



Hol. 10, No. 2, September, 1986

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Types of memberships:

Annual	\$ 10.00
Annual Contributing	20.00
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Life (Individual)	100.00
Journal Back Issues Each Copy	5.00
(For mail orders, add 75¢ mailing charge p	er copy.)

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This publication sanctioned by the Arkansas Sesquicentennial Commission, Inc.

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COVER: Fort Smith High School as it appeared in 1920. Known as one of the finest schools in the Southwest. Rebuilt after being destroyed by a cyclone and again after a major fire, it was later damaged by a tornado. Yet the school served as Fort Smith High School, Fort Smith Junior High School, and Darby Junior High School before being demolished in 1968 (with the exception of the auditorium wing seen at far right) to make way for a new building. Courtesy of First National Bank.

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Fort Smith High School System

1986 is a Year to Celebrate: Arkansas' 150th Birthday The Restoration of the Statue of Liberty and the 100th Birthday of the Fort Smith High School System

The following history of the Fort Smith High School System was written by Shelley MacDaniels1, Carmen Henson², Wayne Bledsoe³, and Janice Eddleman4.

Organizing in 1871, the first high school in Fort Smith, Arkansas was established. A five mill tax was voted on for the support of the schools. Professor B.G. Roots, member of the Illinois State Board of Education, took charge of the Fort Smith school system. In 1876 he and six experienced teachers came to Fort Smith to lay foundation of the school system. They began teaching in a room over Patrick's Shoe Store and eventually moved to Belle Grove. The high school really began at this time when ancient, foreign and modern languages, science, philosophy and advanced mathematics were added to the list of subjects offered.

It was not until September, 1886, however, that the high school was actually organized under direction. The first principal was H.B. Edmiston in direction

with the first superintendent, N.P. Gates.

The first year's enrollment consisted of seventysix pupils, with the first graduating class being in 1887 with two boys, Hugh Dodson and Claude Hoffman. One source says there was also one girl in the class but did not name her and no other records have been found to show this. If a reader has information about this, please write to the Fort Smith Historical Society.

By 1894 there were twenty-seven in the graduating

class:

Stella Stroup

Lizzie Rutherford Minnie F. Miller Josephine McRaven Genevieve Hieronomous Margaret Young Bessie Williams Ben F. Black Will Clayton Bie D. Cofield Alice M. Bulgin Mollie Williams Dymple Johnson Ben A. Morton William Yoes Nannie Federick Phoebe Parke Kate Mae Faucett Queen Latham Carrie Hardin Ina Mae Boles Grace Stegall Ralph Speer Edwin Clarkson Claude Laws Luella Garrett Sallie S. Shuford

In 1897 high school students were moved to the new high school building at North Fifteenth street and Grand avenue, site of the present Darby Junior High School. This building was then one of the finest of its kind in the Southwest. The courses were much improved and followed the trend of modern instruction.



Fort Smith High School, about 1909 Old Fort Smith, Cultural Center on the Southwestern Frontier, by Ruth B. Mapes. Fort Smith Public Library, Arkansas Room.

It became known as the pride of the city and surrounding territory. Twenty-five students graduated that year and were designated on the commencement program as to the course they graduated from: Classical Course, German Course and Science Course:

CLASSICAL COURSE

Lillian Alexander, Lugilla Mae Blackwood, Frances Ethel Denton, Monterey Gordon, Irene Gibson, Bertha Goss, Peninah Garmon, Lillie Estella Hubbard. Esther Mae Lawrence, Etta McFadden, Julia Reynolds, Bernice Christine Seeley, Lena Steele, Bertie Smythe, Mae Miriam Wolf, Richard Bulgin, W.H.H. Clayton, Jr., Edwin Mechem, George Pryor Sparks.

GERMAN COURSE

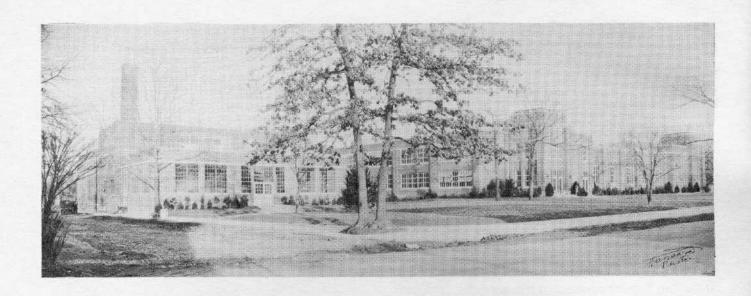
Rae D. Berman, Nina DuVal McClure, Ione Wright, Mary Weaver, Emma Lillian Woodworth.

SCIENCE COURSE

Charles Gardner.

The class motto was "We row, not drift."5

It was necessary, however, to return the high school students to Belle Grove because of a tornado in 1898, which lifted the top and front from the new building. They were to remain there for a year while repairs were being made. It was reconstructed soon after and for thirteen years the building was home of Fort Smith High School.



Dedication Services

Fort Smith Senior High School

February 15, 8:00 P. M.

AMERICA Audience, led by Miss Opal Clark
INVOCATION

PRESENTATION of SOUTHWEST AMERICAN LOVING CUP to "Most Useful Fort Smith Citizen for 1928"... Auspices Committee of Eleven Dr. Wallace R. Bacon (4 min.)

RESPONSE Judge Joseph M. Hill (4 min.)

PRESENTATION of OIL PAINTING of GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE
Auspices Local Chapter U. D. C., by Mrs. J. S. Holt (4 min.)

ACCEPTANCE Amis Guthridge, Pres. High School Student Body

MUSIC High School Glee Club

"SIGNIFICANCE of NEW HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING to FORT SMITH"

Hon, J. H. Parker, Mayor of Fort Smith (4 min.)

Mr. George B. Carney, Vice-President Chamber of Commerce (4 min.)

Dr. Louis B. Tucker (4 min.)

"SIGNIFICANCE of NEW HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING to ARKANSAS"

Dr. A. M. Harding, University of Arkansas (4 min.)

Dr. B. W. Torreyson, State Teachers College (4 min.)

Dr. J. R. Grant, Arkansas Polytechnic College (4 min.)

Dr. J. H. Reynolds, Hendrix College (4 min.)

MUSIC High School Glee Club

DEDICATORY ADDRESS Hon. J. P. Womack, State Superintendent of Public Education (15 min.)

PRESENTATION of BUILDING to PUBLIC Hon. G. C. Hardin, President, Fort Smith Board of Education (4 min.)

ACCEPTANCE of BUILDING Judge Joseph M. Hill, Chairman of Committee of One Hundred. (4 min.)

BENEDICTION

INSPECTION OF BUILDING

Refreshments Served in Cafeteria.

Fort Smith High School, 1928 (above). Courtesy of Wayne Bledsoe.

Program of Dedication Services for new Fort Smith High School Building February 15, 1928 (left).

Another view of Fort Smith High School, 1928 (below). Courtesy of Wayne Bledsoe.



Rapid growth again made more room necessary. In 1910 work began on what was known as the annex, which was to add an additional wing to the building. By 1911, it was open and ready for use, while the student body entered what was regarded then as the finest school in the South. It was equipped with modern laboratories for chemistry and domestic science, manual training workshops, a library, and highly accommodating classrooms.

On September 16, 1912, the beautiful annex caught fire and was completely demolished. Through efforts of the firemen, the first unit of the building, along with most of the stuatuary, tables, and library of the annex were saved. The school was soon rebuilt. The Fort Smith High School occupied this

structure until 1928.

In 1927 the Fort Smith school board had plans for the Senior High School under the direction of Superintendent J.W. Ramsey and Principal Elmer Cook. They hired Homer Davis, an education consultant of an architectural firm of Chicago, to draw plans for a new senior high school building. On November 19, 1928, the doors of the new Fort Smith Senior High School opened to 848 enrolling students.

The move to the new location was to usher in a new and exciting era in the life of FSHS. Concerning the "factory-like" appearance of the new school, Superintendent J.W. Ramsey had declared, "... it is a factory of learning and thousands of dollars have been spent on the inside to aid the student rather than spending the same money on the outside to

beautify the building and help onlookers."

The new school could accommodate 3,000 students. Other features included an auditorium that seated 1,060, a lunch room designed to feed 350, and steel lockers in the hallways for all students. There was also a synchronized speaker system in the building. The new gym was equipped with a composition wood cross-grain floor that "gave with the weight of the body," cost \$2,500, and accommodated 600 students. Each classroom had two doors to eliminate a "jam-up" when dismissal bells rang.

Fort Smith's population in 1928 was 31,400 with 848 students enrolled in the senior high school. Because of its large seating capacity, the auditorium was to be the scene of many performances by local organizations as well as nationally known groups and individuals. Civic clubs had lunch in the cafeteria so that businessmen could see how the cafeteria was managed and what it served.

The new facility was equipped to meet the aesthetic, academic, and physical needs of the thousands of students who would pass through its

portals!

1928-29

FIRST CLASSES GRADUATE FROM NEW BUILDING

The dedication of the building was held February 15, 1929, just in time for the graduation of the midterm class. Vincent Allison was first semester student body president. The golden anniversary mid-year class also included Fort Smith's own beloved son, William O. (Bill) Darby. Elmer Cook was principal.

It was during 1928-29 that the Arkansas High School Press Association was organized, with Hazel Presson as its president.

The Bruins were honored by Clinton Sander, sports editor of the Colorado Daily News, when three of their players were named to the "mythical eleven", and two were elected to play on the Arkansas All-State team.

The spring graduating class numbered 147 students. Officers were Amos Guthridge, president; Joe Agee, vice-president; Loma Lee Winters (Cleavenger), secretary; and Edna Earle Massey, treasurer. Class sponsor was Miss Clara Kindred. The Goldman Hotel was the scene of the class banquet.

Nannie Ruth Hunt (Wilson) was voted both "the noisest girl" and "songbird" of the class of '29.

In less than eight months the country would experience Black Friday and begin the worst economic depression of modern times, yet that was a period of growth for FSHS. "Marsh's," "McDonald Drug," and "Winter Garden Dance Hall" were the "in" places to go. "Bobbed" hair and above-the-knee dresses were fashionable for ladies, in sharp contrast to the conservative suits which were favored by the gentlemen.

It was the end of an era that has seen the beginnings of the automobile, radio, and motion pictures. The old Belle Grove and Darby schools were to join the "flivver" and "flapper" as nostalige memories, and while the class of '29 was the first to graduate from the new school, it was also to be the last to graduate in an era of national prosperity.

1929-30

ATHLETIC CARNIVAL IS BIG EVENT

Class sponsors were Gene Blakeburn and Marguerite Nelson. The senior class play was "Kismet," directed by Margaret Montague.

Honor graduates include Sidney Blakely, Jean Presson, Blance Collins (Delong), Roberta Salzman, Reba Curtis (McMurtrey), Billy Mankin, and Bernice Garrison (Patton).

The Bruin was sponsored by F.M. Keith with Billie Mankin, editor; Joe Ben Fields, business manager; and Theodore R. Harms, printing instructor.

After graduation, one of the moving spirits in keeping the class "in touch" was Glynn Reavis, who became a journalist in California.

Class officers were Frank Halbert, president; Franklin Wilder, vice-president; Blanche Collins, secretary; and Kendall Casey, reporter. Class sponsor was Miss Ruth Hamilton.

The class of '30 also had an Aviation Club. One of its members, Everett Moore, was killed in a private plane crash soon after graduation.

A big event of the 1929-30 school year was the 1930 Athletic Carnival. Events included volley ball, basketball, tug-o-war, rope-climbing, boxing, gymnastics,

golf, and track.

In '29-30 FSHS had student body, student council, and class officers. Student body president was Billie Mankin, while student council officers were Frank Holbert, president; Fredrick Stiesburg, vicepresident; and Blanche Collins, secretary.

Blanche Collins and Billie Mankin shared honors as "Best all Round" boy and girl, with Dorothy Hawkins (Williams) named "Prettiest Girl." Homecoming queen was Carolyn Suggs (Gutensohn).

1930-31 FORT SMITH GRIZZLIES GO UNDEFEATED IN SEASON PLAY

The "Roaring Twenties" were still in full swing when the doors of Fort Smith High School opened for its second season of use. The senior class had grown to 155, with the total school enrollment being 885.

Under the direction of Ben Mayo and John Thompson, the Grizzly football team went undefeatd with eight wins and no losses or ties.

Each semester teachers were required to read two books, the object being to stimulate reading by teachers to increase their efficiency.

Upon the retirement of Superintendent J.W. Ramsey from the presidency of the Arkansas Education Association, he was presented a mahogany gavel and a chest made by A.E. Smith, Supervisor of the Industrial Arts Department.

The home management class made new velour draperies for the school auditorium.

Billy Panze was elected to serve as president with "Dub" Paddock and Mike May serving as vice-president and secretary, respectively.

Commercial Law teacher, David Pearson, had his short story, "The Prairie Fire," published for the library of the University of Kansas.

The senior class play was "Gypsy Trail." One of the talented girls in the class of 1931 was Martha Winters (Mrs. W.H. Gammon).

