

Mr. Shipman wrote a report of the storm for the *Monthly Weather Review* and here is part of it: "The first actual destruction witnessed by Weather Bureau employees took place at 4:04 PM. Houses were reported damaged a little earlier at 814 Wheeler Avenue near Emma Street at 4:02 and 4:03 PM. Outside persons reported a cloud at this time, but it is hard to tell whether they saw a tornado cloud or the turbulent cloud activity but the latter is thought to be the case. At 4:04 PM the debris shot upwards under the vortex in a cloud of dust. The ascending wreckage had the appearance of a great explosion or sparks from a great fire and was distributed in horizontal strata until drawn into the vortex. These formations appeared three successive times without a tornado funnel being seen. Each successive formation seemed to accumulate strength and to produce worse effects and lasted slightly longer than the preceding one. Effects were very similar to blasting operations. The time (interval) between the first and second was about one minute and (the second and third) about thirty seconds.

The fourth lifted formation was marked by a descending cloud resembling a mis-shapen cornucopia which failed to reach the ground phenomena, and was accompanied by a larger amount of dust and wreckage. This dissipated after about one minute and reformed. The fifth formation or second funnel appeared as two large bells top to top with a thin rope-like pendant connecting them. This was the most distinct, sharply defined and beautiful of the entire series and lasted only a few seconds. The ascending debris reached the proportions of a giant explosion. The formation widened, accompanied by rain and a cloud of debris, and moved to the northeast, finally disappearing. The greatest destruction occurred with the sixth ascending phenomena. Aeroplane observations afterwards showed that the path narrowed before the storm dissipated, which feature could not be observed from the roof of the building."

Five days later on Easter Sunday, April 17, a straight line thunderstorm moved over the city doing several thousand dollars worth of damage. Sixteen houses were demolished or damaged at Arkoma and a circular standpipe in Fort Smith was bent in by the force of the wind.

While these destructive storms were occurring, the area was in the midst of the Great Flood of 1927 which affected the entire lower Mississippi River system. Heavy rains in Kansas and Oklahoma during the latter part of March and 9.60 inches of rain in Fort Smith during the first three weeks of April contributed to the flood. After having been at a fairly high stage for several days, the river rose above the flood stage



Flood Scene, North Sixth Street, Fort Smith, Arkansas, April 1927.
Courtesy Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce.

of 23 feet on April 12. On the 14th the stage was 32.0 feet and on the 15th was 36.0 feet. The highest stage of 36.7 feet was recorded on the morning of the 16th. The river fell slowly, remaining above flood stage through the 27th.

Another tornado occurred on the afternoon of December 17, 1929, again striking along Wheeler Avenue. This storm flattened the sewer pump house at Spring Street (now South O St.) and Wheeler, but this time there were no injuries.

Mr. Shipman remained until August 29, 1930 when he was transferred to Davenport, Iowa in charge of that office. He was relieved by Mr. Walter C. Hickmon who came from Little Rock.

Mr. Hickmon remained at Fort Smith until January 15, 1940 when he transferred to Little Rock to become Section Director for Arkansas, replacing Mr. Harvey S. Cole who retired. The 9½ years Mr. Hickmon spent at Fort Smith were pretty uneventful, weatherwise.

Mr. Aloysius E. Osborn came from Dodge City, Kansas to relieve Mr. Hickmon. He arrived in Fort Smith on December 17, 1939.

On August 1, 1936 Fort Smith was made an off-airways observation station, with the first observation being taken at 12:40 AM.

During 1936 and 1937 a new Post Office and Courthouse Building was constructed behind the old Federal Building at 6th Street and Rogers Ave. On September 13, 1937 the move was made to the new building. Observations were made in that location until the move to the airport, September 26, 1945.

A devastating flood on the Arkansas River occurred in May 1943. On the 8th, 9th and 10th, there was a total of 10.07 inches of rain at Fort Smith and there was similar rainfall at most places in the area. The river which had been standing about 8 feet on the Fort Smith gauge rose rapidly from 8.3 feet on the



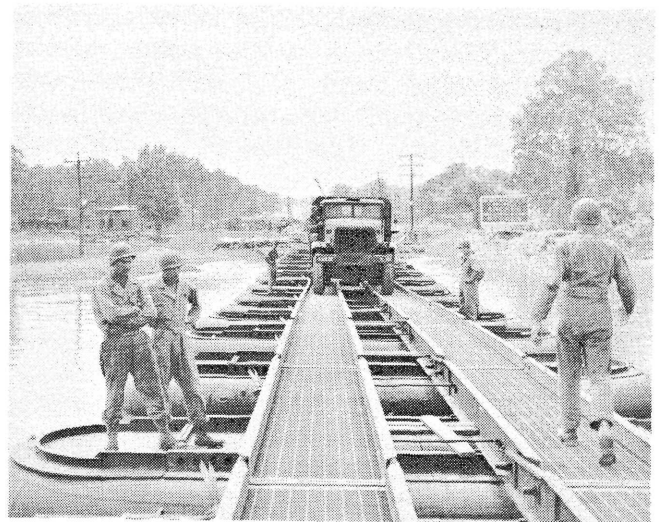
Aftermath of 1898 Fort Smith Tornado looking East from South Sixth Street, on Reserve Addition — showing wreck of one of the smaller hotels, in which twenty-seven people were buried, but escaped without the loss of a single life.
Courtesy Ken Christopher

morning of May 9 to 22.29 feet on the morning of May 10. On May 11 the reading was 33.41 feet and on May 12 the reading was 41.37 feet. The river fell slowly to a reading of 27.84 on the 18th.

Another rainstorm upstream caused a sharp rise beginning on the 21st and cresting about 38.59 feet on the 23rd. There were no more heavy rains, however, and the river dropped back below flood stage on June 1.

During the flood Fort Smith was almost isolated as all roads and railroads except those to the south were under water. A great portion of the furniture district and the north part of Fort Smith was flooded.

On the 16th the Fort Smith end of the bridge to Van Buren was washed out by the flood, breaking water lines and interrupting all traffic to Van Buren. The Army, in training at Fort Chaffee, quickly built a pontoon bridge on which to lay water lines and allow some foot traffic.



Pontoon bridge built across Arkansas River between Fort Smith and Van Buren when bridge washed out during flood, May 1943.
Courtesy Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce.



Restoration of water service to Fort Smith across flooded Arkansas River, May 1943. Courtesy Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce.

Water for domestic uses had been in short supply because of the broken lines. The situation became critical when the pontoon bridge carrying the lines was swept loose at 1:10 AM on May 22. There were only about 9 million gallons of water in the city's reservoirs when Mayor Chester Holland and the city commissioners imposed stringent regulations for water use. Most water meters to private homes were turned off and water could only be obtained at one house in each block. The water lines were re-connected and water rationing ended on Monday, May 31.

The 'Frisco Railroad bridge at Van Buren also lost a span during the last rise.

On August 9, 1943, observations were increased to an hourly frequency. In 1938, the Weather Bureau had been transferred to the Department of Commerce. The Civil Aeronautics Administration, also of the Department of Commerce, began operating teletypewriter circuits for the transmission of weather reports. The use of telegraph for transmitting weather reports in a word code was discontinued and messages were sent in a numeral code. Also a special code was devised for the transmission of weather reports for aviation use. Aviation reports were phoned to Little Rock for transmission on the CAA circuits until the mid 1940's when transmission equipment was installed in the office. After the move to the airport on September 26, 1945, send and receive teletypewriter equipment was operated by the Weather Bureau.

On April 17, 1944 live radio broadcasts of the weather forecasts were begun from the office on radio station KFPW. These broadcasts were at 11:05 AM and were sponsored by the Coca-Cola Bottling

Company. Broadcasts were continued on KFPW until October 22, 1976, although in later years they were tape recorded for later playback. The times of the broadcasts varied considerably through the years.

Radio broadcasts were also made over KWHN from 1953 to 1968 and KFSA from 1953 to 1964.

During World War II and immediately afterward there were a great many observers. Men left to enter the Armed Services and women were hired as observers. Most of the women resigned when men came back from the war to take over the observing jobs.

The move to the airport opened up a new era of observations. Forms WBAN 10 A&B had already been in use and at the end of 1948 the old Forms 1001 were discontinued. The WBAN forms became the "official" observation record.

A fixed-beam ceilometer was installed for automatic recording of cloud heights.

The old Airport Administration Building became quickly outmoded and a new Terminal Building was constructed. The move to the Terminal was made on August 30, 1960.

The period from the late 1950's on saw much improvement in service, primarily due to the acquisition of better equipment. In 1959 a WSR-3 radar was installed adjacent to the Administration Building. The radar was relocated to the new building with the radar dome directly above the office.

The fixed beam ceilometer was inactivated with the installation of a new rotating beam ceilometer on March 12, 1963. This system had two detectors for measuring low and higher layers of clouds.

A Hygrothermometer system for direct read-outs of temperature and dew point was put into use on April 1, 1964. Prior to that time it was necessary for the observer to go downstairs and out the northeast end of the building to the instrument shelter each hour to read the temperatures.

Facsimile was installed on November 1, 1963 making it unnecessary to plot maps and permitted the reception of many heretofore unavailable maps.

Mr. Roy Gates, the first Electronic Technician to be assigned to Fort Smith, entered on duty October 31, 1961.

During the period from June 19, 1964 to April 14, 1969, a fire weather forecast office was established to provide forecasts to the Forest Service. It was transferred to Little Rock and eventually became a part of the Forecast Office there. Richard M. Ogden was the first forecaster and he was assisted for a while by Alois Huber. At that time there were 9 persons assigned to this station.

On July 13, 1965 the Weather Bureau became a part of the Environmental Science Services

Administration (ESSA). In a reorganization on October 3, 1970 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) was created and ESSA abolished. The Weather Bureau became the National Weather Service. Both ESSA and NOAA were agencies in the U.S. Department of Commerce.

A new radar was commissioned in December 1975, replacing the old WSR-3 radar. Known as the WSR-74C radar, it had all solid state circuitry and was much more powerful than the WSR-3.

In early October 1977, direct, continuous radio broadcasts began from the Fort Smith office on 162.475 megahertz from a transmitter at the KAFT tower east of Winslow. On April 12, 1978 the transmitter on 162.400 megahertz at Fort Chaffee was activated to broadcast weather information to the Arkansas Valley area of Western Arkansas and Eastern Oklahoma. These broadcasts, part of a nationwide system known as NOAA Weather Radio, became a means of rapidly getting weather information at any time of day.

Prior to NOAA Weather Radio, the Fort Smith office used a Fort Smith city assigned frequency for making emergency broadcasts of weather information.

In February 1979, a new computer driven communications system was installed. Called AFOS, an acronym for "Automation of Field Operations and Services", it was designed to do away with slow

speed teletypewriters and Facsimile by displaying weather information on TV type screens. Because of "software" problems, the system did not go on line until March 1981, and then on a limited basis.

Full use of AFOS began in late 1982. The various FAA teletypewriter circuits were removed with Service "A" being the last to go in March 1984. RAWARC, an Internal National Weather Service teletypewriter circuit, was removed in March 1983 and Facsimile was removed in June 1983.

On December 15, 1984 the last teletypewriter circuit, the NOAA Weather Wire Service, was removed. Weather Wire Service to mass media disseminators and others is being furnished by satellite to selected FM radio stations in Arkansas and rebroadcast by SCA to receivers attached to computers or small printers.

As this is being written, there is talk of reorganization and new instrumentation to provide better service. A new Doppler Radar will be able to detect tornadoes before they become destructive storms. Satellites will probe the atmosphere giving thousands of temperature and humidity observations now accessible only by a few instruments hanging from balloons. Communications will be faster and observations will become automated.

No matter what the future brings, dedicated men and women of the National Weather Service will continue to watch the sky and provide the best weather forecasts available.

Observers from the earliest observations to the end of the pre-Signal Service observations. Unless otherwise indicated, they were Post or Assistant Post Surgeons attached to the Fort Smith Garrison. Dates are approximate.