Student body president was Ralph McMurtrey.

1931-32 NATIONAL BAND AND ORCHESTRA HONOR SOCIETY ORGANIZED

The Senior Class of 1932, according to Principal Elmer Cook, was one of the largest in the history of the Fort Smith High School and would long be remembered for its gallant school spirit in academics, clubs, and sports. Billy Cravens and John Livingston led the classes as first and second semester Student Council Presidents.

A new honor society was organized, the National Symphoniums — for band and orchestra members — the only chapter in Arkansas.

The Girls' Glee Club presented an operetta, "The Feast of the Red Corn." The Columbian and Athenian Literary Societies, as well as the Ciceronian and Catalinian Debating Societies, were outstanding on campus and in competition.

1932-33 ONLY SIXTY-EIGHT GRADUATE

The class of '33 was 68 seniors strong. It seemed that the depression had taken its toll, for 152 began the adventure with this class but 84 (over 55%!) dropped out before graduation! Work, far from

despised, was coveted, and lucky was the man or woman who had a paying job.

This class was the first to spend all three years of its senior high school in the new building. In their senior year, class officers were Paula Brown, president; Everett Moulton, vice-president; Gaston Johnson, secretary; and Lloyd Pearson, reporter. Joe Jones was editor of the yearbook, and Jack Garner was business manager of the Bruin. In the yearbook was inscribed "Superintendent J.W. Ramsey, a man whose ideals are high, whose help is ever-present, we the January Class of 1933 dedicate this publication."

Coach Ben Mayo and John R. Thompson ("Long John") coached the athletes through a glorious year. The Grizzlies were g-r-e-a-t.

1933-34 GRADUATING CLASS NUMBERS 164

In the yearbook of '34 appeared this nostalgic preface:

As one who cons at evening o'er an album all alone,

And muses on the faces of the friends that he has known.

So I turn the leaves of Fancy, till, in shadowy design,

I find the smiling features of an old classmate of mine.

J.W. Ramsey was still at the helm with his able Principal, Elmer Cook, "a man who has been a light for us to follow, and truly a gentleman."

It was an ambitious class, whose officers — president, Birnie Harper; vice-president, Dick McCann; secretary, Christine Pride; and reporter, Dorothy Clayton — worked hard for a much larger senior class than had graduated the previous year. 164 claimed diplomas in '34. The Bruin, Grizzly, National Honor Society, Debate Team, Student Council, Band, Orchestra, Glee Clubs, French Club, Literary Societies, and athletics (under coaches Mayo and Thompson) continued to be T-O-P in all endeavors.

1934-35 YEARBOOK NAME NOT ALWAYS "BRUIN"

The Bruin carried, because of the 300th Anniversary of American Schools, an interesting history of the school. This included a story about the "Echo" changing its name to "Bruin" (It had originally been called the "Sounder."). Other stories concerned an 1898 tornado which destroyed part of the school, the 1910 building of the "annex," the 1912 fire which completely destroyed the building, and the rebuilding of the FSHS (which was finally replaced by the new Darby Junior High School).

This year, the new school crest depicted the 300th Anniversary of American Schools. Pictures of the early school buildings were history in themselves. In 1935, 213 seniors went forth into the world. Class officers leading this crew were President, Gus Barros;

vice-president, Harvey Marsh; secretary, Lorraine Slate; and reporter, Ruth Wilson. The Bruin staff was headed by editor Marvin Northum and assistant editor Walter Stroud. The Grizzly staff was led by editor Alice Peninger.

All the clubs presented outstanding records. The All-School play, "She Stoops to Conquer," included in its cast Royce Craig, Jimmy Cassil, John M. Yantis Virginia Parker, Ben Mayo, John C. Thornton, Margaret Carolan, Helen Lairamore, Joann Fine, Alice Peninger, and Nelson Slater.

Athletic Clubs were still piloted by the two best coaches in Arkansas, Mayo and Thompson.

The class song was written to the tune of

"Sweetheart of Sigma Chi."

All the years of Fort Smith High School existence passed in review that year because of the 300th Anniversary. Much ado was made of the "Little Red School House" and current modern advantages afforded the seniors of 1935.

1935-36 CLASS CELEBRATES SCHOOL SYSTEM'S CENTENNIAL YEAR

In 1876, Professor B.G. Roots and six experienced teachers came to Fort Smith to lay the foundation of the Fort Smith School System. They began their teaching in a room over Patrick's Shoe Store, but the school eventually moved to Belle Grove. After three moves and one fire, Professor Roots' original school had progressed to the Fort Smith High School building on 23rd and "B" Streets.

On January 23, 1933, part of this class entered FSHS as sophomores and were the last mid-year

graduating class.

Through the Public Works Administration, the school secured \$60,000 towards the building of a new stadium on the athletic field. Carnell Wheeler and J.J. Haralson, architects, were hired to design the stadium which was 32 feet high, 300 feet long and 55 feet wide with 22 rows of seats to hold 4,400 spectators and bleachers to seat 1,100 people. A regulation 440 yard cinder track surrounded the field and a press box was housed in the center of the main grandstand.

Housed under the stadium were five classrooms, each accommodating forty pupils (the Fort Smith Junior College used these rooms); dressing rooms and showers; a band room with four practice rooms; storage for athletic and band equipment; and an athletic office.

The Home Economics Department was hailed as the best equipped department in the state.

Ann Louise Holland honored FSHS when she was the state essay winner in the annual United Daughters of the Confederacy contest.

1936-37

FORT SMITH HIGH SCHOOL GETS AN ALMA MATER

The senior class hired Harry Alford of Chicago, Illinois, to write the Fort Smith High School Alma Mater.

Climaxed by a parade, the new field was christened "Grizzly Field" by John P. Woods, school board member, in an address before an audience of 3,000 people attending the Heavener game.

Local businessman Douglas Rogers presented the FSHS library with a complete set of Civil War records, compiled by the U.S. War Department.

The five new stadium classrooms were occupied by Fort Smith Junior College.

Students, faculty, and city residents were overoverwhelmed by the magic sounds of Helen Olheim, a mezzo-soprano of the Metropolitan Opera Company, when she presented a concert in the FSHS auditorium.

J.J. Richards of Pittsburg, Kansas, wrote an official school march entitled "Grizzly March."

Fort Smith High School boasted three drum majors. Head drum major was Richard Bulgin and his assistants were Gene Buck and Junior Pense.

Fort Smith High School track team won sweepstakes honors at the University High School invitation meet in Fayetteville.

Frank McElwee was the first Fort Smith player to win the singles title at the University of Arkansas invitation tennis tournament.

The addition of new flood lights with dimmers gave a professional look to the senior play, "Spring Dance." Miss Margaret Montague directed the three-act comedy.

1937-38

HELEN FRASIER REPLACES MARY K. SETTLE AS GIRLS' DEAN

The 1938 Bruin devoted a page "In Memoriam" to Miss Mary K. Settle, who had died during her first year's retirement as FSHS dean of girls. Miss Frasier replaced Miss Settle, who had given "Most of her life in service to the Fort Smith High School students."

If any one word could be chosen to describe the student body of the '30's, it would be "involved." First semester student body president was Louis Lambiotte, followed by Buddy Strozier, with Miss Eula Ratekin as sponsor. Besides the student council and class councils, there were the Bruin and Grizzly staffs, band, orchestra, girls and boys glee clubs, and 15 clubs or organizations. These organizations included two literary and three debating clubs as well as an "Ushers Crew." Athletics included football with Babe Cialone as captain, basketball, track, tennis (with a separate tennis club for girls), girls' athletic association (for girls who couldn't enroll in P.E.), and a pep squad.

Jean Murphy was football queen and "Most Popular Girl;" Evelyn Stephens, most beautiful; Jack Dexter, most handsome; and Buddy Strozier was "Most Popular Boy."

Senior class officers were Gordon Bruun, president; Billy Hunt, vice-president; and Floy Ellis Van Zandt, secretary. Senior sponsor was Mrs. Hallie Beth Thackaberry and banquet theme was "On Leaving."

1938-39

GRIZZLY TRACK MEN "BRING HOME THE BACON"

The Grizzly track team brought home the bacon in the annual invitation track meet, where they won the District I, Class A track and field title.

Fort Smith High School students were shown TELEVISION in a "pay" assembly where one of the largest television sets ever made was brought for demonstration purposes.

A new school record was set with the selling of 596

Bruin yearbooks.

Thirty seniors participated in the class play "Pride and Prejudice," which 1,096 people attended. The class cleared \$175 to help pay expenses of the senior banquet, prom, and school gift.

Gene Singleton's song written to the tune of "Deep Purple" was selected as the senior class song.

On October 18, Clare Tree Major's Children's Theater presented "Peter Pan."

As part of a PWA project, an arts and crafts

building was begun west of the stadium.

Mrs. Ruth Bryan Owen Rhode, America's first woman diplomat and daughter of William Jennings Bryan, lectured in the FSHS auditorium in November.

The students of J.R. Burrows' classes were fined a nickel for chewing gum, eating candy, failing to prepare assignments, or violating any school regulation. All money was sent to the March of Dimes to fight "polio," a disease which was to be conquered in little over ten years.

1939-40

CARL SANDBURG SPEAKS IN THE FORT SMITH HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

The Fort Smith High School Grizzly and the Fort Smith Junior College Lion's Den merged publication

due to the shortage of paper.

Grizzly staff members Jean Gray, Marian Stephens, and Jimmy Dyer visited with Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt during her visit to the city. During the interview Mrs. Roosevelt said, "The most outstanding change needed in the high school today is that of giving students experience and actual part-time jobs. Too many seniors are graduating today without this necessary experience." Her prescription for students was "Learn to Work."

During the Mid-West Tournament, the FSHS debate team won high honors. Fort Smith High School was voted the residency of the 1940 convention of the Southern Association of Student Government.

KFPW Radio aired radio programs each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday that were broadcast from the auditorium.

Famed poet, biographer and entertainer, Carl Sandburg, appeared before a crowd of 800 in the auditorium on November 23. Speaking slowly and distinctly, with frequent pauses, Mr. Sandburg gave his talk beginning with a survey of personal views of world situations. To his own guitar accompaniment, Mr. Sandburg sang a group of folk songs including two songs in The American Song Bag which were given to him by a former Fort Smith girl, Miss Kate Webber.

Dr. Morris Fishbein, editor of the American Medical Association Journal, spoke to students on "Medicine and the Changing Social Order." Dr. Fishbein had done more than any other American toward exposing quackery and pseudo-scientific practices in the medical field.

Peggy Lou Fine became the queen of Wentworth Military Academy as the result of a contest in which her picture was entered by Cadet Bob Brooksher of

Fort Smith.

1940-41 JOHN THOMPSON BECOMES HEAD FOOTBALL COACH

After 15 consecutive seasons under Ben Mayo, Grizzly football teams had a "new" head coach, John R. Thompson, who had served as Bruin line coach for twelve years. Mayo was designated to direct athletics throughout the local public school system. Frank Jones was named to fill the position vacated by Thompson.

Miss Margaret Montague directed the senior play "Our Town," Elizabeth Boas wrote the words for the senior class song, and FSHS numbered 1,166.

"Mama Jo's Famous Chili" and "Cooley Drug" were the favored "eating and meeting" places for FSHS students.

The senior class of 324 students was led by Bill Huff, president; Joe Conway, vice-president; and Nancy Turner, secretary; with Miss Bess Ramsey, sponsor.

Football queen and "Most popular girl" was Peggy Fine, with Betty Porter "Senior Beauty" and Bill

Kersh "Best looking boy."

Student body presidents were Walter Gutensohn (also "Most popular boy") and Jack Thompson.

And rumblings of war were already being felt at FSHS as the "one year" draft was facing all boys. Foreign Correspondent H.R. Knickerbocker spoke to students on "The Fall of France" and 13 boys of the 40-41 student body had already entered military service. These were A.C. Boatman, Gaston Bull, John Thomas Carr, Murl Myers, Paul Prescott, Grover Gilbert, Homer Gothark, John Markland, Loren Merrywell, Harry Moore, Marshall Pettyjohn, Walter Schleiff, and Bill Shoop. In prophetic words of the Bruin, "To these and all other defenders of democracy, all honor!"

1941-42 BRUINS COST \$1.50

Fort Smith High School debaters Margaret Ann Ogg, Phil Carroll, Joe Brown and David Packard claimed the state championship title. They represented Arkansas in the National Forensic League Tournament held in Dennison, Texas. Phil was one of ten high school debaters named Outstanding Debaters in the United States.

Students became financial participants in the war effort by buying defense savings stamps.

Famed War Correspondent Vincent Sheean spoke

to FSHS students.

The student council, under the direction of president Roy Fox, cooperated in the Victory Book Campaign to secure books for soldiers and sailors.

Girls were knitting sweaters and other articles for boys in the service.

Fort Smith High School student Bill Cook was secretary of the third annual Arkansas Boys' State.

Fort Smith High School student Bill Blair was the star of a scene in a Paramount newsreel shown at the Joie Theatre. He was shown rowing a boat in the flooded district while rescuing flood victims and moving furniture to a safer place.

Fort Smith High School tennis team and the Grizzly golf team won the State Tournament.

The final regular appearance of the Grizzly was printed with the 1941 Christmas edition, with any future edition depending upon wartime "rationing."

1942-43 STUDENTS BUY WAR BOND STAMPS WITH THEIR BRUIN MONEY

It was announced in February that the yearbook would not be published. The number of students buying the proposed "rationed" annual was insufficient to finance a book of quality and content satisfactory to subscribers. Many students took war stamps instead of cash as a refund on their yearbook deposit. During the 1942-43 school year, \$21,944 in stamps and bonds were sold, helping Arkansas meet its quota in the National School-at-War program which bought 10,000 jeeps and 100 war planes.

Hundreds of students signed up for the VICTORY BOARD, which coordinated activities toward the war effort. The clothing classes made 125 bed jackets and 25 lap robes for injured servicemen.

Miss Nora Brown's English classes compiled a 60-page scrapbook of pictues and stories about the part played by FSHS in the war effort. The book took first place in the state in the Schools-at-War Scrapbook Contest and was shipped to England for display. On the committee working with Miss Brown were Bill Fredrick, Keith Stapleton, Nancy Humphrey, and Bill Scott.

Miss Margaret Montague, with student director Edith Strozier, produced John Steinbeck's play, "The Moon is Down."

The School Board made some changes in school scheduling, adding a seventh period to provide time for the Victory Corps. Four days a week students practiced military drills and the fifth day they studied pre-induction.

Mary Elizabeth McMillan wrote the class song to the tune of "There are Such Things."

Based on an act he performed at the National Magicians Convention, Bill Pitts was granted membership in the Grant Magical Society.

1943-44

THREE GRIZZLIES MAKE ALL-ARKANSAS TEAM

The 1943 Grizzlies became the first non-championship football team to dominate the Associated Press All-Arkansas High School Conference Team. Tommy Donoho, John Wells, and Elmer Smith won berths on the first team.

The Bruin was again printed in conjunction with the Junior College annual, The Numa, and was dedicated to the class members in the armed forces.

Thespian blood ran thick at FSHS in 1943-44. The students were inspired in their own productions after seeing the original cast of "Arsenic and Old Lace" in Little Rock. Jim Johnson and Peggy Swofford played the principal roles in FSHS's production of "Tovarich." The senior play was "Incognito" under the direction of Christine Arnold and Neta Stewart.

The band, under the direction of Addison Wall, dedicated a service flag in honor of ex-members of the band in the service. The flag on display in the band room was of a conventional design except that its 6'x4' size contained a star for each service man. Gold stars represented the men who lost their lyes in battle.

The Student Council held a "Let's Can the Axis" tin salvage drive.

Margaret Bourke-White, noted war correspondent, photographer, author and lecturer, spoke to students on her travels abroad.

Jo Ann Crouch, Sonny Baxter, Mary Jean Watson and Wanda Stewart (better known as The Blue Braid Bells) entertained soldiers at Camp Chaffee.

1944-45 BRUIN PUBLISHED AS CLASS BOOK

While war-time shortages made it impossible to put out an "all-student" yearbook, the Bruin was published again, but as "primarily a (senior) class book." Pictured there were two pretty young teachers who were to devote at least the next thirty-five years to FSHS-NHS students — Mrs. Helen McCarty and Pauline Poynor.

Senior officers were John Howell, president; Lois Ann Paddock, vice-president; Wanda Graves, secretary; and Mary Wood, treasurer. Sponsor for the 272-member class was Miss Josephine Dowdle.

Class beauty was Fritzie Andres (Moore); homecoming queen, Imogene Kissinger; head cheerleader, Tom McCluin; most athletic girl, Jimmie Delle Caldwell; most talented boy, Frank Anderson; and most talented girl, Mary Flinn.

The two student body presidents were also football and basketball stars — Don Bowers and Marvel Rhyne. Vice-presidents were Peggy Jacobs and Mary Flinn. The girls did a lot of presiding, since the football team not only played Pine Bluff, Little Rock, North Little Rock, El Dorado, Fayetteville, and Hot Springs, but also took on Van Buren, Clarksville, Russellville, Tulsa, and Muskogee. Basketball opponents were Camp Chaffee, Mansfield, Mulberry, Lavaca, Van Buren, Subiaco, Cedarville, and Elkins.

Three classmen who were to become mayor, city director, and county judge were Jack Freeze, Leonard Bogoslavsky, and Bob Boyer.

Highlights of the year were the Sock & Buskin play "The Man Who Came to Dinner," the senior play "Out of the Frying Pan," and (finally!) senior banquet at the Goldman!

1945-46 GRIZZLIES WIN STATE TRACK MEET

Not only did the track team win the state meet, but Kent Holland took the individual scoring honors.

Again the Bruin was primarily a senior class book, with other classmen included only in group pictures.

Sock and Buskin presented the three-act farce "Blithe Spirit" under the direction of Miss Margaret Montague and student director Dee Slate.

The Grizzly football team became co-champions of their conference with a 10-2 season record.

The senior class play was "East Lynne." Nancy Wenderoth and Wanda Ann Rogers were the student directors.

Commencement speakers for the 289-member class were Randy Warner, Patsy Pratt, Betty Ann Embrey, and Jeanne Kerwin.

The senior class officers for the year were Paul Putman, president; Kent Holland, vice-president; Betty Ann Embrey, secretary; Donald Smith, treasurer; George Hinnant, parliamentarian; and Nancy Wenderoth (Pierce), reporter. Mrs. Hallie Beth Thackaberry acted as sponsor.

The '46 Bruin presented a group of seniors who had proved to be "Star Performers." Their contributions were varied: student government, beauty, sports, citizenship, scholarship, acting, journalism, and music. This "cast" included James Andrews, Elizabeth Day, Betty Ann Embrey, Kent Holland, David Ludwick, John Lunney, Patsy Pratt, Paul Putman, Jack Simpson, Harrell Spears, John Alden Williams, and Gayle Williamson.

Mary Kay Sumners and Jeanne Kerwin wrote the class song, to the tune "Till the End of Time."

1946-47 GRIZZLIES BRING HOME HONORS IN BOTH TENNIS AND GOLF

War conditions made most athletic tournaments impossible for five years, but the Grizzlies brought home top honors as they placed second in both the tennis and golf tournament. Charlie Jones won the individual tennis championship in the state tournament.

The words of the senior class song were written by Peggy Miller and sung to the melody of "My Last Goodbye."

Over 800 persons went to see the Agatha Christie play "Ten Little Indians" presented by the senior class. Miss Ann Green (an exchange teacher from England, who had previously done amateur theatrical work) helped the class produce a most outstanding play.

After much deliberation, the class dress regulations for graduation were decided upon. The girls wore street-length dress (of white material with no colored trimming) and dress shoes (preferably white) with or without hose (but anklets were barred). The boys wore dark suits, white shirts, and conservative ties. It was made clear that the ties were to be regular four-in-hand ties and not bow ties.

Bill Rose and Marvin Blaylock had the unfortunate habit of fumbling the football during games, but Coach Frank Jones had a perfect remedy when he made a football the constant companion of both boys.

Student body presidents were Charles Rhyne, followed by Gene Rapley.

1947-48 PRINT SHOP GETS NEW PRESS

With the addition of the Kluge Automatic platen press to the print shop, the Fort Smith High School print shop became the only school in the state to have this outstanding machine. Not only did the press do a neat job, but it did the job four times faster than with the old printing press.

Former graduate Nancy Gean spoke to students on fashion trends and how to apply them to their needs. Nancy was the fashion analyst for Butterick Patterns.

Key Club members attended the first convention of the Missouri-Kansas-Arkansas district, held in Branson, Missouri.

The Grizzly staff hosted 200 student representatives of high school newspapers in a sectional meeting of the Arkansas High School Press Association.

Winning the class song contest stayed in the Boas family when Mary Lou's lyrics, written to the tune "When You Were Sweet Sixteen," became the 1948 class song. (Sister Elizabeth had won the 1941 class song competition.)

The senior class was able to come up with two complete casts for the presentation of Oscar Wilde's comedy "The Importance of Being Earnest."

Miss Margaret Reavis (Brogley), chairman of the Home Economics Department, left for England in August 1948, where she would be an exchange teacher for a year.

1948-49 ELMER COOK LEAVES SENIOR HIGH

Sophomore Joellen Barham walked on cloud nine when Doris Day granted her an exclusive interview. Miss Day was in Fort Smith with the Bob Hope Show.

Arriving on the Queen Elizabeth, Miss Diana Margaret Bird, an exchange teacher from England, took over the Home Economics Department for Miss Reavis (Brogley) who was in England.

Fort Smith High School Bears hosted the Tri-State Track Meet in which schools from Missouri, Arkansas, and Oklahoma were represented.

After an absence of 16 years, baseball returned as a major sport in Fort Smith High School.

Once again, the Grizzlies took the championshp title in the invitational track meet.

The crowd of over 800 showed their enjoyment of the Sock and Buskin play "The Barretts of Wimpole Street" when they asked for four curtain calls.

1948-49 was to be Elmer Cook's last year as principal at FSHS. He resigned at the end of that year to accept a position with the Fort Smith Junior College. Cook Elementary School has since been named for him.

1949-50

EARL FARNSWORTH BECOMES NEW PRINCIPAL

The 1949-50 school year began under the leadership of a new principal. R. Earl Farnsworth came to FSHS from the principalship of Fort Smith Junior High School.

Grizzly staff photographer Don Millsap won first prize in the portrait division of the Ansco-Scholastic Awards Contest. Don also was awarded two honorable mentions for his work.

The tennis team won the single and doubles state championship.

The golf team placed second in the Big Six golf tournament.

The senior class song was written by Flo Martin, who composed both lyrics and music.

Six football players received all-state honors.

C.J. Hixon was selected to the All-Big Six Team and received the All-State Free Throw trophy.

Jerry Green and Dale Pouge played the leading roles in the senior class play "Life With Father." The three act comedy was directed by Gene Framel and Grady Thompson.

For three days Key Club members walked throughout the city collecting money for the March of Dimes "Ugly Man" contest. When the results were totaled, Coach John Thompson was the winner.

The Fort Smith High School debating team won

the State Debating Championship.

Using the theme "The Weapons of Democracy Against Totalitarianism" Nancy Yarbrough, Patty Murphy, Bill Brookshere, and Anne Kasten delivered the commencement addresses.

1950-51

"DEMOCRACY" IS YEAR'S KEY SUBJECT

Mary Wakefield won the city-wide "Voice of Democracy" contest with her entry "I Speak for Democracy." She went on to enter the regional contest where she was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship and a trip to Washington.

Twelve Grizzly football members were named to the Arkansas All-State team. Under the guidance of Coach Clarence "Ace" Parker, the Bears won the State Class A basketball title.

On Halloween, ghosts, harpies, sirens, hobgoblins, witches, and other occult beings gathered for a gaudy, riotous orgy in the murky recesses of the darkened school house for the all-school dance.

Grizzly staff artist Jerry McGrew drew several cartoons which were accepted and published in

"Child's Life" magazine.

Fort Smith High School was one of 60 schools in the United States to be selected to participate in a national citizenship education project. The resulting class, called Problems of Democracy, was taught by R. Earl Farnsworth, the school principal, after he attended a session at Columbia University in New York.

Students learned an all-important message when they heard a lecture on "The Philosophical Monosyllable—'Hmmmmm," presented by Francis, the notorious talking mule.

1951-52

GRIZZLIES BECOME BIG SIX CHAMPIONS

The Key Club held an Elephant auction to raise money for the March of Dimes. Once again Coach John Thompson was winner of the Ugliest Man Contest, and Principal R. Earl Farnsworth became the winner of the Meanest Man Contest (all in fun, of course).

For the first time in the 23-year history of Fort Smith Senior High, the Grizzly basketball team became the Big Six Champions.

After 24 years as a speech and dramatics instructor, Miss Margaret Montague was granted a leave of absence. During those years, Miss Montague directed 75 full-length plays and 500 one-act plays.

Many personal accomplishments marked the class of 1952. Joe Lynch was selected for the fifth annual National High School All-American football squad of 1951. Joe also received an appointment from Congressman Boyd Tackett as second alternate to West Point. Senator William Fulbright appointed John Holt to Annapolis Naval Academy.

His highest ambitions were to set a world's swimming record and to enter the 1956 Olympics, but until then John Barton tried to win everything he could. He competed in the Southern National Junior Olympics at Houston, Texas, where he set two new records.

Mike Shaw became chairman of the International Committee of Projects during the Key Club International Convention.

The Commencement theme was "Youth's Challenge: The Building of a Better Society." Speakers were Sally Wernette, John Holt, Tommy and Ethelyn Cathey.

Under the direction of Mrs. John Holt and student director Paige Mulhollan, the senior class presented the play "You Can't Take It With You."

1952-53 THE GRIZZLY FINDS ITSELF ON SOUNDER FINANCIAL BASIS

In the past, advertising profits had been the only income used to defray the cost of printing and engraving for the Grizzly. But in the 1952-53 year the Grizzly sold for a nickel a copy. The added income from sales helped put the Grizzly on a much sounder financial basis.