George B. McKnight	March 1821 - April 1822
C.A. Finley	May 1822 - March 1824
William H. Hammons	July 1838 - December 1839
E.H. Abadie	January 1840 - April 1844
W.E. Fullwood	May 1844 - September 1844
Joseph H. Bailey	October 1844 - January 1846
W.E. Fullwood	February 1846 only
Joseph H. Bailey	March 1846 - February 1847
Nicholas Spring	March 1847 - June 1848
Joseph H. Bailey	July 1848 - May 1850
Nicholas Spring	June 1850 - December 1855
G.T. Ghiselin	January 1856 - May 1857
Charles Page	June 1857 - December 1859
Nicholas Spring	January 1860 - September 1860
C.T. Alexander	October 1860 - January 1861
G.E. Bomford	February 1861 - March 1861
Rev. Francis Springer, Post Chaplain	December 1866 - March 1867
J. Morris Brown	June 1870 - November 1870
W.T. Hendrickson	December 1870 - June 1871

Signal Service Observers

Pvt. Joseph B. Campbell	June 1, 1882 - Nov. 26, 1884
Sgt. Lee M. Melbourne	Sept. 24, 1882 - Nov. 11, 1882
Pvt. Isaac M. Cline	Nov. 28, 1884 - Jan. 13, 1885
Pvt. George Hass-Hagen	Jan. 13, 1885 - Jan. 13, 1887
Pvt. Alfred F. Sims	Jan. 13, 1887 - July 20, 1887
Pvt. John E. Hill	July 20, 1887 - Nov. 22, 1887
Cpl. Robert Q. Grant	Nov. 22, 1887 - July 8, 1893
Pvt. Wilford M. Wilson	July 14, 1888 - Sept. 3, 1888

Civilian Assistants During this Period

J.M. Campbell	E.T. Bennett
G.H. Williams	Robert Harris
James Coopwood	Eli McKie
S. Bailey	Arthur Beckett
W.H. Cole	P.E. Hileman
M.H. Farmer	Joseph Shields
T.S. Osborne	A.W. Wright
J.M. Boman	David James

Fort Smith Firsts and Foremosts

Sarah Fitzjarrald
and
Amelia Martin

As we participate in the Sesquicentennial Celebration of Arkansas statehood and historical events are remembered statewide, it seems appropriate to "calendarize" some of the events in the growth and development of "our town", Fort Smith.

As noted below, Fort Smith, built in 1817, pre-dates Arkansas' statehood by nineteen years. It also pre-dates, by two years, creation of Arkansas Territory from Missouri Territory in 1819.

Not every year is mentioned — not that there was nothing important to report in some years, but we quickly found the undertaking to be similar to writing a person's biography, and like any other living entity, a community's growth and development occurs in spurts.

We realize, too, that we have missed important names and places. It was not possible to do otherwise. But we hope we have put Fort Smith history in better perspective, and, like us, you may find yourself thinking occasionally, "I didn't realize that."

1817

Christmas Day. Major William A. Bradford arrived at Belle Point with 64 men to begin construction of the fort.

1818

New Year's Day. Bradford was able to report to his superior officer that his men were "comfortably" taken care of and that he was starting a hut for himself.

1819

Arkansas became a Territory.

A council was held at the fort between leaders of some of the warring Indians, and a peace pipe was smoked.

1821

First official weather observation at Belle Point by the Army post surgeon. (See Newman, this issue.)

1822

First steamboat, the "Robert Thompson", arrived. Captain John Rogers, founder of Fort Smith (town) arrived. He, along with Colonel John Quinton Nicks, built the first retail store. Rogers also built the first hotel.

Major Bradford left Fort Smith and was replaced by Colonel Matthew Arbuckle.

1823

Sarah Ann Tichenal, the first child born in Fort Smith, December 23rd.

1824

Because of Indian hostilities to the west and to the south, the Army troops abandoned the fort and moved to Forts Gibson and Towson.

1827

Fort Towson Road opened. It became Towson Avenue, and its extension to the south is known as Texas Road.

1832

Washington Irving visited Fort Smith.

1836

Arkansas became a State.

1837

Garrison Avenue laid out under directions of John Rogers.

1838

Troops return and the original fort was re-built under supervision of Capt. Charles W. Thomas.

First school ever held in Fort Smith (inside the fort, with three students).

Stagecoaches made their appearance in Fort Smith.

1839

Cantonment Belknap built by Wm. C. Belknap's troops south and east of the original fort.

1840

Asa Clark came to Fort Smith. He established a brick yard, and built the St. Charles Hotel.

Along with Asa Clark, we see such men as the following, arriving shortly before: John I. Johnston, Dr. J.H.T. Main, Col. Ben DuVal, Jeremiah Kannady, Dr. Joseph Bailey, Aaron Barling — all to take prominent places in the growing community.

Fort Smith organized as a town. First alderman (mayor) was Nathaniel Gookin (appointed).

First school in Fort Smith proper, opened by John Carnall at the corner of Garrison Avenue and Third Street.

1841

Colonel Zachary Taylor (later President) arrived at Fort Smith and took up quarters at Cantonment Belknap.

First city election. Mayor, Chas. A. Birnie. Councilmen — Joshua Tebetts, Wm. F. Brown, David Brigham, James Campbell, Joseph H. Heard (Herd).

Mayor Birnie resigned after three months and was succeeded by C.M. Hudspeth, with John Carnall appointed as Clerk and Treasurer.

1842

First church in Fort Smith — Union.

First Methodist Church in Fort Smith.

Fort Smith incorporated as second-class city.

1843

January — Earthquake (several shocks) felt at Fort Smith and Van Buren (See Newman, this issue.).

March — The Great Comet of 1843 was visible in Fort Smith for a period of two weeks (Newman).

1844

Colonel Zachary Taylor replaced by Colonel Matthew Arbuckle.

1846

First Presbyterian Church in Fort Smith.

1847

First Episcopal Church in Fort Smith — St. John's.
First Catholic Church in Fort Smith — St. Patrick's.

Reutzel Brothers were established merchants.

Masonic Order established — Belle Point Lodge, No. 20, first Temple was Baer Memorial Temple, built in 1888 at 6th and C Streets, honoring Bernhard Baer.

First newspaper, *Fort Smith Herald*, published by John Wheeler. Wheeler also printed a newspaper for the Cherokee Indians, using Sequoyah's alphabet, for which he had a special type cast.

Mitchell and Thomas Sparks (M & T Sparks Mercantile). Sparks Hospital named for Ann Eliza Dibrell Sparks, wife of George T. Sparks, son of Mitchell Sparks.

1848

Joseph Noble Brewery built.

First Baptist congregation in Fort Smith.

1849

Fort Smith became important point of departure for the Forty-Niners enroute to California seeking gold.

1850

Horse racing became popular. Races were held at the site of the present Ramsey Junior High School, which site was also used for the County Fairs. Automobile races were also held there. Barney Oldfield, who set the world's record in 1910 in a Benz Automobile at 131.724 mph, raced there.

First Christian Church built in Fort Smith at 6th Street, between C and D Streets. New church built in 1886 at 7th and C Streets, which later became the Greek Orthodox Church. First Christian moved to Rogers Avenue.

The fort was again abandoned.

Oak Cemetery opened — John Rogers donated the land.

Population 964.

1851

Rt. Rev. Andrew Byrne, Catholic bishop, bought 640 acres of reservation land for \$2.00 per acre (former Cantonment Belknap). Mercy Convent, St. Anne's Academy, St. Andrew's College, and St. Edward Hospital were erected on the site.

1853

Another comet made a brief appearance.

1854

Arrival of Franke Parke.

1855

Fort Smith Volunteer Fire Department established. Clark & Spring Real Estate; John Carnall, Real Estate.

Fire destroyed 20 wooden houses and one brick buiding.

1857

First Baptist Church as it is now known, organized.

1858

The steamboat, "Lady Walton", built in Cincinnati, Ohio, named for Mrs. Lizzie Walton of Fort Smith.

Asa Clark and his wife established the first deaf-mute school in Arkansas, in Fort Smith.

1859

(Or 1860) Elmo Caruthers arrived Fort Smith.

1861

Telegraphic communication sent and received on the Missouri and Western Railroad wire.

The fort again abandoned by Federal troops.

1863

First meeting ever held *anywhere* to bring back a seceded State into the Union, held in Fort Smith.

E.B. Bright, who built "Marble Hall" (311 Garrison Avenue), sent out invitations to his child's birthday party which said, "Chocolate Marble Ice Cream Cones, games and fun." (Courtesy Phil White.)

Believed to be much older than 1863, Marble Hall is one of the three oldest existing buildings in Fort Smith, the oldest one on Garrison Avenue, and the oldest one still in use.

The *New Era* newspaper, published by Valentine Dell.

1864

Mazzard Prairie Battle.

Temperature fell to 12 degrees below zero (Newman).

1865

Dr. Art Martin's great-grandfather, Captain John Watson, on the steamer "Bostonia 2", was the first to arrive at the explosion of the "Sultana" on the Mississippi River. Worst maritime disaster of all time, 1547 lives lost.

William Murphy Cravens, newcomer to Fort Smith.

1868

First Lutheran Church in Fort Smith (Evangelical). B. Baer & Company, wholesale house, established.

1869

First black Baptist congregation. Shared church at 4th and D Streets with white Baptists.

1870

Fort Smith Fire Department established with James Brizzolara as fire chief.

Belle Grove became the first public school.

Howard became the first black public school and the second public school.

W.H.H. Clayton arrived. Famous attorney practicing in Judge Parker's Court.

Adelaide Hall, entertainment center, later the LeFlore Hotel, built at 316 Garrison Avenue.

Arrival of P.R. Davis, who established P.R. Davis Grocery Company. Joined in 1892 by F.T. Reynolds and it became Reynolds-Davis Grocery Company.

1871

First session of the Western District of the Federal Court in Fort Smith.

First student newspaper in the State, published by students at Belle Grove school, called the "Belle Grove Journal".

The fort abandoned by troops *permanently*.

1872

J.W. Bruce, Grist Mill, in operation.

National Bank of Western Arkansas (First National Bank) established.

Parke & Sparks, merchants, in operation.

1875

May 2 — Judge Isaac C. Parker arrived Fort Smith. After fifty-one grueling days of court, he went to Missouri in June to be with his wife, Mary, and their two small sons. Mary had remained in Missouri awaiting the birth of their second child. The family returned to Fort Smith in October and made their permanent home here.

September — Six men hanged simultaneously — first men to hang from Judge Parker's Court.

1876

Little Rock & Fort Smith Railroad completed to Fort Smith. First train arrived, north side of the River.

1878

Tilles Book Store and Newsdepot in operation.

Balloon ascension in Fort Smith.

Frederick Meier opened a furniture factory in Fort Smith.

Messrs. Block & Block, crockery and greenware.

Ed T. Basye's Circus & Menagerie came to town.

Arrival of Captain B.C. Blakely, all-time great among riverboat captains.

November 1 — First edition of *The Fort Smith Elevator* newspaper, published by John Carnall & Company.

Fort Smith Sebastian County Medical Society hosts Arkansas State Medical Association.

1879

LR & FS Depot was located opposite Freiseis' Brewery near the St. Charles Hotel.

J.G. Miller opened a sawmill, later Miller had Miller & Jones Furniture Factory.

1879 (Continued)

Edward Ballman bought the Meier Furniture Factory. Later went into partnership with the Cummins brothers, which became Ballman-Cummins Manufacturing Company.

The "Fort Smith", first railroad engine to blow its whistle south of the Arkansas River (west of Little Rock).

Baseball comes to Fort Smith.

Boston Store founded by Julius and Sigmund Baer, joined later by Aaron Fuller. (They later founded Stix, Baer & Fuller of St. Louis.) Rudolph Ney bought into the store in 1892. The Boston Store still owned and operated by the Ney family.

1880

Barnum's Great Show (circus) came to Fort Smith.

First Sebastian County Fair.

Fort Smith Cornet Band organized.

Population over 3,000.

Fort Smith and Van Buren both had baseball teams.

1881

Brogan's Hall (Theater) in business.

First Fort Smith Bar Association.

Courthouse at Greenwood burned. Fort Smith court records kept "over a saloon".

Reeves & O'Daniel's Grocery Store exhibited an alligator taken from Poteau River, 7½ feet long, weighing 123 pounds.

First Building & Loan Association organized.

U.S. Postmaster General ordered the steamboat mail route discontinued from Fort Smith to Little Rock.

Articles of Association filed for Fort Smith Street Railway (streetcars).

Business noted: Dr. Boyd's Drugstore.

Border Cadets organized — citizen soldiers.

Arrival of William Joseph Echols.