A new site for the Fort Smith Junior College was purchased and on September 13, they officially moved from Grizzly Stadium to the new campus on the corner of Grand Avenue and Waldron Road.

Seventeen Fort Smith High School delegates attended the International Allied Youth Conference in Buck Hill Falls, Pennsylvania, where the main speaker was Mr. J.C. Penney of the J.C. Penney Company.

Traveling with the Fourth Army Band of Fort Sam Houston, Vic Damone appeared in the Fort Smith High School auditorium. Mr. Damone was famous for the song "You're Breaking My Heart" which sold over one million copies.

The mixed chorus had a new look when they appeared in their new robes.

The class song contest was won by Jeannie Shine, who wrote her lyrics to the melody of "Deep In My Heart Dear."

Miss Wilma Jimerson, Senior Council sponsor, and 100 seniors made a nine-day trip to New Orleans.

Fort Smith High School organized its first dance band with 13 members.

1953-54 GRIZZLY STAFF HAS A BUSY YEAR

Under the direction of Miss Hazel Presson, the Grizzly staff was elected president of the Arkansas High School Press Association.

The Grizzly received an All-American rating from the National High School Press Association. The staff also attended the thirteenth annual convention of the Columbia Scholastic Press Association in New York City.

The Sock and Buskin group attended for the first time the Arkansas Speech Convention.

Bill Kelner won a \$250 scholarship when he placed third in the national Thomas McAn Success Awards Contest.

In a contest conducted by the Science Clubs of America, Dewitt McLallen won an honorable mention.

After several years as football coach, Frank Jones relinquished his position to become athletic director.

The senior class produced the three-act comedy "George Washington Slept Here."

1954-55 SCHOOL EXPANDS TO ACCOMMODATE INCREASED ENROLLMENT

The Fort Smith School Board approved plans for a two-story addition to the High School. The building with its 21 classrooms, a girls' gym, and a cafeteria would accommodate about 2,100 students. To help students improve their reading ability and rate, a rate-o-meter was purchased for the reading classes.

The Senior Class had an enrollment of 370.

Tommy Cutting was named to the Big Seven Conference first team by the Arkansas Athletic Association.

Under the guidance of Coach "Ace" Parker, the Grizzly basketball team won the Big Seven Championship with a 60-55 win over the North Little Rock Wildcats.

Fall found Sock and Buskin putting on the "Magnificent Obsession." "Time Out for Ginger," a comedy written by Ronald Alexander, was presented in the spring with Danny Efurd and Julie Orr as the co-directors.

The senior class put on the three-act comedy "Curtain Going Up."

Carol Griffee received a \$1,000 Lion Oil Scholarship for her essay "How to Be a Good Citizen."

During the Future Business Leaders of America State Convention, Carol Bailey received the honor of becoming "Miss Secretary of Arkansas."

1955-56

CAFETERIA IS BUSY PLACE

Each morning at 6:30 Mrs. Virgil Hix opened the doors of the cafeteria to prepare lunch for the horde of starving students at FSHS. As cafeteria supervisor she was well aware that the students' favorite cake was devil's food and the favorite pie, Karo pecan. along with these desserts the staff prepared 60 pounds of meat, 75 pounds of potatoes, 35 loaves of bread, and a large assortment of vegetables each day.

After 34 years in the Fort Smith School system and 14 years in the Fort Smith High School Art Department, Miss Ora Wilburn retired.

Construction was in progress on the new annex. The building of the new wing was to cost approximately \$500,000. Included in this figure was the cost of remodeling the original building. Until needed, the stadium classrooms were to be left vacant.

The drama room took on a look of history after Ann Whalen painted a "Costumes Through the Ages" mural on the wall.

Sharon Melson and Frances McShane won the senior class song contest with their lyrics to the tune of "The Desert Song."

Miss Faye Marie Taylor's Latin American history and world history students collected 1,500 pennies to provide Care packages for two needy families. One package contained a plow sent for \$10 collected, which went to Korea, and the other package, which went to Panama, contained basic food for \$5.00

The Bruin staff had big problems when the action sports pictures were lost in a fire.

1956-57 NEW ANNEX OPENS

Although workmen hurried about the campus throughout the summer, school opened with students sardined into the original building which was planned to accommodate only 850 students. After seven weeks of school, the new "annex" building was opened for classes.

The mid-year class of 1957 had the largest number to ever graduate at mid-term.

Grizzly tracksters finished third in the Annual Invitational Track Meet.

The class song was written by Louetta Bennett and Coretta Berry. Their words were composed to the tune "Halls of Ivy."

The Fort Smith High School band was sent to Washington D.C. as Arkansas' representative to march down Pennsylvania Avenue to the Capitol in the inaugural parade for President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Eleven journalism students accompanied Miss Hazel Presson to New York City, where they attended the Columbia Scholastic Press Association Convention at Columbia University.

Senior Bill Priakos represented the Arkansas Junior Red Cross as one of four American Delegates to attend a training center in Japan. Allen Douglas, Myles Friedman, Geraldine Ramey, and Louise Jaggers spoke at commencement on the theme "Interdependence Among Nations."

Mr. R. Earl Farnsworth, FSHS principal, was the discussion leader for the National Association of Secondary School Principals in Washington D.C.

Student body presidents were Sally Putnam and Susie Wiggins. Sondra Kreipke reigned as football homecoming queen.

1957-58

FSHS HAS LARGEST ENROLLMENT IN ARKANSAS

An enrollment of 1738 placed FSHS as the largest senior high school in Arkansas.

Student body residents for that year were Johnny

Rice and Jennifer Billingsley.

The seniors presented \$300 as a class gift to the

library.

In the stadium, a second deck was added to the press box, to be used as a camera booth. A unique phone system from the bench to the press box was also installed.

Three well-known students of '58 were Joy Ann Taylor, Bruin editor; Pinky Fullerton, head cheer-

leader; and Cindy Jones, Bruin Beauty.

Named to the Hall of Fame were Armil Snow, Jennifer Billingsley, Donnie Green, Mila Bess Cozart, Herschel White, Johnny Price, Susan Glover, Paul Shaver, Tinka McCann, and Ronald Stevenson.

1958-59

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT CONTINUES TO CLIMB

The school was filled to capacity with the largest class yet. With 1853 students, the sohomores had the largest class, with 728 enrolled. The junior class followed closely with 647, and the senior class next with only 478, However, the senior class had 26 more students than the entire four-year high school had in 1919.

The senior class presented a \$600 gift to the school with the purchse of a trophy case to stand in the library foyer, microphones and stands for the stage, and new books for some of the departments.

Sponsored by the Key Club, Sue Lloyd became

the first March of Dimes Queen.

For the first time, German was offered to students with Mrs. John Wilkinson as instructor.

The boys gymnasium had a new auxiliary "balcony" platform added. This served as a spare room by being enclosed with mesh wire. The platform was used for weightlifting and tumbling.

No, the student's halos didn't fall to their waists, it

was just the hula-hoop craze.

Judy Phillips, state 4-H president, was interviewed by Farm Journal and Progressive Homemaker

magazines.

The Fort Smith High School rifle team placed second in the 15th annual indoor small-bore sectional tournament in Henderson, Texas. With 1600 points possible, the FSHS team scored 1405.

With over 2500 musicians from Arkansas, Texas, Oklahoma, and Missouri attending the bi-state music festival, both the FSHS school band and choral groups placed first in their division.

1959-60

BAND HAS FIRST QUEEN

Guyla Hixon was crowned the first band queen by William N. Shaver III, band director.

The seniors' gift to the school was Farnsworth Garden.

Completion of work on the auditorium was done during the summer with the refinishing of the stage flooring.

Due to the closing of Fort Chaffee, the enrollment of Fort Smith High School was down, with only 1794 students enrolled.

Robert Austin, chemistry instructor, directed the senior play "The Matchmaker."

For her contribution to the annual Anthology of High School Poetry, Betty Darbonne received a certificate of acceptance from the National High School Poetry Association.

The choral, band, language, and speech departments acquired tape recorders to use as teaching aids

Attendance improved during the year with the adoption of a new absentee policy. The policy stated that each student could miss no more than nine days per nine weeks and no more than fifteen days per semester.

Jeanie Plunkett was named a state winner in the third annual achievement awards program conducted by the National Council of Teachers of English.

The government students attended court house naturalization ceremonies presided over by Judge John E. Miller.

1960-61 ROSE GARDEN COMPLETED

Nestled between the main building and the annex, the Farnsworth rose garden was completed and that part of the campus took on a new look. Eighty-two rose bushes were planted in the quadrants which surrounded a tiled mosaic medallion. The medallion, made of small pieces of tile, was done in four colors, white for the field, pink for the roses, green for the twigs, and black for the lettering.

The rose garden was a gift from the class of '60, to serve as a reminder of the fine work Mr. Farnsworth had done for Fort Smith High School.

The school board purchased five new school buses to aid in transporting students to school each day.

Senior Bob Taylor was a page in the Arkansas House of Representatives during the summer.

Of the \$2,095.93 added to the band fund, \$606.31 was contributed by band queen Earlene Walls.

Jan Whitcomb was the Key Club Sweetheart, Sarah Yantis was selected the DAR Good Citizen, and Sandy Wisener was the homecoming queen.

Princess Catherine Caradja of Romania, a crusading Anti-communist, spoke to the school on "Life Behind the Iron Curtain."

1961-62 FORT SMITH HIGH SCHOOL BECOMES "NORTHSIDE"

Effective immediately after a special August School Board meeting, Fort Smith High School officially became Northside High School. The official school initials were changed to NHS.

The '62 senior class was the first to graduate from Northside High School, but their diplomas, which were already printed, read Fort Smith High School, as did their class rings.

The school board selected the name primarily to indicate the geographical location of the school in relation to the new junior-senior high school that was to be constructed later in the year. The location name was chosen in order not to show partiality by choosing one of the hundreds of names submitted.

With a school capacity of 2,000 the school enrollment was 1,950. The teacher load was 26.3 students each.

Due to a change in their marching style, the band practiced at night by moonlight to perfect the shorter step and faster cadence. When the band first stepped onto the field, they were sporting white plumes instead of the red ones they had previously worn.

The Grizzlies wrapped up the Big Nine Conference Championship with a 10-0 season.

The seniors were busy during the year with the presentation of "Ask Any Girl," the senior play, and "Those Wonderful Years," the senior hit parade. Robert Austin was director of the play and Larry Bracken directed the hit parade.

The letters, Northside High School, placed on the east wing of the building, were donated to the school by the class of '62.

1962-63

"NORTHSIDE" HAS RECORD ENROLLMENT

With the reopening of Fort Chaffee, the enrollment of the school rose to approximately 2,230. The classes were distributed among 81 teachers. Because of the large enrollment, the sophomore class was housed on the second floor of Peabody Elementary School.

Thanks to Larry Reece and Bill Crews, station manager for KFSA radio, "NHS Reports" was heard each evening.

With approximately 250 students displaying their project, the science fair was held in the boys' gym.

The old printing press, which bore a patent date of 1822, was replaced with a new Heidelberg automatic cylinder press.

Edsel Ford, a nationally known poet from Arkansas, read some of his poetry for the Sock and Buskin Thespian initiation.

Marcia Nincehelser was awarded the 1963 Betty Crocker Search for the American Homemaker of Tomorrow contest, receiving a \$1,500 scholarship from the General Mills Corporation.

As part of a \$2,500,000 bond issue, NHS received \$350,000 to build a physical education-athletic-auditorium facility. The new facility was to be used as a fieldhouse for all Grizzly home basketball games and would face 23rd Street. The fieldhouse would be large enough to seat the entire student body. Also included in the building program was a new lighting system for the stadium. The stadium building was also to be renovated with the addition of new dressing rooms and rest room facilities for players and a new dressing room for the officials.

Barbara Werner, an exchange student from Stuttgart, Germany, attended classes at NHS.

Sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary, Marsha Leavitt was the first girl from Fort Smith to be chosen to attend Girls' Nation.

1963-64

ANOTHER YEAR OF GROWTH AND IMPROVEMENT

With more than 2,200 students, NHS offered more than 50 courses to students.

The senior class gave a "Grizzly" head plaque to the school as their gift. The \$800 head, inscribed "Class of '64," was placed above the entrance to the new fieldhouse. The class also donated a "Spirit" truck, seen at all the pep assemblies and home games.

Karolyn Parker was crowned the first basketball queen at the basketball homecoming game.

Mr. Farnsworth was given the annual "Educator of the Year" award by the Fort Smith Optimist Club, being honored for his 33 years with the Fort Smith School system. He began in 1930 as the printing instructor at what was to become Darby Junior High School.

The building of the fieldhouse was underway. In the main building improvements were also being undertaken. The floors were refinished, lockers repainted, and new shelves built in the library. The home economics and athletic departments each received new washers and dryers. The home economics department also received two gas ranges, an electric range, a refrigerator, and a new floor buffer.

To help fill those new shelves in the library, 500

new books were purchased.

Again NHS had the state's highest enrollment, with a total of 2,277 students.

1964-65

NEW FIELDHOUSE OPENS

On November 15, 1,948 students assembled for the formal opening of the new NHS fieldhouse. It was the first time in 13 years that all students on campus had attended an indoor program together. A lecture-demonstration entitled "Atomic Power" was given by the Oak Ridge Science Program.

Sponsored by the National Council of Teachers of English, Mary Alice Graves received top honors in the nationwide competition which recognized outstand-

ing students in High School English.

The marquee on the front campus was installed and dedicated to the Memory of Chris Corbin, Jr., son of Superintendent Chris Corbin and a graduate of Northside.

The senior class donated the Grizzly head painted mid-court in the new fieldhouse as the class gift.

Mary Lou Rawlings was one of eight Fort Smith students who served as hostesses for Mrs. Lyndon Johnson when she came to Fort Smith to dedicate in Fort Smith National Historic Site.

Fred Kirkpatrick and Bill Pharis were named national winners in Quill and Scroll's annual feature writing contest. They were awarded the National Award — a Gold Key.

The Senior Fling was patterned after the senior hit parades that were once an annual affair at the school.

As Southside added another grade, Northside's enrollment went down with approximately 1800 average daily attendance.

1965-66 ENROLLMENT CONTINUES DOWNWARD

1965-66 saw Northside's enrollment go down with enrollment under 2000 and an average daily attendance of approximately 1500. Southside had finally become established as a senior high school, enrolling for the first time 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students.

For the third year, the Optimist Club awarded a Northside High School teacher the "Educator of the Year" award. Miss Irene Barnwell, American History teacher, was the recipient.

The first Student Council play, "Our Girls," was directed by Mrs. Mary Julia Head.

Principal R. Earl Farnsworth donated more than 2,000 color slides to the visual aids department of the NHS library. The slides included scenic places in New England, Canada, and the Southwest. Most of the slides were photographed by Mr. Farnsworth, but a few had to be purchased because picture taking was not allowed in some areas.

The NHS House of Representatives added a Southside Conference flag to those flags already hanging in the fieldhouse.

World famous model for painters and sculptors, Nelson Bennett, posed for NHS art students at an Alpha Rho Tau meeting. Mr. Bennett wore his pink slippers which had been autographed by painters and sculptors from all over the world.

1966-67 NORTHSIDE AND LINCOLN MERGE

It was in the year '66-'67 that Northside became a fully integrated school. With the closing of Lincoln High School, Northside absorbed its students and thereby realized an increased enrollment — back up to average daily attendance of approximately 1600. The NHS library inherited 3000 books from Lincoln, as well as various items of equipment. Mr. Foster Ware, former principal of Lincoln, joined the staff of Northside as a guidance counselor.

For the first time since its original painting, the smokestack was given a new paint-job.

Tickets were sold out as students from NHS flocked to hear Gary Lewis and the Playboys at the city auditorium.

Arriving just in time for homecoming, new West Point style uniforms were sported by the band. The cost was approximately \$112 each for 120 uniforms.

Foreign exchange student Tyna Perret brushed up on her English while attending high school at Northside. Tyna was from Montreux, Switzerland.

1967-68 JROTC COMES TO NORTHSIDE

JROTC began its first year at Northside with 215 cadets enrolled. The Peabody basement was converted into offices, classrooms, supply rooms, and a 50-foot firing range for the use of the JROTC program. Instructors were M/Sgt. William Loyd and SFC Donald Page, under the direction of Col. Choice R. Rucker, senior army instructor.

Thanks to Donrey Outdoor Advertising, B & M Sign Co. and collections and work from the student body, three billboards were erected locally which read: "Warning — you are now entering Bear Country."

The NHS track team was once again the state champions.

Governor Winthrop Rockefeller signed an immunization bill into law which required that every student in an Arkansas public or private school be immunized against poliomyelitis, diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough and red measles. Six clinics were set up in Fort Smith grade schools to accommodate all the students.

The Bruin was named the best yearbook in the country. Bruin editors were Pam Waganer and Janice Burns.

Mavis Morton again sponsored the senior class, Bobby Huston reigned as band queen, Missy Smith was homecoming queen, while Joel Cook and David Smith served as presidents of the student body. (Joel was also a National Merit finalist.)

Jerry Riddle was class president; Steve Parker, vice-president; Joe Lambiotte, treasurer; and Pat Meador, secretary.

194 girls, led by officers Janith Fawcett, Lyn Forsgren, Patti Turner and Cathy Marley, made up one of the most spirited pep clubs to ever cheer the Bears to victory.

1968-69 STADIUM GIVEN NEW NAME

Grizzly Stadium received a new name in December — "The Mayo-Thompson Stadium." Both Mr. Mayo and Mr. Thompson came to NHS in 1928 as coaches. During his 12 years at the school, Mayo's football teams compiled a record of 77 wins, 32 losses, and 10 ties. Thompson took over as head football coach in 1940 when Mr. Mayo was named athletic director. As head coach, Mr. Thompson compiled a record of 35 wins, 22 losses, and 5 ties through 1945, when he was named track coach.

The Senior Class gift to the school was the Grizzly smoking pavilion built on the back campus. The class also left a trailer named "Grizzly Express."

Rhonda Fleming was the winner of the outstanding talent award in the Arkansas Junior Miss Pageant when she sang "Blue Dawn", a song she composed herself.

The track team again took the state crown.

The mixed chorus raised \$2,500 for new choir robes. These were traditional blue with a white stole on which was monogrammed a red NHS emblem.

The Play "Harvey" was directed by Mrs. Jeanie Tankersley.

Four Mexican students spent their "summer vacation" at NHS. Fermin Flores, Carolos Cornejo, Jose (Pepe) Fernandez, and Carmina Garcia found NHS much different from their schools in Mexico.

The Bruin earned the top award in national competition for yearbooks — the S.K. Smith Yearbook Award for 1969.

The senior class dropped the traditional senior play in favor of a variety show.

1969-70 DRESS CODE ADOPTED BY STUDENTS

The sixties were the Age of Aquarius and a time of upheaval. The nation had been shocked by four assassinations: John F. Kennedy, Dr. Martin Luther King, Robert Kennedy, and Malcolm X. Vietnam, the Beatles, Charles Manson, Woodstock, men on the moon, student movements, the unkept look, long hair, and short dresses were subjects of conversation and debate.

It seems fitting that at the end of a decade of student unrest, the students began to actively participate in decision-making. In the '69-'70 year, the Student Council and the House of Representatives adopted a student dress code which was accepted by the faculty.

The senior class, with Mrs. Mavis Morton sponsor, presented the play "Love and Kisses" and the fling "Somethin's Bruin."

The Grizzly band participated in the welcoming ceremonies for President Richard Nixon when he visited Fort Smith.

NHS Miss Versatility, Carolyn Hawkins, became '70 Arkansas' Junior Miss.

The stadium received a new \$50,000 lighting system and a modern standard regulation score-board that showed the number of seconds remaining in the game.

Tom Halliburton qualified for membership in "The Big Inch Club," an exclusive organization open to high school journalists. Membership was restricted to students having had 10,000 column inches or more of printed material in either the high school newspaper or in a professional paper. Only 54 people had qualified for membership into the club since its organization in 1947.

Football homecoming queen for 1970 was Janet Riddle.

First semester student body president was Max Wernick, with Jerry Presley presiding second semester.

1970-71 WOMEN WEAR PANTS

By a December decision of the School Board, both women teachers and girl students were allowed to

wear pant suits to classes for the first time. The Board also voted to participate in a federally assisted school lunch program, which resulted in sweeping changes in the cafeteria.

After winning five conference games, the Bruins took the AAAA conference title with an 11-0 season, under the guidance of head basketball coach Gayle Kaundart.

Janet Marley and Marlene Williams became the football and basketball queens, respectively. Cheryl Grace became the band queen.

Tommy "Tooter" Craft, offensive tackle for the Bears, was named to the state's "Super Team."

Ricky Cogburn was a delegate to Boys' Nation, which was held in Washington D.C. While there, Ricky received a pen that had been used by President Richard Nixon while signing bills.

Arkansas High School Press Association selected R. Earl Farnsworth, NHS principal, Administrator of the Year — the first time a high school principal had been the recipient of this award.

Janie Wenderoth was Bruin Beauty, with Sharon Bailey, Elizabeth Cox, Faith Davis, Janet Marley, Chrissy Nincehelser, and Linda Pettway as the six other finalists in the contest.

Class officers for '70-'71 were Rick Cogburn, president; Bill Shaver, vice-president; Elizabeth Cox, sergeant at arms and publicity chairman; Deena Lovell, recording secretary; Linda Nichols, roll call secretary; and Kay Tigert, treasurer. They started the year with a bang by opening the year with a mass evening meeting on Sears' parking lot at the Mall.

1971-72

NORTHSIDE HAS FIRST DRILL TEAM

For the first time in the history of the school, NHS had a drill team. The 22-girl squad was under the direction of Mrs. Molly Cotton. Although organized late in the year, the girls soon impressed an admiring public with their peeling off, snapping, lifting knees, and pointing toes. Officers were Karen Wheeler, captain; Rhonda Lee, first lieutenant; Joanne Cary, second lieutenant; and Carla Gilyard, senior squad leader. The squad was also coached by Cheryl Stephens.

Lt. Col. Robert Rich was presented the DAR bronze medal by the Fort Smith Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Seniors selected as their theme for fling "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Seniors But Were Afraid to Ask."

Sock and Buskin presented the play "Visit to a Small Planet." Mrs. Billie Stone and student James Goodman directed the play, from which all profits were donated toward the auditorium remodeling project.

The remodeling of the auditorium was a cooperative effort by school-sponsored clubs. Cathy Nelson (chairman), Mark Robertson (co-chairman), and faculty sponsors (James Neely and Mrs. Stone) estimated that \$5,000 was needed for the project.

When finished, an acoustical ceiling had been installed, draperies hung, walls painted, carpet runners placed in the aisles, fluorescent lights installed, and the backstage lighting had been improved.

Dr. C.B. Garrison became Fort Smith's superintendent of public schools in 1971. According to Dr. Garrison, "The 'bridging' of the generation gap is the challenge of education. The school can be the 'bridge' if it will strive to humanize its program. We must strive for values, fundamental assumptions and principles that all the students can accept. We must concern our schools with the present and the future, as well as the past."

Class officers for '71-'72 were Alan Richardson, president; Ethan Westfall, vice-president; and

Marilyn Smith, secretary.

1972-73 SOPHOMORES BACK AT NORTHSIDE CAMPUS

Sophomores were again on the Northside campus. It was planned that the Peabody Annex be used for the classes of Cooperative Office Education, Distributive Education, Coordinated Career Education, the Alternate School, and the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp.

The Bruin Beauty for '73 was Kim McBride.

Carl Wikstrom was senior class president; Martha Cravens, vice-president; Jimmy Grace, recording secretary; and Ann Warmack, attendance secretary.

Out of 15,000 semi-finalists in the National Merit Scholarship competition, NHS had two who qualified, Betty Uzman and Gordon Floyd.

With an enrollment of 1,607 students, NHS had 79 teachers, a principal, and two assistant principals.

Band queen was Marcia Hinds. Leslie Landrum, a four-year member of the Fort Smith Public Youth String Orchestra, was elected to play in the Arkansas All-State Orchestra. She was the first NHS student to receive this honor.

Cheryl Dinsmore, Terry Sass and Carl Wikstrom received letters of commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation for their performance on the '71 PSAT/NMSQT exams.

After serving as senior sponsor for 10 years, Mrs. Mavis Morton relinquished that responsibility due to added duties involved in guidance counseling. Mrs. Pat Werner became sponsor and led the seniors in presenting the Neil Simon play "Come Blow Your Horn."

Debbie Congour became the first Super Bear.

Curtis Shankle won a \$1,700 scholarship in chemistry at the College of the Ozarks' Science Day.

1973-74 FRANK JONES COMES TO NHS

In '73 Northside had a new principal, Frank Jones, who replaced R. Earl Farnsworth upon his retirement. Jones was no stranger to NHS since he had been its head football coach and athletic director before taking the position of principal at Darby Junior, High School.

Northside High School was recognized by North Central for its 50-year membership in the State Association, in which NHS was a charter member.

With the closing of St. Anne's High School, the NHS enrollment had jumped to 1,700.

For the first time, the state furnished textbooks for students. This was the result of action taken by the Arkansas General Assembly during the '73 summer session

The NHS basketball team scored a season total of 1,792 points, breaking the old record of 1,579 points set in the 1967-68 season. The team also held a record of the most consecutive games won, which was 30. Ron "Boothead" Brewer, with a season total of 549 points, broke Almer Lee's '67-'68 record of 525. With 34 points scored in a single game, Brewer broke Tommy Boyer's '59 record of 33 points in one game.

In the AAAA tournament, Ron Brewer was named the most valuable player. Along with Ron, Jerry Taylor and John Raybon were named to the All-State Team.

James Freeman was "Super Bear."

Sock and Buskin came out of hiding with their play "The Mouse That Roared." This was their first play since 1972, when the thespians did "Up the Down Staircase." Bill DuBois directed the play.