1882

First funeral home in Fort Smith, Birnie Brothers. Sold in 1901 to Jesse G. Putman, Sr., who established Putman's Funeral Home.

Belle Point Brass Band organized.

"Jolly Club" organized for benefit of the poor.

St. Louis & San Francisco RR, the 'Frisco, connected across the River at Van Buren.

SL & SF Railroad granted right-of-way through the Indian Territory.

Dr. E.R. DuVal appointed State Health Commissioner by the Governor.

Fort Smith Colored Brass Band organized.

Daily mail coach makes good time to Muskogee — 24 hours, one-way trip.

St. Charles Hotel, an old landmark near the RR depot, re-opened by Captain Rouse.

Howard Street, now known as North Fifth Street, called the most beautiful part of town, overlooking the grand Arkansas Valley for many miles.

(1882 continued on next page.)

1882 (Continued)

Merchants National Bank organized — \$55,000 paid-up capital stock.

October 22 — Earthquake (Newman).

Hon. John H. Rogers, first man from Fort Smith to enter Congress.

The Side Closet, student newspaper published by some of the young men at Miss Myrtle Parke's school.

The Home Dramatic Company organized (forerunner of Fort Smith Little Theater).

Belle and Sam Starr arrested for horse stealing. She posted \$1,000 bond.

Businesses noted: Haynes & Long Livery & Feed Stable; Sengel Brothers' Barber Shop; Ault's Mill; Skating Rink; Chinese Laundry; W.P. Barbee's Music Store; The Famous Dry Goods Store; R.E. Doyle's Department Store; Reynolds' Furniture Store; Horse Shoe Drug Store; Messrs. Correll & Company, Confectioners.

1883

First telephones. Erie Phone Company. 36 subscribers.

First three Daisy (mule-drawn) streetcars arrive on the 'Frisco. Begin operating on August 13th.

Gas Company organized. (Gas manufactured from coal.)

St. Charles Hotel (later named Riverside) sold to Dr. Main.

Four weekly newspapers — the *Herald* - *Independent* - *Elevator* - *New Era*.

Scarlet fever epidemic. Schools and churches closed.

Population over 7,000 according to city directory.

Overhead telegraph wires a nuisance.

A private execution at the gallows.

The old Presbyterian church converted to a hotel near the railroad tracks.

The *Independent* newspaper became the *Independent-True Democrat*.

July 7th — Balloon ascension on Garrison Avenue.

Clerk's Association met at the Southern Hotel.

Licenses for saloons — \$1,000.

'Frisco passenger and freight depot completed.

Price of ice — 2¢ per pound under 50 pounds; 1½¢ per pound for consumers who use more than 50 pounds daily.

Scheutzen Park leased to Fort Smith Street Railway Company.

Ordinance to accept Towson and Catholic Avenues as public streets.

Fire destroyed one city block including the following businesses: F.W. Boas, Grocery; John Vaughn, Hardware; Devlin & Sparks, Shoes and Boots; A. Haglin, Dry Goods and Clothing; Guler & Brunoldi, Confectioners; P. Berman, Dry Goods and Clothing.

Miss Emma Wheatley was in charge of Fort Smith Public Schools.

1883 (Continued)

Play by the Florence General Dramatic Company enjoyed by all at the Opera House.

Fort Smith Gas Light Company organized.

Brilliant sunsets because of Krakatoa volcano (Newman).

Other businesses noted: Kelly & Sons Meat Market; George Tilles' Book Store; G.T. Sparks Furniture Factory.

1884

"Arctic" weather hard on the streetcar drivers.

Leap Year Ball at the Opera House.

Ordinance prohibiting running of animals in the streets went into effect.

Gas reservoir "is now full and the gas light is excellent."

City fire limits extended to North 12th Street.

Salaries of city policemen increased to \$40 per month.

U.S. Court suspended criminal cases because witnesses from the IT could not reach Fort Smith because of floods.

In January, much talked-of new comet can be seen on clear nights between 7 and 10 p.m.

Population 9,500.

The Jockey Club of Northwest Arkansas and the Indian Territory organized.

Messrs. Boas and Woodson ran refrigerator cars from Arkansas City to Fort Smith (RR) — fruits, vegetables, oysters and all perishable groceries.

Episcopal Church received an elegant new organ.

Farmers petitioned City Council to install a city weighing machine and hire a weigher.

Academy of Music organized.

McKibben's European Hotel (LeGrande) finished. Old Southern changed to Grand Central Hotel. New Hotel Main built.

Lots on Garrison Avenue (120 feet wide) sold from \$100 to \$250 per front foot — average \$200 in strictly business blocks. Rented from \$1,000 to \$1,200 per annum "for good stands and comfortable buildings."

Board of Health recommended property owners and businessmen on Garrison Avenue between Green (North 4th) Street and the town branch to obtain water supply from the water works because of sanitary reasons. The block just below had 23 businesses — hotels, boarding houses, restaurants, saloons, meat markets, with scarcely one good well among them.

Gas fixtures were installed in the Opera House to replace lamps previously used.

City sprinklers ceased working because merchants refused to pay for the service. Lots of dust on the Avenue.

Sells Brothers Monster 50-Cage Menagerie and Four-Ring Circus came to town. Couple of huge, blood-sweating hippopotami.

Two hundred bales of cotton shipped from Fort Smith to Liverpool, England.

(1884 continued on next page.)

1884 (Continued)

Singer, Democrat, and Howe sewing machines displayed at the Fair. Phillip Mehlburger also exhibited iron work from his plant.

National Election. Two precincts — City Hall Precinct and Courthouse Precinct. Total of 1,321 votes cast. Cleveland won both precincts.

First publication of the *Daily Fort Smith Times*.

Talking dolls from 5¢ to \$2.50 at Glick's Store.

The *Daily Tribune* also in publication, formerly the *Daily Independent-Free Democrat*.

Reservoir (Bailey Hill) — capacity, 5 million gallons of water — was half full.

1885

Ladies' Relief Society organized. Donations left at Cole's Drug Store. Clothing, etc., left at Mrs. Joseph W. Bosserts' in the Wheeler Building.

No sewage system for the city.

St. John's Hospital organized by Episcopal minister and some of the church women (now Sparks Regional Medical Center).

Electric light system in full operation.

Population 10,000.

1886

First storm sewer installed.

Jewish Congregation organized. First Temple built in 1892 at Eleventh & E Streets.

Board of Trade organized.

St. Boniface Catholic Church organized.

1887

Arrival of Harry E. Kelley. He established Kelley Trust Company which became Kelley Realty Company. Kelley Highway was named for him, and Leigh Avenue was named for his son, Leigh. Kelley Realty is now owned and operated by his granddaughter, Gordon.

1889

Federal Building completed.

County Courthouse built. Replaced with present structure in 1936.

1891

W.H. and Marie Cole received their licenses to practice pharmacy in the State of Arkansas. She was Arkansas' first licensed woman pharmacist.

1892

Fort Smith Chair Company established, later to become Ayers Furniture Company.

1893

First electric streetcars.

1894

Dyke Brothers' Lumber Company established. They were nephews of J.G. Miller.

1895

Berry Dry Goods established.

Arrival of Minnie Juliet Armstrong, wife of Henry Clay Armstrong — first female physician in Arkansas. They were the parents of Ruth Armstrong, well-known teacher in Fort Smith.

1896

November 17th — death of Judge Isaac C. Parker.

1898

Year of the tornado which destroyed much property, including a part of the then new high school, later to become Darby Junior High School.

Riverfront Hotel built — later to become "Miss Laura's Social Club".

The Coles, who owned Coles' Drug Store, introduced Mexican limes into the United States. Their visitors that year were actors William S. Hart and Richard Mansfield, and the well-known attorney from New York, Robert Ingersoll.

1900

McCloud Park re-named "Electric Park", now known as K. Rodgers Park.

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church built.

Charles T. Orr with sons Raymond F., James F., and Ander K., established Athletic Mining and Smelting Company.

Wortz Biscuit Company founded.

1901

Natural gas discovered at Mansfield — replaced former gas made from coal for Fort Smith consumers. Eads Brothers' Furniture company founded.

1903

Businesses noted: Fort Smith Wagon Company; Sparks Drug Store; M & T Sparks, Mercantile Store.

Coca-Cola Bottling Company established by Robert Meek.

1904

Alphonso Trent, great jazz artist, born in Fort Smith.

St. Edward Mercy Hospital built, Rogers Avenue and 15th Street.

1906

Burke Brick Company built — later became Acme Brick Company.

1908

Mme. Ernestine Schumann-Heink featured soloist at Electric Park. Amelita Galli-Curci, another great soloist, also performed at Electric Park.

Carnegie Public Library opened on North 13th Street on the site of the former home of Judge Parker and his family. Building now used for TV Station KFSM.

1911

Second authorized air mail service in the United States.

Fort Smith joined the Western Association Baseball League.

Goldman Hotel completed.

First movie theater built — the "New".

Yahola Sand & Gravel Company founded by Walter S. Dills, became Arkhola Sand & Gravel Company.

1912

Fort Smith and Van Buren bridge opened for streetcars.

Theodore Roosevelt passed through Fort Smith during his presidential campaign. Because of noisy railway traffic, he was unable to make his speech on a flat streetcar parked at the foot of Garrison Avenue. Shortly afterward, he delivered the speech to a crowd in Van Buren.

Walter Damrosh, conducting the New York Symphony Orchestra at Electric Park.

Big League baseball teams played at League Park, including the Cincinnati Reds and the Detroit Tigers.

Fort Smith Light & Traction Company baseball team was known as the "Trolley Dodgers".

Marie Cole became postmistress for the Gypsies.

1913

Kansas City Southern Railway Station erected on Rogers Avenue. (Demolished 1960.)

Cadet Band organized.

Noted business: Fentress Mortuary.

1914

City National bank built at North 6th and Garrison Avenue.

1916

Shipley Baking Company founded.

1917

Harding Glass Company founded.

1920

Cooper Clinic organized.

Fort Smith Automobile Supply Company founded, later to become "The Automotive, Inc."

1920-1930 might be called the decade of music. Among bands organized and playing in Fort Smith were: Fort Smith Concert Band, Amrita Grotto, Jimmie Grace and His Ozarkians, The Southerners, Doc Miller's Orchestra, Clint Fisher and His Musical Buddies, Fred Rose and His Band, Wayne Redden and His Arkansas Valley Boys, Paul Lewis and His Dance Band, Calvin Carter and His Border City Ramblers, and The Ozark Smile Girls' Band.

1921

John Phillip Sousa, the March King, visited Fort Smith.

Holt-Krock Clinic organized.

Hunt's Department Store founded by R.T. Hunt.

1923

Funeral of Yanko Urich, the Gypsy King, at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. Burial at Forest Park Cemetery.

Fort Smith became one of the first farm clubs for the St. Louis Cardinals' baseball team.

1927

Tornado — Most of the damage was done at Clifton Court and vicinity of 34th Street and Grand Avenue.

1928

Fort Smith changed and became farm club for the Detroit Tigers.

Christ the King Catholic Church built.

1929

Main-Bailey-Parker House sold to Colonial Hospital. House bought in 1952 by Holt-Krock Clinic.

1930

KFPW, first radio station in Fort Smith, in the Goldman Hotel.

1933

Edwards Funeral Home established.

1935

Arkansas Motor Freight founded by R.A. Young, later became Arkansas Best Corporation.

1937

Bob Feller, 18 years old, pitched a game at Andrews Field.

1939

Total number of fans attending baseball games at Andrews Field for the year were 87,578.

1940

Dizzy Dean pitched for the Chicago Cubs against the St. Louis Browns at Andrews Field. 3,500 fans attended.

1942

Joe Garagiola, catcher, played at Andrews Field.

1943

Worst flood in Fort Smith history. Soldiers at Fort Chaffee built a pontoon bridge across the Arkansas River.

1946

Riverside Furniture Company established by Herman Udouj.

1957

Church baseball leagues formed.

1958

Last major exhibition game at Andrews Field between two black teams — All Stars.

1959

Goldman Hotel sold.

1970

McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Project finished.

1975

Andrews Field re-opened under the direction of Jimmy Vaughn and Charles Elkins. Vaughn's wife, Claudia, became District Commissioner of the American Softball Association of Arkansas.

1984

Kay Eakin, adopted son of Fort Smith, inducted into the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame. He enjoyed a career in football and baseball. He is now retired from banking (Merchants National Bank).

Arkansas Sesquicentennial Logo designed by Linda Ridener of Fort Smith, winner in logo competition as official logo for Arkansas Sesquicentennial Celebration.

Linda Ridener



**Linda Ridener with her winning design
for Arkansas Sesquicentennial Logo.**

While all of us in Arkansas will be touched in one way or another by our sesquicentennial celebration this year, Linda Ridener has special cause to be excited. She designed the beautiful logo which has been adopted as the official "stamp of approval" on our year-long celebration.

Linda is a lady of many talents. She attended the College of the Ozarks in Clarksville on vocal and

instrumental music scholarships, graduating with a BA degree in music in 1974.

As an educator she taught music. And in addition she coached varsity girls' State and Regional volleyball, basketball, track, and softball teams. She was also among the handful of official ASA "Lady" Umpires across the nation.

Her talents are matched no less by her energy. She is involved in all types of community projects and has served on the board of the Fort Smith Little Theater, as well as the Fort Smith Regional Playground for All Children at Creekmore Park. She received a letter of commendation from the Governor of Arkansas for her work with Project Compassion.

Besides having her logo chosen officially to represent us as a State, Linda is also participating in a number of other sesquicentennial events, including the writing of the original music score for a "150" presentation about our local history. And she is working on a fascinating "graphics" project that will take place later in the year.

Linda's graphic designs and logos range from local small businesses to international car races, and from parking stickers to billboards.

She is employed by the Medical Records Department at Sparks Regional Medical Center as the Chart Completion Coordinator.

We are highly pleased to introduce Linda Ridener, a multi-talented and "caring" young lady, as one of our own special Fort Smith residents.

Paul Latture

Paul Latture, president of the Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce for 31 years and a contributing member of the Fort Smith Historical Society, died January 4th at the age of 71.

His tenure of office began at a time when Fort Chaffee was the city's main source of employment. When the future of Fort Chaffee became uncertain, the Chamber of Commerce began the movement which, through the years, has brought about some 500 million dollars of industrial expansion to Fort Smith. Latture was the enthusiastic and untiring leader in this growth and development.

He was a faithful member of the First United Methodist Church, where his funeral was held on January 6th. Among the many friends and local businessmen in attendance were also Senator Dale Bumpers, former Governor Orval Faubus, and Governor Bill Clinton.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret Dodd Latture; his son, Paul, Jr. of Jackson, Mississippi; his stepdaughter, Rebecca Dearien of Oak Ridge, Tennessee; one brother, Raymond of Beebe; two grandsons, Paul III and Brian, both of Jackson; and four stepgrandchildren.

Mildred Stein

Mildred Stein, an accomplished musician and writer, as her contribution to the Arkansas Sesquicentennial Celebration, has penned *Come One, Come All!*, a poem officially acknowledged by the Sesquicentennial Commission and published. It is by special permission of the author that we print *Come One, Come All!* in *The Journal*. Australia is also celebrating a sesquicentennial year, and she has written a poem, *Ode To Our Australian Sister State*, that has been sent to Australia.

Miss Stein, a native of Fort Smith, is the daughter of Benno and Anna Mincer Stein of the Stein Wholesale Dry Goods Company, who were benefactors of many friends and relatives they helped bring to the United States from Germany following World War II.

Mildred Stein received her education, kindergarten through high school, in Fort Smith, attending Mrs. Benton's Kindergarten, Belle Grove Elementary School and Fort Smith High School. During this time she was a music student of Dr. Hattie May Butterfield. Her college years were spent at Colorado Woman's College, where she continued her music education, and the University of Denver.

Her career has been varied and interesting. As a business woman, she was employed in the family business for a time and later managed a variety store in Tulsa, Oklahoma, did research and survey work for the United States Government, as well as private corporations, was a music therapist at the Army

Navy Hospital in Hot Springs, Arkansas, and has done stage work. Among composers and entertainers she has worked with is Ned Washington, composer of Tommy Dorsey's Band's theme song, *Getting Sentimental Over You*, the ever popular *When You Wish Upon A Star* and many other well known songs.

Miss Stein, who plays both piano and organ, with her sparkling sense of humor says she also plays the ocarina and taught ukelele lessons while a student at Colorado Woman's College — got thirty-five cents a lesson.

She composes popular, sacred and political music. Her political rally songs have been used by President Ronald Reagan, Senator John McClellan, and Arkansas Governors Frank White and Winthrop Rockefeller. The catchy title of the song she wrote for Governor Rockefeller was *Rock and Roll to the Voting Poll*.

Her latest composition is the accompaniment to a hymn, *That We Might Live*, words by Ruth H. Wills, a Fort Smith resident who is a former teacher at John Brown University at Siloam Springs, Arkansas, and the widow of Dr. Irvin A. Wills, a professor at the same school for 39 years. The hymn is dedicated to Mrs. Wills' husband and to her recently deceased daughter, Ruth Elizabeth Wills Perks, who was Director of the Executive Library of the President of the United States, Ronald Reagan. Mrs. Wills is also the mother of Dr. Paul Wills of Fort Smith.

COME ONE, COME ALL!

Mildred Stein

Sesquicentennial - Arkansas state
Has 1986 as its great date.
One hundred and fifty wonderful years.
We hail our dear homeland with cheers and cheers!

Known as THE LAND OF OPPORTUNITY,
We all stand together in unity,
Bursting with pride in progress as we've *grown*.
It's our home state - our very, very own!

COME ONE, COME ALL - join us. Have a ball!
Hear 'bout state's special events we recall.
If you'll accept our invite and *partake*,
Warm welcome we'll give from candles* on cake.

And if with us you'll come and celebrate,
You'll feel so vibrant, you'll just scintillate!
We'd do our best to make you glad you came,
Share our joy with you would be our aim.

Yes, 1986, our state's great date,
Simply thrills us as we all celebrate.
Sesquicentennial's *some* attainment!
Come pay homage in splendor of raiment!!!

*150 candles, no less!

JUST WAIT TILL THEY GET THERE, OH WOW!

Mildred Stein

Here's something I've always been told,
There's no one likes to be called old.
And if some folks don't believe it now,
Just wait till they get there, oh wow!

A 60-plus friend once told me
That he'd never felt old before
Until classed and categorized
With bad terms which he did abhor.

"Senior citizen," "Elderly,"
Most insulting to say the least!
So furious and so incensed,
Made his blood pressure rise like yeast.

To hear those terms so constantly
Surely had a profound impact.
Wondered was he getting feeble?
Heck no! Those folks need to learn tact.

I'm convinced of what I've been told:
That no one likes to be called old.
For folks who don't believe it now,
Just wait till they get there, oh wow!

Sesquicentennial News

Chris Johnson

Arkansas Statehood Day is June 15th. President Reagan has been invited to a giant 150th birthday party June 13, 1986 in War Memorial Stadium in Little Rock. All seventy-five Arkansas counties have been asked to participate by sending floats.

An Arkansas Sesquicentennial Commemorative first class postage stamp was issued in January which pictures the Old State House in Little Rock. A ceremony celebrating the release of the stamp was held in Little Rock on March 3.



June 15th is to be "Chimes and Cheers Sunday" across the state, with church bells to ring out each hour from noon until 8:00 p.m. Potluck dinners and reunions are the order of the day.

A statewide calendar of events has been prepared by the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism.

Former Fort Smith Mayor Jack Freeze is Sebastian County Sesquicentennial Coordinator. He has provided most of the following information; some additions have been made with his consent.

Fort Smith's "kick-off" event for the Sesquicentennial Celebration was a lecture on January 2 by Dr. John L. Ferguson, Arkansas State Historian, which was sponsored by the Altrusa Club of Fort Smith and the American Association of University Women of Van Buren. Entitled, "Arkansas for 300 Years", Dr. Ferguson's lecture emphasized the fact that in June 1986 Arkansas will attain both the tricentennial of settlement and the sesquicentennial of statehood. He reviewed the major trends in, and characteristics of, our history, helping us in an understanding of the Arkansas of today. The lecture was held in Breedlove Auditorium, Westark Community College.

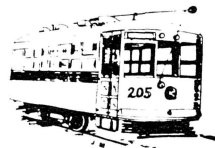
Secondary Social Studies Educators will present Frontier Achievement Awards on Thursday, April 24, at a 6:30 p.m. reception at the Old Fort Museum, 320 Rogers Avenue. These awards honor Fort Smith citizens for outstanding contributions to the

historical development of our city and/or helping to preserve the heritage of Fort Smith. A contribution will also be made to the Heritage Foundation for the planting of a garden at the W.H.H. Clayton House at 514 North Sixth Street, Fort Smith, to honor recipients of the Achievement Awards.

Projects of the Fort Smith Historical Society that have been sanctioned by the Arkansas Sesquicentennial Commission are the 1986 issues of *The Journal of the Fort Smith Historical Society* and an index of Volumes I through IX of that publication, which is being prepared for printing.

The South Sebastian County Historical Society plans to erect an historical marker on Highway 71, west of Jenny Lind near the home of Mr. and Mrs. Eaton Tatum in which Sebastian County was organized. The Act of the General Assembly creating Sebastian County and locating the temporary seat of justice at the house of Eaton Tatum, was approved January 10, 1851 by Governor John Seldon Roane. In May 1851, the seat of justice was moved to Greenwood.

The Junior League of Fort Smith will sponsor the "Old Fort River Festival" May 15-18 as part of the 150th celebration, and will prepare an original outdoor musical drama, "Outlaws and Deputies", depicting life in Fort Smith during the historic era of Judge Isaac Parker.



Fort Smith Historical Society
Restoration Association Incorporated

November 1986 is target date for Fort Smith Trolley Museum to have restored Fort Smith streetcar running on track. All equipment and tools are now in one place and all restoration work is being done in the car barn at 100 South Fourth Street. Tikie Lelemsis has contributed a circa 1925 Model T. Ford Peddler's Wagon to the transportation collection. The wagon, an unusual truck conversion built by Armbruster Company of Fort Smith, was used by Tikie's father, John Lelemsis, from which he sold fruit, vegetables, and fresh meat. This vehicle is also being restored to operational status.

The restoration crew, which works every Tuesday night from 6:30 to 10:00 and most Saturdays 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., welcomes new workers. Telephone at car barn is 783-0205. For information when no one is at car barn, call 783-1237 or 783-0145.

Fort Smith Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, has three sesquicentennial projects:

1. Abstracting, indexing and printing the Sebastian County Deeds and Mortgages Book A.
2. Placing a gravestone, May 5, on the grave of W.M. Fishback, former governor of Arkansas, and his wife, who are buried in unmarked graves in Oak Cemetery in Fort Smith.
3. Placing marker, June 3, on grave of former acting governor of Arkansas, John R. Williamson, who is buried in Shiloh-Williamson Cemetery at Russellville.

The Fort Smith Symphony will conduct a special concert, May 24, featuring Dr. Frederick Fox, pianist.

A slide/tape presentation program on the unique and colorful Fort Smith heritage, entitled "Fort Smith Heritage in Sight and Sound", is being prepared by the Fort Smith Heritage Foundation. This presentation will be showing in late summer at the Clayton House Restoration, 514 North Sixth Street, phone 783-3000.

Project Compassion will be hosting "150th Celebration Parties" in every nursing home in Sebastian County.

The Fort Smith Art Center will present "Sesquicentennial Showcase of Arkansas Artists" and present artists and craftsmen each month as a celebration of the arts in Arkansas.

Mount Magazine Council Girl Scouts are volunteering their womanpower to assist and help other organizations whenever possible in the 150th celebration activities.

Western Arkansas Counseling and Guidance Center is planning open houses and celebrating the past and future development in mental health care in every county in Western Arkansas.

Frontier Researchers, a Genealogical Society, is reconstructing the 1890 Sebastian County Census which was destroyed by fire.

Westark Community College is planning to include a time capsule in the construction of the new Westark Library. Work is underway to publish a special historical edition of the student newspaper with a series on Arkansas history featured in each issue published in 1986. Westark also used the Sesquicentennial theme cover design for the 1985-86 activities calendar. The college drama department is planning a special production with an appropriate historic theme, and a "150th Birthday Party" is planned for the students, faculty and staff.

The Fort Smith Philharmonic Orchestra is planning several special concerts by Arkansas composers. The May 11th concert will be in Breedlove Auditorium at Westark.