"N" Steppers was adopted as the name for the drill team.

Fashion had returned to the '50's — with longer dresses, bow ties, and curly hair for girls as well as boys.

1974-75

CHAPMAN RECEIVES RECORD SCHOLARSHIP

Kevin Chapman was awarded a scholarship which was possibly the largest ever granted to a Fort Smith senior. Brigade Commander Chapman received a four-year \$20,000 scholarship from Army ROTC in Fort Monroe, Virginia.

During her stay in the United States, exchange student Elda Kocks lived with senior Janis DePriest's family. Elda was a senior here under the Foreign Exchange Program and was from South Africa.

Debbie Congour, Kathy Pettyjohn, and Cindy Manuel submitted the winning name for the school store — The Bear Necessities.

Jerry Moore, NHS sociology and ethnic history teacher, had a book published with co-author Lonnie Roach, a civics teacher in Huntington, Arkansas. Their book "No Smoke, No Soot, No Clinkers" was a combination of four topics involving coal mining in South Sebastian County.

The CCE (Coordinated Career Education) students published a bi-weekly paper centered around departmental news, sports, artwork, and a thought for the day.

To help put an end to six months of vandalism on campus, security personnel were employed on a temporary basis. Principal Frank Jones was elected to a four-year term on the board of directors of the National Association of Secondary School Principals. Jones also held an office in the Arkansas Congress of Parents and Teachers and was president of the Arkansas Association of Secondary Principals. Northside's principal practiced what he preached —"Get Involved!"

Mrs. Sandra Anderson, Cooperative Office Education Coordinator, was presented the Shelby Breedlove Outstanding Young Educator Award by the Fort Smith Jaycees.

1975-76 BUSINESS DEPARTMENT MOVES TO FLEXIBLE CLASSROOM

One of the year's greatest changes was the moving of the entire business department into the flexible classroom and three adjoining rooms. Remodeling was done to provide teachers' offices and student work area at the west end, with three flexible class rooms and a balcony conference/work room in the remainder of what had once been the old study hall.

Besides Accounting, Office Machines, Business Laboratory and COE, a new program, BEST, was taught in the new location. BEST (Business Education Success Techniques) was a state funded program and was taught by Mrs. Julia Lee, who was also sponsor fo the "N" Steppers. The new program received new IBM Selectric typewriters, adding machines, electronic calculators, and other equipment costing over \$20,000. Typing I and Shorthand were taught in three adjoining rooms, outside the flexible classroom area.

Exchange student Joao "Jay" Botelho lived with the family of Pat Blaylock, Jay's home was in Brazil.

William N. Shaver III resigned from his position as NHS band director to become a CCE instructor at the Peabody Annex. Mr. Ron Garner, from Darby, took his place at Northside. Garner crowned the '75-'76 band queen, Lisa Spillman.

The year's class lyrics were written by Nancy Lamoreaux, set to music written by Bill Blanchfill.

Sock and Buskin paid tribute to the USA with a two-part Bicentennial dramatic assembly.

Keith Blaschke and Kenny Kohler became president and vice-president, respectively, of the State Industrial Arts Club.

1976-77 GRIZZLY GETS NEW COMPOSER

The Grizzly took on a new, modern look with the help of an IBM Electronic Selectric Composer. The paper was composed in the journalism room, then sent to the Southwest Times Record for final processing. The new composer gave students a more active role in the actual production of the paper.

Linda Mingo was the recipient of the Good Citizenship Certificate, presented by the Fort Smith Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Mrs. Maxine Miller, sociology and psychology teacher, was awarded an honorable mention from the National Economic Education Awards Program for a project taught in her second semester sociology class, "Credit in the American Society."

Sock and Buskin students worked on the play "Our Town" with the members of the Fort Smith Little Theater.

Anna Greve, NHS CCE teacher, was elected to serve on the Educational Concerns Committee of the President's White House Conference for Handicapped Individuals.

The girls' volleyball team was runner-up in the District Four Tournament, under the direction of Coach Ralph Brown.

Kar LaBorn was named Northside's '76-'77 General Mills Family Leader of Tomorrow.

Jack Ford invited NHS student Ken Jedlica to attend the Republican National Convention in Kemper Arena in Kansas City, Missouri. Ken attended as a member of the presidential cheering section.

The art department was presented over-all trophy in the all-state art competition sponsored by the Arkansas Activities Association for Art.

Sherri Vervack, NHS "most valuable student," was awarded the Scholarship/Leadership award from the National Elks Foundation.

1977-78 MATERIALS CENTER GETS NEW TELEVISION EQUIPMENT

The Materials Center updated their teaching facilities when they added a new color television monitor receiver, video-tape recorder and video camera to their equipment.

For the first time since 1965 the smokestack was repainted, after being struck by lightning.

DECA students won first place awards at the state Distributive Education Clubs of America contest and represented Arkansas in the national DECA contest.

Charlotte West and Eva Jackson were named to the 4A West volleyball second team and the All-Conference State team.

The CCE program of NHS held special olympics for their students. The NHS basketball team came out with top honors.

Madeline Marquette's French classes went to the First United Methodist kindergarten one day a week to teach French to their students. The program was known as FLIP (Foreign Language In Pre-school).

The senior class officers were John Lindquist, president; Abe Bogoslavsky, vice-president; Kim Kirby, correspondence secretary; Mary Ann Lensing, attendance secretary; Kirk Irons, treasurer; and Kim Blaylock, recording secretary. Mrs. Elveda Kutait was sponsor.

The top four students in the class were Kevin Elsken, Sandra West, Paula McNeal, and Annette Cartwright. Commencement speakers were Kimberly Kirby, Garry Mayo, Ellen Goodson, and Pamela Core.

1978-79

50TH CLASS GRADUATES FROM "23RD AND B"

Many memories linger in the old halls, and the class of '78-'79 would become the golden fiftieth when they marched down to receive their diplomas from Mr. Jones.

Jim Moody and Linda Boen, assisted by the other members of the Fiftieth Anniversary Committee. directed an assembly to celebrate the anniversary of the February 15, 1929 dedication of the "new" Fort

Smith High School.

The student body met many former FSHS and NHS students and teachers during the assembly, as well as at the football homecoming half-time festivities. Old times, names, and headlines were recalled - F.D.R., Grable, Andrews Sisters, WW II, Korea, Vietnam, "Ike," the charleston, the jitterbug, rock and roll, "Margie," "Boogie-Woogie Bugle Boy," and "Who's Sorry Now?"

But time marched on, and the class of '78-'79 kept right on moving with it. Mike Eads was president; Susan Blair, vice-president; Kathy Hug, recording secretary; Gina Hightower, correspondence secretary; and Henry Davison, treasurer. Jim Moody and

Elveda Kutait were sponsors.

Football homecoming queen was Lauren Gean, and Jan Wilson was basketball homecoming queen. Henry Davison and Palmer McDonald led the

class as the only straight A students.

1979-1986

Since the Golden Anniversary of the North 23rd and B Street campus, the campus has been expanded by the addition of new parking and four new buildings. The Northside campus grew by three new buildings in 1980-81 and by one building in 1984-85.

Construction started on the Fine Arts Building in November 1979. The building houses the band and chorus, and has storage for band instruments. According to Bill Cromer, choir director, it is "the finest building" in this part of Arkansas. The completely air conditioned building cost approximately \$460,000.

The Learning Lab contains eight classrooms and, like the Fine Arts Building, is completely air conditioned. The Learning Lab, also started in November of 1979, was built at a cost of \$361,000.

Building of the Learning Lab and remodeling of the old band area in the stadium enabled special education classes which were previously held in the Peabody Annex to be moved to the main campus. Northside now serves all special need senior high

school students in the city.

One of many outstanding programs for the special student is the Coordinated Career Education (CCE). CCE is a cooperative vocational program designed for special need students. The curriculum is jobcentered and taught on the student's level. Students gain actual job experience through half-day employment.

The new boiler room was constructed during the summer of 1980 by the maintenance crew at a cost of \$104,000. This new heating plant replaces the old boiler which had heated the school since 1928.

The fourth addition was the remodeling of a house on North 22nd Street. This building houses the English as a Second Language for the Indo-Chinese students.

The computer revolution has also arrived at Northside. There are two computer labs. Some math and accounting courses are computerized. The print shop is also computerized.

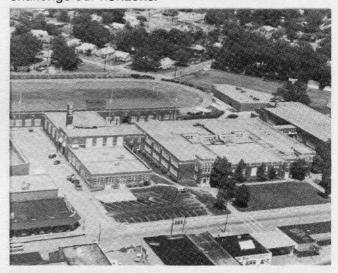
The school has one of the most outstanding vocational programs of any comprehensive high school in the state. There are almost fifty vocational

and business courses offered.

In honor of the centennial year of the Fort Smith High School, for the first time in the history of the school so far as we know, the faculty processed with the 1986 graduating Northside High School students in their graduation exercises.

As we pause to look back at the history of this great school, let us celebrate our heritage and

challenge our horizons.



Aerial view of Northside High School, 1981. Courtesy of Wayne Bledsoe.

59 YEARS OF STUDENT BODY PRESIDENTS FORT SMITH/NORTHSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

1929 Vincent Allison/ Amis Guthridge

1930 Billie Mankin

1931 Ralph McMurtrey/ Kathleen Mehl

1932 Billy Cravens/John Livingston

1933 Harry Adams 1934 Reginald Reeves/

Dana Dawson

1935 Raymond Shelby/Jay Jones 1936 John Thornton/Dale McCov

1937 C.B. Murphy/C.B. Murphy

1938 Louis Lambiotte/ **Buddy Strozier**

1939 Wayne Harding/Harry Shipley 1940 J.B. Garrison/J.B. Garrison

1941 Walter Gutensohn/ Jack Thompson

1942 Roy Fox/Richard Martin

1943 Jack Ross/John Holland

1944 Jett Thomas/Richard Erickson

1945 Leon Bowers/Marvel Rhyne

1946 Harell Spears/Kent Holland 1947 Charles Rhyne/Gene Rapley

1948 Martin Martin/Joel Williams

1949 David McDonald/Paul Pate

1950 Gene Framel/Flo Martin

1951 Stancil Johnson/Jimmy Kusel

1952 Charles Turner/Ginger Frye

1953 David Brumley/Don McGuire 1954 Wayne Darmley/Bill Keltner 1955 Bob Anderson/

Tommy Cutting

1956 Dick Haynes/David Knox

1957 Sally Putnam/Susie Wiggins

1958 Johnny Price/John McFerran 1959 Jim Mulhollan/James Bass

1960 Harry Feldman/Harry Feldman

1961 Johnny Shipley/Mike Plunkett

1962 Arthur Smith/JoAnn Winton

1963 Steve Plunkett/Steve Plunkett

1964 Larry Reed/Fay Boozman

1965 Terry Kirkpatrick/

George Lease

1966 Bob Johnston/Barry Coplin 1967 Steve Lease/Charles O'Neal

1968 David Smith/Joel Cook

1969 Chris Whitt/James Hudson

1970 Max Wernick/Jerry Presley

1971 Roscoe Thompson/

John Bayliss

1972 Lane Barker/Joe Wernick 1973 Jeanie College/Chuck Berlau

1974 Dana Parks/Kirk Martin

1975 Danny Teddar/Barry Adams

1976 Leslie Kidder/Frank Post

1977 Dwight Plunkett/Butch Snow

1978 Dryden Pence/Garry Mayo

1979 Chris Crank/Palmer McDonald

1980 Kristi Sowell/Martha Mayner

1981 Greg Robbins/David Haley

1982 Monty Sowell/Ken Pevehouse 1983 Steve Patterson/

Steve Patterson

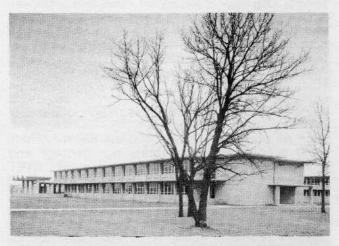
1984 Brian Mobley/Daniel Weidman

1985 Matt Moore/Bryan Camp

1986 Dennis Smith/Dennis Smith

1987 President elect, Daniel Stewart

A HISTORY OF SOUTHSIDE HIGH SCHOOL



Southside High School, 1963. Courtesy Southside High School.

By the spring of 1960, the Fort Smith Special School District Board of Education had become concerned about the severely overcrowded conditions at what was then Fort Smith High School and, in March of that year, asked the citizens of the district to vote upon a bond issue which would provide for the construction of a new high school. The bond issue was passed by the voters, and construction of the new school was begun on a twenty-four acre site between Old Greenwood Avenue and Cliff Drive, which was to become 4100 Gary Avenue — Southside High School.

The new building was to contain thirty-seven classrooms, a library, a gymnasium and offices, and was to have a capacity of 1200 pupils. According to the *Southside News* of January 23, 1963, the new building was ninety percent complete on that date and completion of the building was to be carried out before the beginning of the 1963-1964 school year. The total cost of the construction was \$1,200,000, and another \$200,000 was spent in equipping the school. By this time, the new school had been named Southside High School, and the old Fort Smith High School had been renamed Northside High School.