The Fort Smith National Historic Site (Judge Parker's) is planning two special exhibits chronicling the development of the Site from 1836 to 1986. They will include historic photographs and artifacts. 1986 will be the park's 25th anniversary in Fort Smith.

Brunswick Place will publish and sell postcards celebrating the rehabilitation, redevelopment and rediscovery of downtown Fort Smith.

On May 24 and 25, Van Buren will be a stop-over site of the special Sesquicentennial Wagon Train touring Arkansas.

The King Opera House in Van Buren on April 19th will present the Tell-A-Tale Troupe in "Arkansas Sesquicentennial Celebration". Van Buren also celebrates Old Timer's Day May 2-4. June 1-30 the Crawford County Art Association presents their Spring Festival and Sesquicentennial Art Show.

The Belle Fort Smith Tour of Historical Homes is May 10-11.

May 12, Downtown Fort Smith Parade.

Old Fort Futurity & Derby Barrel Races May 22-24.

Old Fort Days Rodeo May 26-31.

"Salute to Arkansas", special performance by the Western Arkansas Ballet, date to be announced. Selections from this sesquicentennial celebration will be performed at Old Timer's Day in Van Buren and the Old Fort River Festival.

May 10, Fort Smith Chorale "Outdoor Pops Concert".

May 10, Barber Shop Quartet, Civic Center.

Jeffery-Alexander Cousins are publishing a cookbook, "Cooking Kin".

Purchasing Management Association of Arkansas, Fort Smith Chapter, will hold PMAA Trade Exposition.

Brunswick Place Farmer's Market is a project of Union Hall Investment Company.

Border Line Chili Heads will hold an Arkansas Sesquicentennial Chili Cookoff.

Arkansas Federation of Women's Clubs will publish a history of the Arkansas Federation of Women's Clubs.

Boy Scouts of America will hold Scout Day Camp.

Hartford-Midland Senior Citizen's Center will have a Household Arts and Quilt Show.

This is the 100th anniversary of Fort Smith High School (Northside). It will be noted in a special mini-magazine in the school yearbook edited by Shelley MacDaniels.

AWARDS

The 45th annual Fort Smith Jaycees Distinguished Service Award was given to the 188th Tactical Fighter Group of the Air National Guard. A new award, the Paul Latture Ambassador Award, was presented to the family of the late Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce president. Other awards presented were the Outstanding Young Firefighter to Mike Richards; Outstanding Young Law Enforcement Award to Luther Tohee; Outstanding Young Educator to George Lieux, Jr.; and Boss of the Year Award to Francis Burns, owner of Burns Flower Shop.

The 1985 Book of Golden Deeds Award was presented to Jimmie Delle Caldwell. The Noon Exchange Club honored her with their 44th annual award, citing her for her many civic activities and humanitarian deeds.

Janie Glover has received the Service to Mankind Award from the Downtown Sertoma Club. She was selected for her twenty years of dedicated service to the Interfaith Community Center.

Genealogy News

The Arkansas State Health Department, Bureau of Vital Records, 4815 West Markham, Little Rock, AR 72205, has announced price changes for copies of vital records. Birth certificates are now \$5.00 each. You must give full name, town, county, date of event, and both parents' names. Death certificates are \$4.00 for the first copy and \$1.00 for each additional copy. You may order by mail OR they will accept telephone orders and charge to VISA or Master Charge. For further information, write the above address or telephone them at 501-666-2336.

Oklahoma death certificates are now \$5.00. To obtain one, you must send for an application form VS 150 10-84 and enclose a SASE with request. Records begin October 1908. Write: Division of Vital Records, Oklahoma State Department of Health, 1000 Northeast 10th Street, P.O. Box 53551, Oklahoma City, OK 73152.

AMERICAN INDIANS

Fourth in a series of select catalogs of National Archives microfilm, is now available for \$2.00 from Publications - Sales Branch (NEPS), National Archives, Washington, DC 20408.

THE FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES MUSEUM

The only library in the world devoted to the Creeks, Choctaw, Cherokee, Chickasaw and Seminole Indians, offers consultation and research. Write: Agency Hill - Honor Heights Drive, Muskogee, OK 74401.

IMPORTANT NOTICE!!

RECORDS OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION ARE NOT AVAILABLE TO RESEARCHERS. SOME 50 GENEALOGICAL NEWSLETTERS AND JOURNALS RECENTLY CARRIED A NOTICE TO THE CONTRARY.

Address for National Genealogical Society is 4727 17th Street North, Arlington, VA 22207.

If you plan to order microfilm from the National Archives, please be advised that the price is now \$20.00 per roll.

Address for the HAMERSKY AND ALLIED FAMILIES NEWSLETTER is: Michael D. Hamersky, P.O. Box 3939, Chula Vista, CA.

The Clay County, Arkansas Genealogy Club has been formed. A newsletter will be published with free queries to members. Non-members may submit queries of 50 words or less for a fee. Their address is 361 West Main, Piggott, AR 72454.

The Arkansas History Commission has microfiche records: a nationwide index divided into "searchers" in alphabetical order by last name of the individual. Ask one of the staff members for information and assistance in using this material.

Frontier Researchers of Fort Smith are reconstructing the 1890 census for Sebastian County, which was destroyed.

The Special Collections Department at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, has the personal and pastoral papers of Reverend James W. Workman. Rev. Workman was born in Little Rock in 1897, the son of James Mims Workman, a long-time Methodist minister, and the grandson of Col. George Thornburgh, publisher of the *Arkansas Methodist*, who was a leader in the Masonic order and a long-time member of the Arkansas General Assembly.

Ethel C. Simpson, of the Special Collections staff, emphasizes the importance of the papers, "Dr. Workman participated in some of the interesting developments in Arkansas Methodism. He was involved in Henderson-Brown College, in the establishment of the Sequoyah Methodist Assembly in Fayetteville, in the Wesley Foundation movement in the colleges, and was a pastor in churches in various towns in the state. His diaries and other papers should provide an interesting view of the day-to-day life of a pastor in the middle decades of the twentieth century."

Membership in POCAHONTAS TRAILS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY is open to all interested persons. Dues are \$10 annually and entitle the members to receive the four quarterly issues for the membership year, submit queries free of charge, and if their surnames and genealogies have been submitted, to receive the names and addresses of all others researching the same surnames. For more information write: Pearl Bullock, 3628 Cherokee Lane, Modesto, California 95356.

* * * * *

Address for Genealogy Club of America is 420 South 425 West, Bountiful, Utah 84010. Regular membership fees are \$18.00 - 1 year, \$25.00 - 2 years. A 15% discount is being offered to members of historical and genealogical societies, so as a member of the Fort Smith Historical Society you may join that society for \$15.00 for one year or \$25.00 for two years. Membership includes free queries, a year's subscription to *Genealogy Digest*,

25% discount on forms, charts and other related supplies, Tour and Travel packages, 25% discount on research and lineage surveys, discount on any printing of family histories, books or personal printing, and a membership card.

Review copy of Volume 16, #3, Summer 1985 issue of *Genealogy Digest* is a 60 page magazine printed on slick finish paper. Subject matter includes genealogical articles, book reviews, research tips, inquiries and advertising. Two particularly interesting articles in this issue were: *An Historical View of Salt Lake City, Utah*, and *Sources: Primary or Secondary?*

* * * * *

Attention members of the LOTHROPP (and various spelling of the name) family. Copies of *John Lothrop (1584-1653): A Puritan Biography and Genalogy* are available from Richard W. Price & Associates, 57 West South Temple, Suite 751, P.O. Box 11980, Salt Lake City, Utah 84147, Phone (801) 531-0920.

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Inquiries

Inquiries are printed free, but must have some connection to Fort Smith or be submitted by members of the Fort Smith Historical Society. Effective inquiries must contain full names, dates, places, and submitter's name and address. Don't laugh! Some people do fail to sign their letters and inquiries —also fail to give an address where they hope to receive an answer to their communication.

* * * * *

CRITTENDEN:

Seeking information regarding Joseph CRITTENDEN who was murdered on 30 November 1889 about ten miles west of Evansville, AR. He was on his way to Fort Smith to attend U.S. Court where he was under indictment for selling whiskey. A man named Scott was subsequently tried for the crime and found guilty of murder. Larry Crittenden, Rt. 2, Box 74B, Westville, OK 74965.

* * * * *

SPAIN, SELF, SWAN, WILSON:

Desire to correspond with others researching these families in Sebastian County. Marilyn Swan Dyer, 1643 North Fairmont, Wichita, KS 67208.

* * * * *

ROGERS:

Looking for information on Hugh L. ROGERS, Edward J. ROGERS or James P. ROGERS,

residents of Fort Smith circa 1860-70. Hugh L. ROGERS married Elizabeth DAY circa 1860 — where? B.V. Blackburn, 305 North Hillcrest, Ada, OK 74820.

* * * * *

BRUMLEY, DAFFRON:

Need burial place of Clementine BRUMLEY DAFFRON, daughter of Isaac Newton and Mary GILLEY BRUMLEY, died 2 March 1892 in Fort Smith according to entry in family Bible. Her husband was John DAFFRON. Gladys Carlson, 542 Sybil Lane, S.E., Marietta, GA 30667.

* * * * *

LOYD/LOID:

Need proof of death and/or burial of my GGGGrandfather, James (Levi?) LOYD or LOID who may have died at Fort Smith, Arkansas, on 28 December 1862. Leah LLOYD McCalmon, Box 307, Calumet, OK 73014.

* * * * *

TUSING:

Looking for information on my great-grandmother, Mary N. OLIPHANT TUSING (d. 1 February 1939 at Arzula/Ursula, Arkansas) and my great-uncle, Benjamin F. TUSING (d. 22 March 1949, same place). GGrandfather, James TUSING, died in Kansas. Carolyn Tusing Surine, RD 2, Box 128, Barneveld, N.Y. 13304.

* * * * *

Book Notes

The Fort Smith Historical Society reviews books on Arkansas or Genealogy when a copy of the book is received for that purpose. After review, the book is placed in the Arkansas Room at the Fort Smith Public Library, a gift of the author and the Society.

LIFE IN ARKANSAS: THE FIRST 100 YEARS

Gold stamped, hardback cover 8½ x 11 inches, 200 pages, \$15.00, postpaid. Make check to Arkansas State Society DAR and send order and payment to Jane Russell, Chairman, Arkansas Sesquicentennial Committee, 6509 Pontiac, North Little Rock, AR 72116.

This book, a project of the Arkansas State Society DAR for the Arkansas Sesquicentennial, is a collection of over 330 original photographs of life in Arkansas before 1936. This unusual collection includes a variety of categories: streets, merchants, trains, airplanes, buggies, steamboats, churches, schools, parades, recreation, canning, harvesting, to name a few. Almost all counties in Arkansas are

represented, and the pictures are captioned. This is a souvenir volume suitable for display on the coffee table.

A SURVEY OF HISTORIC MARKERS IN ARKANSAS

Gold stamped, hardback cover, 8½ x 11 inches. 207 pages. \$17.00 plus \$2.00 postage and handling. Order from R.W. Dhonau, 4410 Lee Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72205.

This book, the Arkansas Sesquicentennial project of the Arkansas Chapter Sons of the American Revolution, shows a photograph of each marker listing location and reason for marker. Also listed are 108 Revolutionary War soldiers, patriots and True Daughters who died in Arkansas and are buried here. Pictures of a number of their graves are included. All 75 Arkansas counties are included. Material was gathered by SAR members, with some help from Daughters of the American Revolution, and compiled and edited by Robert W. Dhonau, State Secretary, SAR.

Letters from Readers

Thank you for the very real honor you have given me by giving me a special place in the Rogers School edition of our *Fort Smith Historical Journal*. Although there were others who have made outstanding contributions to Rogers School, I think it must have been my columning writing that earned the place for me. I was pleased with the two columns you chose to print . . . I am so proud of Sarah Fitzjarrald's career as a historical journalist — thanks to you, as we'll as to her . . .

I especially enjoyed seeing again my "Rogers School Playground" and "Flash Backs". Thanks to Clarissa Stephens and you editors for including them.

Of course, I loved the picture of Thelma and Oren with the writeup by Dr. Jim. . .

Verna Soifer

(Thanks to you, Verna, for being the special person you are.)

In June 1985, Mrs. Fanchon L. Fischer of Manassas, VA came to Fort Smith to attend a reunion of her high school graduating class. At the reunion she won a door prize, the April 1985 issue of *The Journal of the Fort Smith Historical Society*. Since then we

have received three letters from Mrs. Fischer, each of which we appreciated very much, and want to share portions of them with our readers.

September 18, 1985

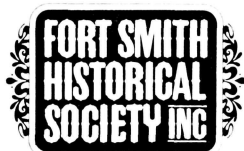
In June, I was in Fort Smith for the class reunion of the Fort Smith High School, class of 1950. While there I won a drawing and the prize was the April 1985 copy of your *Journal* and I have enjoyed reading it so much. Also while there, one of your members, Mr. Wayne Bledsoe, took us on a very enjoyable and educational tour. Please convey my thanks to him.

Could you please send me *Journals*, Vol. VIII, No. 1, April 1984, and your new one, Vol. IX, September 1985. . .

I have just received the October 3, 1985 *Journals* you sent me and I've enjoyed reading them so much, that I'm now ordering more of them . . . I was born at Sparks Hospital and lived in Fort Smith until my adult life. I attended Rogers School and enjoyed the article on it so much.

My dad, Cicero Lewis, has lived in the area all of his 86 years, as well as his mother, who lived in Van Buren, has helped write an article for your *Journal*...

(Continued at end of Newspapers.)



The JOURNAL

Contents of Past Issues

Limited quantities of past issues of **The Journal** are available at \$5.00 per copy at the Fort Smith Public Library.
Copies may be ordered by mail from: **The Fort Smith Historical Society, 61 South 8th Street, Fort Smith, Arkansas 72901.**
For mail orders: Order by Volume and Issue Number, include your complete mailing address and \$5.00 plus 75¢ mailing charges per copy.

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1885 - 1886 Newspapers

FORT SMITH ELEVATOR

October 26, 1885 - April 23, 1886

Abstracted By

Thelma Wray

The operation of the *Fort Smith Elevator* began in November 1878 with John Carnall as proprietor and editor.

Mr. Carnall retired on January 1, 1886 due to ill health and placed his sons J. Henry Carnall and Wharton Carnall in charge of the newspaper. The new proprietors stated in the January 1, 1886 issue of the *Elevator* "The policies of the paper will be as heretofore — Independent Democrat — but plain and outspoken on all matters of public interest, praising what we deem worthy of praise and condemning at all times what we believe to be wrong." . . .

The excerpts printed here were taken from the 1885-86 issues of the *Fort Smith Elevator* which are on microfilm at the Fort Smith Public Library.

In 1886 Congress was busy "passing thousands of pension bills, from fifty to one hundred a day, annually pensioning everybody who claimed to be in the Union army and their widows and children . . ."

"Statistics show that Arkansas has 29,924 more male inhabitants than female."

"Texarkana has two county seats, two city councils and two post offices."

"Fort Smith has a population of 10,000."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

October 9, 1885

The *Jennie May* had a serious accident on Tuesday last near Van Buren. She was engaged by a tree embedded in the sand, making a hole about one foot square, and only for prompt attention from her crew would likely have gone down.

— ● —

Mr. James McBride and Miss Molie Doyle, both of this city, were married at the Catholic Church on Tuesday morning last, by Rev. L. Smythe. We wish Jim and his bride a happy and prosperous future.

— ● —

Col. Ben T. DuVal arrived home on Monday from Eureka Springs in response to a telegram informing him of the fatal illness of his brother, getting here in time to be with him in his last hours.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

October 16, 1885

AT REST

Friday the 9th day of October, 1885 was the date of an event that will long be remembered in our city. On that day there was consigned to the tomb all that

was mortal of one of our noblest, most useful, and most honored citizens — Dr. Elias Rector DuVal. The throng of sorrowing admirers and friends that poured into his mansion to take a last look at the face of their friend, showed how deep and sincere was the grief of our whole people.

At ten o'clock the sad procession took its line of march from the doctor's residence to the Episcopal Church, where the solemn requiem mass was celebrated by Rev. Joseph L. Berne. The church was unable to contain the vast crowd that gathered to pay their last respects, and hundreds turned sorrowfully away. The services were solemn and impressive, and when they were concluded the sad march to the grave commenced. The pallbearers were chosen from among the physicians of the city. The Masons, of whom the doctor was one of the most brilliant lights, had charge of the funeral. A mounted escort of Knight Templars marched alongside the hearse which ahead were the Legion of Honor and the different Masonic bodies to which he belonged. In addition to the Masonic societies of this city, there were also delegations from Fayetteville, Van Buren, Greenwood and Hackett City. Both the United States and the State courts adjourned, the public schools were dismissed, and all the leading business houses closed their doors. There were over one hundred vehicles in the procession, besides a number of horsemen. Many were prevented from joining the march on account of having no transportation.

Arriving at the cemetery, after the conclusion of services by the church, the beautiful burial rites of the Masonic Order were read, and the earth then closed over the casket that contained all that was mortal of the true man, the tried physician and the honest citizen.

— ● —

\$5 REWARD

Will be paid for the conviction of the thief who stole the letter C from the *Elevator* office door and 50cts for the return of the letter.

John Carnall

— ● —

FIRE

A fire broke out Tuesday morning in the building of the M.E. Church. When the fire was discovered flames were seen coming through the roof of the building. The alarm was given and as soon as practicable the hose companies were on the ground,

doing what they could to subdue the flames and save the surrounding property. The fire was soon under control but not before the roof of the house had been burned and the walls badly impaired. All the furniture in the house was saved. It was occupied at the time by Mrs. M.E. Nelson as a school. A defective flue was the cause of the disaster.

— ● —

HACK LINE

The Fort Smith and Hackett City hack line will from date make three round trips each week leaving at 7 o'clock a.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and return same day. Office at the City Hotel.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

October 30, 1885

THE OLD MAN FAINTED

Quite a commotion was caused on Garrison Avenue day before yesterday. A farmer carrying a package under his arm called at the Boston Store and while there one of the salesmen showed another customer some men's suits. He showed him several ranging in price from \$3.80 to \$10 a suit, and when he showed one for \$7.50 the old man asked the salesman: "Is this suit really only \$7.50?" The salesman very politely answered: "Yes, sir." Whereupon the old man fainted. The house at the time being crowded with customers, it created quite a commotion. The nearest doctor was called and the old gentleman revived sufficiently to give an explanation. He said: "You see that package. It contains exactly the same kind of suit that this salesman showed for \$7.50 and I paid \$15 for it in a prominent clothing house. It made me feel very bad to think that I had thrown away \$7.50."

— ● —

Howard school building on Franklin Street is completed and adds materially to the appearance of that part of the city. Belle Point school building is nearing completion.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

November 6, 1885

Two marriage licenses were issued this week by county clerk McClure, one to Harry Montgomery and Rebeca Richard of Logan County, and one to Jas T. Homer and Helena M. Allen of Enterprise Sebastian County.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

November 13, 1885

Fourteen hundred and two pounds of seed cotton raised on Col. J.L. Tilley's farm between here and Van Buren, was ginned on Saturday last and made a bale weighing 542 pounds, or an average of 38½ pounds to 100 pounds seed cotton. It was raised from seed known as the "Prolife" which was secured in North Carolina. It is a fine grade of cotton, the bale mentioned above having sold 9½ cents.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

November 20, 1885

Belle Point school building on the reserve addition is now occupied.

— ● —

A toll gate has been established at the Garey Lane, ten miles out in the Choctaw Nation. Mr. Garrett Ainsworth having secured a charter for the same put the road through the lane in excellent condition at great expense. Mr. Theo Moore of this city having done the work.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

November 27, 1885

If a trace did not break or the knot slip, Mr. J.M. Kelleam of this city was married yesterday evening at 7 o'clock in Louisville, Ky. to Miss Emma D. Weir of that city. He may be looked for home at any moment.

— ● —

THE FRISCO RAILROAD

It is now confidently expected that the 'Frisco bridge at Van Buren will be completed some time in February, or sooner if nothing happens to deter the work, and it is the general opinion that when this is accomplished work will commence on the extension of the road in the direction of Texas. These opinions, of course, are based on various and good reasons, but nothing definite can be foreshadowed at this time. Work on the extension may begin sooner than expected, or it may not begin as soon, though we are satisfied it will begin at an early day. Engineers were here several days ago surveying off the machine shop grounds and driving stakes preparatory to making some improvements thereon, but work on it has not commenced yet, though we learn the intention is to put in what in railroad parlance is called a Y instead of a turntable, as was heretofore contemplated, though there is nothing on the ground to indicate an early construction of it, except about two car loads of iron.

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December 11, 1885

The Jenkins Boy

MAKES A TRIP THROUGH SEBASTIAN, SCOTT AND POLK COUNTIES

On The Road, December 5, 1885 — The closing of the week finds your correspondent in the land of mines, minerals and many wonders. Last week I had just finished up a trip down the railroad to the capitol city, where I saw things as they had been arranged by man. This week I have been on the buckboard making my way the best I could over the hills and mountains, through the coves and valleys, tumbling over rocks, fording creeks and traveling a road made by nature and kept up without the assistance of even a road overseer, with no trains to get wrecked, no tickets to punch, no smoking cars, no boilers to burst or bridges to cross; in fact, no risk to run except the slight risk of breaking one's neck, which is of but very little importance when compared with the wonders he beholds, saying nothing of the fun he

sees after crossing a mountain and realizes that he is still living and to all intents and purposes is the same man, so far as he can tell, that he was before leaving home. Well, the fact is I have been spending a week in Scott and Polk Counties and strange as it may appear to your readers, I find people away down here living, moving and having an existence just like they do on the railroad, with all the improvements, such as paying taxes, running for office, voting against whisky licenses, and sending their children to the public schools. As to living, they appear to have plenty. Corn is only worth from forty to fifty cents, when sold by the sheriff to pay debts, will only bring thirty cents per bushel. Pork can be sold if a buyer can be found, for five cents provided it is well cornfed and the seller wants to take part payment in goods. Merchandise is abundant, with prices real low, if we consider the distance from market, but owing to financial embarrassments customers are short. The fact is everybody in Scott and Polk, like everybody in Sebastian, has gone in debt until the county is almost ruined, and it would take another war to settle up all old debts and let the people begin anew.

The prospectors for mineral ore still at work both in Scott and Polk, and while there are many persons who denounce them as being crazy on that question, many others are satisfied that there are millions of dollars locked up in the bosom of those mountains, and if prospectors had the capital to back their courage they would soon bring the hidden treasure to light, and your correspondent is inclined to believe with the latter class; however, if he had their courage he would willingly trade it off for a small capital. Should I write that Polk County was booming I should misrepresent the people, and I shall not do so. I saw nothing booming in the county except Bethesda Springs, and they just continue to boom regardless of dry weather or hard times. The *Mountain Signal* published at the Springs is now being run and controlled by Will McAuley, or in other words Will is chief cook and bottle washer of the entire outfit, and as they use nothing stronger than native wine at the Springs, the bottles don't need much washing, and the *Signal* moves right on under his management as in days of yore.

Everybody in Scott and Polk are clamorous for railroads. They need them, and in order to develop the resources of their country they must have them, for the day has passed when men of capital, hunting homes, will settle so far from market, unless there is in their opinion soon to be a railroad to connect them with the outside world.

I should love to write more, but oh, how tired I am, and as I write this the large majority of your readers are sleeping, and the balance will get sleepy when they read it.

Among the many friends of the *Elevator* whom I met in Polk, I will only mention Hamp and Philander Williams, each salesmen for Hudgins Bros., and the boys appeared like kinfolks.

Jenkins Boy

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

December 18, 1885 A BRILLIANT WEDDING

In accordance with previous announcement, Mr. James M. Sparks and Miss Nina V. Johnston, two of Fort Smith's most popular young people, were married on Tuesday evening, Rev. W.A. Samper officiating. After the ceremony a number of invited guests assembled at the home of the bride's mother where feasting and dancing were enjoyed until a late hour. Bridal presents were numerous and many of them very costly, but we have not the space to give a list of them this week. The *Elevator* extends congratulations to Jim and his bride, with best wishes for their future happiness and prosperity.