The school board also decided to begin Southside as a junior-senior high school. This was done for a number of reasons. Many students who were already enrolled at Northside did not wish to change schools. There was an overcrowded situation in the existing junior high schools, and Southside's being a junior-senior high could alleviate that situation until the new junior high under construction on Waldron Road (Kimmons) could be completed. Also, the self-study and valuation process of the North Central Association takes about three years in

the initial phase, and Southside's delay of a graduating class until 1966 would insure that those graduates would have the advantages of having graduated from an accredited high school.

In February, 1963, Victor E. Stewart was named as the principal of Southside. Mr. Stewart, who had served as assistant principal and dean of boys at Northside since 1955, received his B.S.E. degree from Arkansas College in Batesville and his masters degree in educational administration from the University of Arkansas in 1955. He had previously taught at Truman, Mt. Ida and Mansfield, Arkansas, before coming to Fort Smith, where he taught at both Darby and Ramsey Junior High Schools before going to Northside. In an interview with the Southwest American after his appointment as principal of Southside, Mr. Stewart was quoted as saying, "I'm looking forward to my new position. It promises to be a real challenge." In that statement, Mr. Stewart was certainly right, as he was proved to be in most instances in the nineteen years he was to serve as principal.

Shortly after Mr. Stewart's appointment, Charles W. "Dub" McGibbony was chosen as the head football coach, and Ronnie Bateman was chosen as the basketball coach. By the time the cover of the June, 1963, Fort Smith telephone directory featured the architect's sketch of Southside, all of the new faculty had been appointed by the school board. Bill Colvard was the assistant principal and dean of boys; Mary Francis Randall-Dyer was the dean of girls; and Phillip Lewis was the guidance counselor. Other faculty members were Sam Allen, Clara Alverson, Grover C. Anderson, Leo Armstrong, C. Ray Baker, Richard Benson, Lavonne Blackman, Ann Brady, Janice Bufford, Stan Cate, Billy Van Click, Jim Cooper, Irmgard Corbin, Flora Mae Doville, Eloise Fullerton, Gerald Garner, Hattie Gilbreath, Nancy Harper, Madeline Higgins, Virginia Holiman, David Huffstetler, Dorothy Johnson, Austin Kuykendall, Larry Loux, Nancy Meadows, Robert Nix, Tom Oliver, M.L. Palenske, Helen Rockwood, Miles Shopfner, Dan Skelton, June Stanberry, Jim Townley, Evelyn Townsend, and Sue Watts. Joe Hockaday was in charge of the maintenance crew, and Mary House was in charge of the cafeteria. Oleta Bishop was the registrar; Bonnie Cox was the library clerk; Gladys Faulkner was the attendance clerk; and Lula Fitzgerald was the office clerk.

Before the school year began, twenty-four sophomore students had already begun work; they were trying out for the Southside football team. They were joined by about thirty junior high players on a volunteer basis. By the time school started, the Southside lineup had been selected as follows:

Kenny Callas (#12), halfback; Keith Summy (#16), quarterback; Brad Singleterry (#23), halfback; Marvin Matthews (#25), fullback; Don Ferrell (#32), fullback; Billy Peerson (#34), fullback; Mike Beeman (#40), halfback; Richard Lemuth (#50), end; Jimmy Files (#51), end; Johnny Davis (#53), end; Ronnie Hall (#54), end; R.B. Farnam (#60), guard; Mike Bumpas (#61), guard; David Mattson (#62), guard; Bobby Jones (#63), guard; Joe Chappell (#70), tackle; Larry Hart (#71), tackle; Danny Byrd (#72), tackle; Bill Smreker (#73), tackle; Steve Bridges (#82); David McGuyer (#83); and student managers Luther Hodges and Rodney Mason. The junior team consisted of Gary Hickman, Clark Millingan, John Manuel, Mike Snider, Theo Alvos, Ronnie Harrison, Paul Rust, Albert Mato, Jimmy Bruso, Robert Bennett, Grant Johnson, Steve Souffer, Charles Gurisco, Jackie Swink, John Burns, Dick Hutcheson, Chip Hammock, Jim Holland, Richard Johnson, Larry Moore, Stan Spurgeon, Marc Whittaker, Joel Cook, Steve Creekmore, Rick Hundley, Stacey Lee, Doug Miller, Brad Randall, Walter Stouffer, Charles Young, Mike Dedmon, and student managers Tom Cravens and Steve Jay.

When the school year began on Septmber 3, 1963, approximately 900 seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth grade students were enrolled. As with any new school, there were problems. All of the supplies and equipment had not yet arrived. There was no chalk, no duplicating paper, no fans, no classroom clocks; and, in the teacher center, the staff sat on Coca-Cola cases because the furniture had not yet been delivered. However, work was on to transform an empty building into the fine educational institution it was to become. By the end of September, the student body had chosen a name for the athletic teams — the Rebels: chosen school colors of scarlet red, columbia blue and white; written an alma mater; published a newspaper also called The Rebel; chosen student body officers; and elected cheerleaders (Varsity — Mary Tankersley, Danna Presson, Cindy Lemley, Tommie Lynn Jones, Dana Sharp, Nancy Tays and Leslie Skokos — and Junior -Melanie Holder, Melanie Bateman, Jacquie Horne, Connie Conley, Barbara Bedwell, Kathy Cockran, Wilma Thompson and Kim Carnes).

The Southside Parent-Teacher Association met for the first time on September 17, 1963, and over 300 people attended the organizational meeting where Mr. and Mrs. Luther Hodges, Jr. were elected as President; Mr. and Mrs. Dan Douglas, Vice President; Mr. and Mrs. Paul Locks, Secretary; and Mr. and Mrs. John Libby, Treasurer. An open house was held on October 15, and another large attendance again showed the support that the parents and the community were giving to the new school. Perhaps the most physically strenuous effort of this organization was a parent-faculty basketball game later in the year. The fathers and male faculty played basketball while the mothers and female faculty acted as cheerleaders and pep squads to raise money for badly needed library books. In the spring,

Mr. Victor Stewart, principal, received the first life membership given by the Southside P.T.A.

Obviously, Southside could not have a home-coming since there were no former students to "come home." So, on November 19, 1963, at the last football game of the season, Southside had a "Rebel Day." Miss Rebel and her maids — Dana Sharp, Della Belue, Jane Carter, Jane Ferrell, Susan Noyes, Gale Henson and Judy Bates — witnessed a Rebel victory of 19 to 13 over the Muskogee, Oklahoma "B" team after a day of festivities at the school.

When the Rebels took to the boards and basketball season started, they again proved that new schools are not always losers. To spite the fact that there were no juniors or seniors on the team, the "roundballers" accumulated an impressive number of wins. The first Rebel basketball team included Brad Singleterry, Jimmy Dunn, Jim Thompson, Roscoe Spease, Dennis Wells, Jim Files, Ken Callis, Mike Hollan, Marvin Matthews, Kenneth Wells, Bill Johnson, Ron Hall, Keith Summy, and student manager Luther Hodges.

All in all, the first year of Southside's existence was one of much accomplishment, and the first annual, the 1964 Southerner, had many things to report. The varsity football team, playing with only sophomore players, won four games, lost five, and tied one, ending up ninth in the Big Ten ratings. The basketball team won ten out of twenty-one games. Mrs. Hattie Gilbreath, math teacher, was chosen to attend a National Science Institude for Mathematics Teachers. An average of 170 of Southside's students made the honor roll in each quarter. The Southside Rebel Band received twenty-seven first divisions and forty second divisions in the first regional band contest in which they participated. Seven sophomores were inducted into the National Honor Society. Ray Baker, social studies teacher, was chosen as president of the Fort Smith Classroom Teachers Association and had also received one of twenty scholarships to study in the Middle East for the summer. The Student Council was elected as secretary of the District Association of Student Councils. Already, Southside was proving that it was not among the ordinary.

During the 1964-65 school year, only ninth, tenth and eleventh grade students were enrolled at Southside. The previous year's seventh graders and all but seventy of the eighth graders were moved to either Ramsey Junior High School or to the new Kimmons Junior High School. Also, during this year new courses were added until a total of fifty-eight subjects could be taken at Southside. This was also the year in which the self-evaluation for North Central Association accreditation was undertaken by the faculty.

Finally, in 1965-66, Southside became a senior high school. At last the athletic teams could compete in the AAA, and there was a senior class. In December, 1965, the evaulation team from the North Central Association arrived and spent two days observing classes and school activities and

interviewing faculty members. In February of 1966, the faculty and student body breathed sighs of relief when it was announced that Southside was accredited. Spring brought all the hustle and bustle of a graduating class — senior banquet, senior prom, senior day, baccalaureate, and graduation — the first for Southside. Commencement was held on Thursday, June 2, 1966, in the Southside Gymnasium, with 212 students graduating.

By the fall of 1966, Southside had a faculty of forty-five teachers and was offering approximately eighty courses to 1,000 students, and overcrowding was beginning to become a problem as class size increased and some teachers were forced to become "floaters," moving from one classroom to another and utilizing the classrooms of teachers who had a planning period. At the March school election, the voters turned down a bond issue to finance the expansion of Southside, but in spite of its problems the school continued to win honors with both the yearbook and the school newspaper winning both the All-American and Medalist awards — the highest awards given to school annuals and newspapers.

In Septmber of 1967, the voters were persuaded to change their minds and passed a bond issue which would allow the building of seven new classrooms, a shop area, and a drafting room at an approximate cost of \$250,000. Soon the sounds of construction competed with the classroom as an addition was started on the south wing of the building. The sounds of construction were not the only new sounds around. "Hup, one, two, three, four," was also heard as the school initiated a Junior Reserve Officers Corps training program under the direction of the Department of the Army, Approximately 110 boys participated in this unit, and the group was picked as an honor unit in its first year of existence, a record it has maintained up to the present. Other new sights at Southside included a new literary magazine called South '68 which gave students a medium in which to have their poetry, essays, and short stories published.

The first changes in the school administration occurred in the fall of 1968 when Miles Shopfner replaced Bill Colvard as assistant principal and dean of boys. (Mr. Colvard had become principal of St. Anne's High School in Fort Smith.) Other firsts for the 1968-69 school year included the arrival of Southside's first exchange students — nine students from Vera Cruz, Mexico — and the first miniature Christmas parade sponsored in the gym by the Key Club. The new addition to the south wing was completed, and Southside continued to accumulate honors in band, choral music, sports and academic studies, with a Southsider winning the office of governor at Boys' State. That spring Southside graduated about 300 students.

By the time the decade ended, Southside already had to its credit at least two conference basketball championships, two football championships, number one rated vocal and instrumental music departments, a reputation for having more National Merit finalists than any other school in the state, and graduates in

major colleges and universities all over the United States. The 1970's were to usher in major changes in the lifestyle at Southside. Skirts got shorter; boys' hair got longer; open campus and leaving school for lunch became a reality; and the parking lots got more crowded. Peace signs appeared, and blue jeans grew enormous bell bottoms and must have a very worn and torn look. Even more amazing, jeans and pants suddenly appeared on young ladies as the school board revised the dress code.

The fall enrollment at Southside stood at 1.053 when school opened for the 1970-71 school year. Sixty courses were taught by fifty-four instructors, and change was certainly the by-word for this year. Three times during the year, the school board changed the dress code. The first change allowed girls to wear pants dresses; the second allowed the wearing of pants suits; and the third, a proposal by a joint student-faculty committee, permitted the wearing of anything within reason. In January, the soft drink machines were removed from the hall and the canteen vanished from the scene due to changes in the regulations governing the cafeteria program. For the first time, the Student Council published and distributed to every student a Student Handbook in which all the rules and regulations were clearly stated, and there was no excuse for ignorance of the "law." After attending the National Cheerleading Clinic, the Southside cheerleaders began the practice of chants and got new tri-colored shakers to boost Rebel spirit. The Student Council sponsored the Fort Smith Junior Miss Contest, and every teacher received a Christmas poinsettia from his homeroom. The class of 1971 had 331 members. The biggest changes of the 1971-72 school year came in the form of changes in school administration. Mr. Chris Corbin resigned as superintendent of schools. He was replaced by Dr. C.B. Garrison.

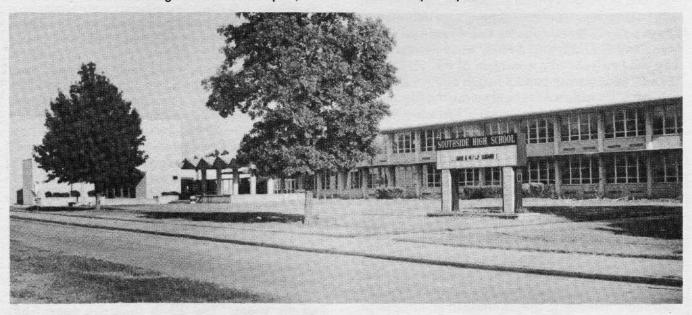
Re-evaluation was the theme for the 1972-73 school year. North Central was coming for the regular check of accredited schools. An increase in school millage had been defeated at the polls in March of 1972, and in spite of "belt-tightening," Southside needed to add some new courses to meet N.C.A. standards. Several new courses were added. including an innovative set of vocational exploration courses offered in conjunction with Westark Community College. The Rebels now had the opportunity to pursue training in such areas as mechanics, electronics, and business machines. Other new courses added included sociology. consumer education, psychology, and advanced general art. The electronic age also arrived at Southside as for the first time students were scheduled for classes with the use of a computer. The North Central Committee visited on December 5, 6 and 7, and Southside was re-accredited. The photography studio of Gittings of Neiman-Marcus was asked to judge the Miss Southern Belle contest and concluded that, "Fort Smith has the loveliest girls in the country." Lunch room procedures were again changed, and the candy and soft drink machines returned to the hall.