— ● —

SUDDEN DEATH

Mrs. Catherine Gallagher died suddenly at her home in the suburbs of this city at 3 o'clock on Wednesday morning and was buried yesterday in the Catholic Cemetery. Mrs. Gallagher has resided here for over 33 years, and was 68 years old.

— ● —

Mr. Charles Kayser and Miss Mary Kaase, both of this city, were married on Wednesday last.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

December 28, 1885

A new post office has been established about forty miles from here in the Choctaw Nation called Kavanaugh, with Mr. J.F. Kennedy as postmaster. It is near Kavanaugh Mountain, at Kennedy's Store.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

January 1, 1886 THE FIREMAN'S BALL

One of the most enjoyable occasions that has taken place in the Border City for a long time was the grand ball on Tuesday evening, at the Opera House, under the auspices of the Fort Smith Fire Department. It was well attended by the young and beauty of our city, and the festivities prolonged far into night. The banquet was gotten up by the ladies at Fort Smith, which is a sufficient guarantee of its excellence. During the evening a cake, donated by Mrs. T. F. Moore, was put up and voted off to the most popular young lady and brought about \$65, Miss Mattie Davis, daughter of P.R. Davis, carrying off the prize. Next a fireman's trumpet, donated by Mr. Keck, agent of the Rumsey Manufacturing Company, St. Louis, was voted off to the most popular official in the fire department, which brought over \$100 and was carried off by Col. James Brizzolara, his opponent being Mr. J.A. Livingston. The total receipts of the ball were \$350, which will net the department about \$300 clear.

— ● —

Mr. Jerry Barling and Miss Alice Euper, daughter of Paul Euper of Sulphur township, were married on Tuesday last by Rev. L. Smythe. A reception was held at the residence of the bride's parents in the evening.

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January 8, 1886

MARRIAGE OF ALF. WILLIAMS

On Wednesday morning last, Mr. Alf Williams of the popular house of Williams Bros., accompanied by Hayden Mayers and Eugene Henderson, proceeded to Ozark, where Mr. Williams was united in marriage to Miss Allie Montague, one of Ozark's most handsome society belles. The bridal party arrived home on the night train, being accompanied by Miss Eva Oliver and Miss Alston, and Mr. Mat. Montague, brother of the bride. The *Elevator* and all its attaches extend to Alfred and his bride best wishes for their future happiness and prosperity, and while we must congratulate Alf. on his good fortune in securing for a life partner so estimable and loveable a lady, we must also be allowed to congratulate the bride on her choice of a husband.

— ● —

Mr. Wm. O'Conner, late of St. Louis, and Mr. M.S. Cohn, of this city, will occupy the lower room of the *Elevator* building with a first-class establishment, to be known as the Fulton Market. Mr. O'Conner is a man of much experience in this business, and we predict success for the firm.

— ● —

Tobias, eldest son of Tobias and Mary Kelley, died last Sunday after a brief illness, in the 18th year of his age. Tobe was a bright lad, the pride of his parents, and gave every promise of becoming a useful and noble man. The comfort of his mother and father, the joy of his friends and relatives, his death falls with crushing force upon them. His remains were buried on Monday in the Catholic Cemetery, followed to their last resting place by a large concourse of sympathizers.

— ● —

REVENUE

Twenty-five whisky licenses have been issued this month by County Clerk McClure, for the Fort Smith District. Of the 25, only 22 pay city license. These licenses give the district \$12,500, the State \$5,000, and the city \$6,600, making a total revenue of \$24,100.

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January 15, 1886

The freeze in the Arkansas River retarded work on the bridge and delayed the mails from Thursday to Saturday night. Passengers on the valley route have been having a rough time of it transferring in the night, but everything is about thawed out now and trains are coming in as usual.

— ● —

Dorie Plank got both his hands badly frozen on Saturday morning last while driving from here to the river at Van Buren. He was only out a little over half an hour and had on two pairs of gloves. Prompt medical treatment probably saved his fingers, as they are now much better, and will be all right in a few days.

— ● —

The City Council is arranging to put stepping stone crossings on about fifty streets running north and south. Bids were opened at the last meeting, but as two of the bidders made a tie — both bids being \$2 per crossing — they were allowed time to make a second bid on the work. It ought to be commenced right away and pushed to completion.

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January 22, 1886

CITY OF THE FIRST CLASS

At the last meeting of the City Council, Alderman Baker offered the following resolution:

Whereas, it appearing from a return of the votes polled at the last general election held on the ____ day of April A.D. 1885, for officers for the city of Fort Smith, that said city had and now has a population of exceeding to every five inhabitants, as well as the additions to the population since said election by immigration and the steady increase, making an actual population now of between seven and eight thousand, entitling said city on account of such population to be advanced to the grade of a city of the first class.

Therefore be it

Resolved, that the governor, auditor and secretary of state be requested to declare and advance said city of Fort Smith from the grade of a city of the first class.

The resolution was referred to a special committee, consisting of Alderman Breen, Johnston and Baker.

There are many arguments favorable to the adoption of such a measure, and we trust the council will give it the consideration it demands. We are in favor of Fort Smith being declared a city of the first class.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

January 29, 1886

George Harper is all smiles over the arrival at his house of a fine boy — first installment — and Ed White is taking on just as bad over the advent into his family at a fine, large girl baby. Ed's arrived on Saturday morning last, while George reported his good fortune Monday morning.

— ● —

Mr. James W. Rutherford and Mrs. Lizzie Ward were married on Tuesday morning last by Rev. L. Smythe, the ceremony being performed at the residence of the reverend gentleman.

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February 12, 1886
THE BRIDGE OPEN

First Train Crosses Over on Tuesday Evening

The people of Fort Smith and surrounding country, and the traveling public, generally have cause to rejoice on the completion of the bridge over the Arkansas River at Van Buren, which unites Fort Smith direct with St. Louis by rail, with no interruption at the river by transfer. On Tuesday evening, the first through passenger train from St. Louis passed over the structure in the presence of a multitude of people, a large number of whom went down from this city to witness the event. When the train came thundering into this city, it was greeted by loud cheering, the blowing of whistles, ringing of bells and other enthusiastic demonstrations.

— ● —

COURT NOTES

The grand jury is still in session. The jail contained 88 prisoners yesterday.

Dr. B. Hatchett has tendered his resignation as jail physician, and Dr. J.G. Eberle has been appointed to fill his place.

Belle Star was arraigned on several cases of alleged horse stealing Monday, and entered plea of guilty in each case. They were all continued on motion of defendant, and she has returned home.

— ● —

Mrs. Lizzie Sengel, widow of the late John Sengel, died at her residence in this city on Thursday evening last at 7 o'clock, aged 35 years. She leaves five children. Mrs. Sengel has been in bad health for some time and went to San Antonio, Texas, twice within the last two years in hopes of being benefitted. Her disease was dropsy. Her death has been anticipated for some time past.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

February 19, 1886
CITY HALL NOTES

Quite a large crowd of citizens assembled at the City Hall Monday night to hear the discussions on first and second class cities.

On Tuesday, the finance committee kindled the fire with \$3,900 in cancelled city bonds, thus reducing the indebtedness of the city to \$2,130.

The question of whether Fort Smith should become a city of the first class or remain as is, was settled at the last meeting of the council. Breen, Baker and Reeves advocated first class, while Williams, Kuper, Johnson, Freer and Barnes thought it best to remain a city of the second class, and all cast their votes according to their views.

Messrs. Ben T. DuVal, Stephen Wheeler and G.H. Lyman, the city park commissioners, have organized by electing DuVal president, Lyman secretary, and

Wheeler treasurer. At the last meeting of the council, they submitted a plan of the park showing how it would look when improved and asked that the park be graded as soon as possible. In the meantime, they will ascertain the cost of enclosing it in a substantial fence, etc.

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February 26, 1886

Mrs. Elizabeth Arbuckle, widow of the late David Arbuckle, died at her home on Arbuckle Island, Sebastian County, on the 23d inst. in the 70th year of her age. Her remains were interred in the Arbuckle Island Cemetery. Mrs. Arbuckle was one of the oldest residents of this section, having settled here in the early days of the country.

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Mark Twain has received over \$50,000 from the sale of his last work, "Huckleberry Finn". Mark can "get there", as a humorous writer.

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Mrs. Sarah E. Timmons died at her residence in this city last Wednesday after a short but severe attack of double pneumonia. She leaves a husband and two children, one an infant but a few hours old. Age, 21 years.

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BUCKNER COLLEGE

We are receipt of the third catalogue of Buckner College, Witcherville, Ark. with announcement for 1886-87. It shows the institution to be in a flourishing condition, with over one hundred pupils now in attendance. Rev. Richard S. James, D.D., LL.D., is president. The catalogue was gotten up and printed at the college, and is a very creditable piece of work.

— ● —

In view of the fact that the northern portion of the country is afflicted with measles, and that the scourge is extending in this direction, it would be well to lay in a supply of something to act as a preventive. Dr. P.R. Davis' pure liquor is just the thing needed. Call at his store and try it.

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March 12, 1886

Grandma Euper celebrated her 85th birthday on Monday evening, when dancing and feasting was indulged in until a late hour. Her birthday came February 5th, but owing to the inability of her children and grandchildren to all be present, the entertainment was postponed. She has not failed to celebrate the anniversary of her birth in 25 years.

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March 19, 1886
NEW BUILDINGS

Among the new buildings in process of erection on the Avenue is that of Mr. Isaac Cohn, near the Forks of the Road, stone 100 x 25 feet, one story; and that of Mr. J.W. Patrick on the opposite side of the street near the Red Mill. This will be 25 x 100 feet, brick, with iron front and two stories high. It will be completed about the 1st of June; Mr. Casper Reutzel and M.B. Bear are also erecting business houses.

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The stepping stones at the corners of the streets are just a little treacherous. If one does not measure his steps exactly, he is apt to measure his length emphatically.

— ● —

THE FRISCO EXTENSION

The contract for tunneling Backbone Mountain has been let and work commenced. The contractor is the same man who built the tunnel through Boston Mountains, and preparations are being made for the erection of buildings on each side of the mountain for the accommodations of the laborers. The entrance to the tunnel from this side will be near the public road. Our Hackett City friends are probably over the receipt of the encouraging railroad news of the past few days. The extension of this road will insure the prosperity of their city, and we congratulate them on their good fortune.

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March 26, 1886
MUSIC

By request of many musical friends of Fort Smith, Prof. Raphael Koester of the Royal Conservatory of Berlin, will arrive here about the 10th of April. Unusual advantages will be offered to those desiring a thorough education in music, piano, vocal culture and violin; also harmony, counterpoint or composition. The method of instruction is the same as that taught now in the best conservatories in Europe, and greatly lightens labor for the student and pianist.

Prof. Koester is a valuable acquisition to our city, as he is a musician of rare ability, having graduated in the schools of great masters, and performed in concerts in large cities, and taught music with great success during the last ten years in this country. We bespeak for him a liberal patronage.

Terms: \$5.00 per month of 8 lessons.

For any other information desired, call on or address — R.C. Bollinger, 102 Garrison Ave.

— ● —

Mr. Malcolm Henry and Miss Maude Scholtze were married in this city last Monday evening, at the residence of Mrs. V. Dell, by Rev. W.A. Sample.

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Our fire department, consisting of 4 companies — one hook and ladder company, three hose reel companies composed of about 110 men — are beginning to practice for the grand May tournament.

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Y.M.C.A.

The Young Men's Christian Association of our city now have a comfortable hall to meet in, and on every Monday night quite a good number meet there. We wish them the success all such organizations deserve.

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April 2, 1886
A LEAF

FROM THE LIFE OF BELLE STARR
OF THE CHEROKEE NATION

Much has been said and written in the past three years concerning the exploits of the woman whose name appears in the head of this article, and no doubt many things have been published about her based on mere rumor that are not strictly true. We note a dispatch sent from Eufaula to the *Fort Worth Gazette* concening her recent arrest by Deputy Marshal Tyner Hughes, which is highly colored, and in which there is but little truth. However, it is not our purpose to defend Belle, but as we have never seen her side of the story published, we propose to file a brief sketch of her life as she related it to a reporter of this paper while in the city last week.

She was born at Carthage, Mo., 32 years ago last February, and during the war her father moved to Texas. At the close of the war, Quantrell's band was in Texas, and many of them were guests at her father's house. Belle, who was not fifteen years old at this time, ran away with one of the dashing guerillas and was married on horseback in presence of some twenty of her husband's companions, John Fisher, who afterwards became noted as an outlaw and desperado, holding her horse. Her husband being an outlaw was soon afterwards forced to leave the country, and he was gone some seven or eight months, during which time Belle's father kept her at school in Parker County, and endeavored to prevent her ever joining her husband again. But he came after her and she again fled with him to Missouri, running away from school. After returning to Missouri, her husband purchased a farm and endeavored to lead a quiet life, but his old enemies so harrassed him that he finally killed two men after they killed his brother, and again fled to Texas, and from there went to California, where they remained for some time, but subsequently came back to Texas where her husband was killed. Since that time, she says she has been true to her husband's friends, who, like himself, were outlaws, and she continued to associate with them, living sometimes in one place and sometimes in another, and followed their

fortunes for several years, remaining two years in Nebraska, and spent considerable time among the wild Indians. The remainder of her story is told in the following note which she handed to us just before she started back home, and which shows her to be a woman of fair education and a ready writer. She says:

"After a more adventurous life than generally falls to the lot of women, I settled permanently in the Indian Territory, selecting a place of picturesque beauty on the Canadian River. There, far from society, I hoped to pass the remainder of my life in peace and quietude. So long had I been estranged from the society of women (whom I thoroughly detested) that I thought I would find it irksome to live in their midst, so I selected a place that but few have ever had the gratification of gossiping around. For a short time I lived very happily in the society of my little girl and husband, a Cherokee Indian, and son of the noted Tom Starr. But it soon became noised around that I was a woman of some notoriety from Texas, and from that time on my home and actions have been severely criticized. My home became famous as an outlaw's ranch long before I was visited by any of the boys who were friends of mine. Indeed, I never corresponded with any of my old associates, and was desirous my whereabouts should be unknown to them. Through rumor they learned of it. Jessie James first came in and remained several weeks. He was unknown to my husband, and he never knew till long afterwards that our home had been honored by Jessie's presence. I introduced Jessie as one Mr. Williams, from Texas. But few outlaws have visited my home, notwithstanding so much has been said. The best people in the country are friends of mine. I have considerable ignorance to cope with, consequently my troubles originate mostly in that quarter. Surrounded by a low down class of shoddy whites who have made the Indian country their home to evade paying tax on their dogs, and who I will not permit to hunt on my premises, I am the constant theme of their slanderous tongues. In all the world there is no woman more persecuted than I."

She says she knows nothing of the robbery of Ferrell, for which she was arrested by Hughes, and was never more surprised in her life than when the papers were served on her. She admits that her husband is on the dodge, and that there are two or three others in the locality where she lives that are keeping out of the way of the officers, and they are welcome guests at her house when they feel like visiting it, consequently when anyone goes into Youngers Bend they are compelled to give an account of themselves before going out. In her conversation, she said, "I am the best guarded woman in the Indian Territory, for when the deputy marshals are not in the Bend, somebody else is." The marshals, she said, usually come into the Bend with

a posse of from 25 to 35 men, and crawl up to her humble abode on their hands and knees. "When you see a deputy come in," said she, "with the knees of his pants worn through, you can bet he has paid me a visit." Her home is so situated in a bend of the Canadian River that it can only be approached from two points.

When she is at home, her daughter, horse and two pistols are her constant companions. The horse she rides she has owned for nearly five years and no one attends to him but herself.

She has little use for newspaper reporters, and in conversing with them is very guarded in her talk, and studies well each sentence, answering some questions readily, but when you ask her something hard she will simply say, "That makes no difference, we will not discuss the matter." She related several interesting episodes of her life, but we have not the space to give them at this time, and will close by saying that Belle is quite a remarkable woman, whose life's history would make an interesting book, if properly compiled. She has two cases to answer for in the Federal Court here, robbery and larceny of a horse, but we doubt whether the evidence will convict her on either of them.

— ● —

A DEPUTY MARSHAL KILLED

Deputy Marshal J.E. Richardson was killed on Monday last in the Cherokee Nation by a Cherokee named Bill Pigeon. Pigeon stands indicted in the Federal Court for the murder of a man armed in 1882. Richardson on his trip previous to this one arrested him, but he escaped from the posse. On the day above mentioned, he again attempted his arrest and lost his life in doing so. Richardson came here about three months ago from Texas, accompanied by his family, consisting of wife, child and sister. He was an excellent officer, and we understand at one time was captain of a company of Rangers in the Lone Star State. His family has the sympathy of this community in their bereavement.

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Mr. T.B. Carnall is now the proud father of a bouncing boy, which put in an appearance at his home on Mazzard Prairie last Monday.

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April 9, 1886

THE CITY ELECTION

The Full Democratic Ticket Elected With the Exception of One Alderman

The election on Tuesday passed off quietly, notwithstanding there was much interest manifested by the friends of the two candidates for mayor, and much hard work done. The result showed the election of the full democratic ticket, with the exception of W.J. Johnston in the second ward, who was defeated for alderman by C.M. Barnes, independent republican. . .

SUMMARY

Mayor	Grey, Matthew	627
	Williams	580
Recorder	Faucette, George C.	790
	McManus	374
Marshal	Suratt, H.	933
	Munder	207
Treasurer	Reutzel, Henry	1162

— ● —

MORE RABID STOCK KILLED

Last week we mentioned the killing of two head of cattle belonging to Mr. Wm. Schulte, residing near Mill Creek school house, that had been bitten by a dog a few nights previous, and were affected with hydrophobia. The same dog bit a fine cow belonging to Mr. Scheppe, living near Mr. Schulte's, and it also had to be slaughtered. Then Mr. Stromberg lost a fine milch cow that went mad and was no doubt bitten by the same dog, as he went over in the direction of Stromberg's when he left Schulte's. On Sunday morning last, another one of Mr. Schulte's cattle had to be slaughtered, which went mad from a bite of the same dog, and a fine hog had to be killed for the same cause. The dog that did all this damage brought up at the residence of Mr. G.C. Falconer and attacked his fine bird dogs, when Falconer went to the rescue with a shotgun and killed the rabid cur. Mr. F. thinks his dogs were not bitten. Every canine that is known to have come in contact with the mad dog has been killed. Mr. John Bloomberg has been the executioner in every instance in his locality. The affair has created quite a sensation in the locality on their cattle, hogs and dogs, and the pup that shows any cranky signs is in great danger no matter how high he is valued!

Since the above was in type, we learn that several mad hogs have been killed out on Line Road.

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DEATHS

On Saturday evening last, at the residence of Mr. J.C. Bell in this city, Mrs. J.W. Martin died of penumonia after an illness of some eighteen days. Mrs. M. was 31 years of age, and had only been living here for a short time, having for a number of years been a resident of Scott County, though originally from Mississippi. She leaves a husband, but no children. Her remains were interred in the City cemetery Sunday, the funeral being quite largely attended.

On Friday last, at her home near this city, Mrs. John B. Hunton died of consumption, after a lingering illness. She was born at Fairfax Courthouse, Va., and was 43 years of age, having removed from Virginia to this place in September, 1882. She has been a devoted member of the Baptist church for more than ten years, and died in that faith. She

leaves a husband and seven children to mourn her loss. Her funeral took place on Saturday, her remains being followed to their last resting place in the City Cemetery by a large concourse of friends.

Early yesterday morning, Mrs. Alice Trone, wife of Joe Trone and daughter of Judge E.F. Tiller, died of pneumonia, in the 25th year of her age. She leaves one child. Her funeral takes place today. We extend sympathy to the husband and relatives in their bereavement. Mrs. Trone was, we believe, a strict member of the Methodist church.

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April 16, 1886

A runaway couple from Franklin County were spliced on Monday last just over the Choctaw line, Rev. R.W. Harnnett officiating. Wiley Cox and Policeman Meeks superintended the preliminary proceedings. The bride is fourteen years of age and the groom is twenty-five, their names being Henry Jones and Miss Alice Stewart.

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The cornerstone of the German Catholic church was laid yesterday afternoon with becoming ceremonies. The clergyman in charge of the congregation arrived Wednesday evening.

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"WE GIRLS"

Last night the "We Girls" Society presented to the public their long talked of Flag Brigade Drill. The number of soldiers was twelve privates with Miss Emily Farrow as captain and Miss Stella McCorkle as sergeant. The evening's entertainment opened with the national anthem, "Red, White and Blue", which was followed by the drill, and the drill was in turn followed by the tableau John of Arc, Sculptor's Dream, Three Graces, Riches and Liberty. The entire programme showed the earnest and hearty cooperation of all connected with the entertainment, and all are satisfied now, if they were not before, that "We Girls" are successful in whatever they undertake.

— ● —

On Friday last Misses Agnes Grey, Mollie Moore, Fannie Hendrick, Julia Doyle and Emma Botto, students of St. Anne's Academy, were awarded first grade certificates by County Examiner J.B. McDonough and will compose the graduating class of the present term of this excellent school.

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April 23, 1886

U.S. COURT NOTES

Items of Interest Picked Up Around the Courthouse and Jail

Court adjourned on Tuesday afternoon as a mark of respect to the memory of Judge Tiller, all the court officers and members of the bar attending the funeral. . .

The new gallows is put up in a more neat and substantial manner than the old one was. The platform is 16 x 20 feet, supported by solid oak columns 12 x 12 inches square; the cross beam is of solid oak 9 x 11 inches, 16 feet in the clear and rests on two upright columns of oak sixteen feet high, and about 12 x 12 inches square. The beam is braced on top by heavy timbers, the ends of which rest on the upright columns. The trap door is sixteen feet long and three feet wide. The drop is fully six feet . . .

A Keepsake for His Wife

An *Elevator* reporter visited the jail Tuesday evening, when Robinson Kemp, one of the condemned men whose sentence was commuted to imprisonment for life, took a German silver hat band from his hat, requesting that the reporter have his (Robinson's) name engraved on it and sent to his wife, Mrs. Julia Kemp, at Durant Station, C.N., which request was granted with pleasure. Klein and Horton, jewelers, did the required engraving, and the keepsake has been forwarded to Mrs. Kemp.

Prisoners Supplied with Gum

Mr. Geo. W. Tuthill, representing Snider and Holmes, visited the city this week, and while here paid his respects to the prisoners in the U.S. jail. One

of the condemned Indian boys asked him for a chew of tobacco, but as Tut didn't use the weed, he substituted a chew of tulo gum, which suited the young fellow so well that he asked for some more of the same kind. Tut said he had no more with him, but would bring him some next day. According to promise, he visited the jail again Tuesday evening and donated a whole box of gum to those confined in cell No. 2, and it was quite interesting to see the whole crowd, forty or more in number, all munching their gum like a lot of school children.

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Judge Jas. F. Read and Miss Lena Park were married at the residence of the bride's mother, in Memphis, Tenn., on Tuesday evening last. They arrived in this city last Wednesday evening, and were met at the depot by a large number of friends who escorted them to Mrs. Rowland's, where the usual congratulations were extended. Last afternoon and evening a reception was given the happy couple at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Clendening. We extend our best wishes for their happiness and prosperity.

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Letters from Readers *(Continued)*

One of the issues I received was the "Bands" issue and I especially could relate to this, for many Saturdays I spent the whole day at the radio station listening to their music. I knew the Clint Fisher (no relative) people well. It was interesting to read what has become of them. . .

Sincerely,
Mrs. Fanchon L. Fischer

October 31, 1985

Yesterday, I received my 8 issues of *The Journal* you sent me and I am enjoying reading them so much that I would like to order the other 7 that I do not have. In reading 2 of them, I could relate, as the one about the baseball era. I attended many baseball games and even dated several of the players, so I found this very interesting, I even have a couple of the Fort Smith Giants' pictures that were in *The Journal*.

I would also like to become a member for 1986. . .

I have two sons, that have only visited Fort Smith. It's nice to have this information printed just to let them know about my way of life too.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Fanchon L. Fischer

* * * * *

August 29, 1985

Enclosed is a contribution in memory of Mr. William D. Moore. Would you please notify his family of our donation. The address is: Mrs. William Moore, 102 East Green Street, Middletown, Delaware 19709.

We are glad the donation will be helping here in our town. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,
Carolyn Broyles
Secretary & Corresponding Secretary
Two State CB Club, KKR-6347
P.O. Box 4135, Station B, Fort Smith, AR 72904

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il - some sort of graphic is used, other than a portrait.
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