The first Black students entered Southside High at the beginning of the 1973-74 school year. Fort Smith Public Schools had been integrated for several years, but there were no Black families living in the Southside attendance area until this time. Also, for the first time in this year, students were allowd to leave campus at lunch. The crunch of 1,300 students brought about a parking lot jam, a policy of allowing seniors not to take study hall and to leave at the end of fifth period, and the beginning of construction on a new addition to the north wing of twelve new classrooms. Women's liberation had begun to strike Southside, and for the first time girls were allowed to take J.R.O.T.C. Arkansas began to furnish textbooks to senior high students for the first time in this year. and teachers could be seen groaning over trying to keep up with the textbooks and getting students to take care of them. New courses such as Enriched English, Data Processing, Advanced Arithmetic, and Printing (offered at Northside) were added to the curriculum. A banquet celebrating the school's tenth anniversary was held with Mr. Victor Stewart as the surprise guest of honor. At this banquet, the library at Southside was renamed the Victor E. Stewart Library in honor of Mr. Stewart's ten years of dedicated service as principal. For the first time, Southside almost beat Northside in football, but had to settle for a tie in the continually growing rivalry.

The new north wing addition was completed at a cost of \$370,000 and dedicated on October 29, 1974. More room was now available for the 1,358 students enrolled for the 1974-75 academic year. There were ten new teachers and four new courses — Career Clusters; Speech III; Technology, People, and Environmental Science; and Contemporary Affairs. The Rebel Band traded in their old Confederate uniforms for more modern "West Point" ones and added a flag bearers line to the marching band. Due to fewer students eating lunch on campus, one

lunch period was eliminated, and the study hall moved to the cafeteria. The first foreign exchange student to stay for year, Petrine Spilling from Norway, arrived and so did Vietnamese students. Seniors received another bonus with the addition of Senior Week. They would now take their final tests the week before graduation and have the last week out of school for senior activities. Perhaps the biggest headache for the administrators and teachers and the biggest laugh for students occurred on homecoming. The game was to be played against the Blytheville "Chicks," and the theme of homecoming was "Southern Fry the Chicks." One senior who definitely believed in the free enterprise system returned from lunch with hundreds of baby chickens which he promptly sold at a profit to the students. Soon the chickens could be heard peeping all over school while the faculty desperately searched for their hiding places.

By the fall of 1975, Southside had grown by almost another one hundred students, and the enrollment stood at 1,432. The faculty had increased to sixty-six teachers, and a new course in auto mechanics had been added. To help solve the parking problems, four acres on the west side of the campus had been purchased and an unpaved parking lot constructed over the summer. The 1975-76 year also saw the guidance offices moved from the front office complex to the north wing. Construction began on a \$975,000 auditorium to be added to the front of the east side of the building. Southside also registered a first for the state of Arkansas when stuntmen were recruited to help cheerleaders, and women's liberation was given a boost when Title IX required the school system to begin financing girls' athletics. Miles Shopfner was promoted to Director of Maintenance at the School Service Center, and Mr. Wayne Haver and Mr. Bob Nix replaced him as assistant principals.



Southside High School, 1986, showing at left of picture 600 seat auditorium which was completed in 1976. First event held in it was Southern Belle Pageant on September 25, 1976. Photo by Dr. Art Martin.

In the 1977-78 school year, the art students carved a bigger than life Rebel man for the front hall from the trunk of a tree. For days on end the students in charge of the project patiently chopped away at the tree trunk and succeeded in removing all those parts that did not look like Mr. Rebel. Career Day was instituted, and area profesionals came to Southside to tell students about their jobs. The work study programs were growing in popularity as more and more students sought jobs to pay for their "wheels" and to offset the rising cost of gasoline.

When Southside's 1,501 students arrived in the fall of 1977, they found that the west parking lot had been paved and the days of "mud parking" were over forever. Seven new courses had been added to the curriculum — Composition and Grammar, World Drama, Novels, Creative Writing, Survey of British Literature, Great Books, and Consumer Math. All of the students went wild with joy when Southside finally secured a football victory over Northside, but by January, 1978, that joy was forgotten when they had to attend Saturday classes for the first time in order to make up days missed because of snow and bad weather.

Nine new teachers and 1,419 students greeted the return of the school routine in the fall of 1978. New for the year was an "honors" program in which accelerated classes were established and honors diplomas given to students who completed these classes with at least a 3.00 grade average. It was again time for North Central re-evaluation, and competency-based education with a return to basics and a test which all sophomores had to pass before graduation had arrived on the scene. A College Day was held in the gym which allowed students to visit with college representatives and obtain information about many different schools. Disco was new on the scene and Saturday Night Fever was the rage.

In the last year of the decade of the 1970's, the 1979-80 school year, school began early in August, and semester exams were held before the Christmas vacation. There was a great deal of dispute over the practice. Some students liked not having to come back to tests after Christmas; others argued that it ruined the whole spirit of Christmas in the halls of Southside. Teachers also had mixed feelings about the innovation with some feeling that it gave them plenty of time to grade the tests and others resenting the spoiling of their Christmas vacations. A new sports complex was added to the back of the school in order to provide practice room for the growing athletics programs and playing space for the physical education classes. The Student Council installed a jukebox in the cafeteria in an attempt to encourage more students to stay on campus at lunch, but the lure of fast food was more tempting.

The decade of the eighties seems to be as given to change as was that of the seventies. In 1980, Bob Nix, one of Southside's assistant principals, died with a heart attack, and his vacancy was filled by Jim Rowland, head football coach. Mr. Victor E. Stewart, principal, retired in the spring of 1982. The faculty gave a banquet in his honor at the Hardscrabble Country Club, and it is a tribute to his years of devoted service that not only did all the current faculty members attend, but also almost all of the former faculty members who could be located. Mr. Wayne Haver replaced him as principal, and Mr. Wayne Sims and Mrs. Ann Horne were selected as new assistant principals. In October of 1983, Mr. Haver went to Washington, D.C., where Southside High School was named as one of the best high schools in America and received the Excellence in Education Award. The year proved to be a really exciting one for Southside as honor upon honor piled up. The Rebels brought home the state football championship, and Ray Baker was named Arkansas Teacher of the Year, was a runner-up for the national title, and was chosen 1984 State and National Outstanding American History Teacher by the Daughters of the American Revolution. In the years since 1983-84. Southside has accumulated state championships in girls' basketball, tennis, golf, gymnastics and track, and has had another runnerup for Arkansas Teacher of the Year, Mr. Keith Mahaffey. In the first issue of The Rebel, the school newspaper published on September 23, 1963, sophomore Dennis Wells was quoted as saying his first impression of Southside was, "I think the trophy cases are too big. The Southside coaches must have great plans." Well, Dennis, they and all of Southside did. The trophy cases cannot now hold all the honors Southsiders have brought home.

Governor Bill Clinton's educational reform programs are forcing a return to academic importance and course revision. Physical education programs and elective courses seemed to be almost certainly doomed as students must meet the new state graduation requirements, but Southside continues to grow in both size and stature. Her graduates continue to bring honor to her as is evidenced by the selection of former Rebel Julie Russell as the 1986 Miss Arkansas. Her faculty and staff, which now number about eighty people, continue to be loyal and dedicated. Six members of the original staff (Phillip Lewis, Ray Baker, Janice Bufford Eddleman, Stan Cate, Ron Bateman, Tom Oliver and Sue Watts) have remained at Southside High for the entire twenty-three years of its existence, and three of the original staff members have left Southside to return after absences, some as short as one year (Larry Loux, Jim Townley and Nancy Meadows).

In recent years, the Rebel cheerleaders have often lead the chant, "The South shall rise again," but evidence seems to suggest that the South in the form of Southside High School has never stopped rising.

SOUTHSIDE STUDENT BODY PRESIDENTS

1963-64 Johnny Daniels	1975-76 Joe Robbins
1964-65 Brent Berry/Marci Barber	1976-77 Larry Autry
1965-66 Floyd Sherfield	1977-78 Steve Hathcock
1966-67 Hunt Gregg/Jim McKenzie	1978-79 Sherri Holland
1967-68 Martha Trimble	1979-80 Julie Plunkett
1968-69 Debbie Robertson 1969-70 Dick Wakefield	1980-81 Elaine Plunkett/David Bartlett
1970-71 Barbara Baker	1981-82 Michelle Penn
1971-72 Roger Reynolds	1982-83 Billy Priakos
1972-73 Larry Hamberlin	1983-84 James Hornsey
1973-74 Terry Hewett	1984-85 Mark Van Herpen
1974-75 Kevin Boyd	1985-86 Dennis Tucker
1973-74 Terry Hewett	

FOOTNOTES

- Shelley MacDaniels researched and wrote the early history of the school. She is a 1986 graduate of Northside High School and served as assistant yearbook editor of the 1986 Northside Bruin. She has summer employment in Fort Smith and plans to attend college in the fall.
- 2. Carmen Sue Trantham Henson, using the Fort Smith Grizzlie newspaper, The Bruin yearbooks and interviews with former teachers and students as source material, wrote the history of Fort Smith/Northside from 1928-1979, the golden anniversary of the school in the North B Street location. Mrs. Henson, a native of North Little Rock, Arkansas, is a graduate of the University of Arkansas with a BS in Home Economics Education. She was a Home Economics instructor at Northside High School from 1977-1980, teaching Family Living, Creative Design, Tailoring and Home Ec. IV, and was sponsor for the FHA (Future Homemakers of America).

From 1972-76 she was associated with the Hundley-Williams Advertising Agency as Promotional Director for the Central Mall Merchants Association, and 1976-77 was assistant director of advertising for OK Foods and Feeds.

She is married to a Fort Smith native, Michael A. "Mike" Henson; has two daughters, Phoebe Marie and Aimee Suzanne; and since 1984 has been president of The Popcorn Patch (multi-flavored popcorn and party shop).

- 3. Wayne Bledsoe has taught history at Northside High School for seventeen years. He graduated from the University of Arkansas in 1966 with a BA in history, and has also done graduate study at U of A. For the past three years, he has been Vocational Coordinator for JTPA (Job Trainee Partnership Act) at Northside, and is Student Council advisor. Mr. Bledsoe is active in community service and is chairman of the Fort Smith Historic District Commission, president Belle Fort Smith Tour, Inc., vice president Fort Smith Heritage Foundation, a past board member of the Fort Smith Historical Society, and a recipient of the Social Studies Educators Frontier Achievement Award for his contribution to the historical development of Fort Smith.
- 4. Janice Bufford Eddleman is a social studies teacher at Southside High School and part of the school's original faculty. Jan, who is a native of Desha, Arkansas, holds a bachelor of arts degree in history and political science from Arkansas Tech University and has done post-graduate work at the University of Arkansas, Henderson State University, the University of Central Arkansas, and Arkansas Tech. She is a member of thirty-seven professional, historical, and genealogical organizations and is currently serving as vice president of the Arkansas Genealogical Society and as president and editor of Frontier Researchers. In the past, she has held the offices of board member and recording secretary of the Fort Smith Classroom Teachers Association, member of the board of directors of the Arkansas Genealogical Society, and vice president and recording secretary of the Frontier Researchers. Aside from her teaching duties of the last twenty-three years at Southside, Jan has also taught genealogy classes at Carl Albert Junior College in Poteau, Oklahoma, and been a curriculum consultant for economic education and Arkansas history workshops. She is currently serving on the Arkansas State Department of Education's committee to develop course content guides and curriculum materials for the teaching of Arkansas History. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Bufford of Fort Smith and is married to John L. Eddleman.

Sources used by Mrs. Eddleman for the history of Southside High School are:

1963-64 Scrapbook prepared by Southside P.T.A.

1964-1985 Southerners

Various issues of *The Rebel* and *Southworld* Interviews: Wayne Haver and Billy Dykes

FORT SMITH PUBLIC SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS				
NAME	FROM	то		
N.P. Gates	7-01-1884	6-30-1890		
Dr. James Holloway, Sr.	7-01-1890	1-30-1902		
B.W. Torreyson	2-01-1902	6-30-1905		
J.W. Kuykendall	7-01-1905	6-30/1915		
Geo. W. Reid	7-01-1915	6-30-1918		
Dr. Lee Byrne	7-01-1918	6-30-1920		
C.J. Tidwell (Acting)	7-01-1920	6-30-1923		
J.W. Ramsey	7-01-1923	6-30-1954		
Chris Corbin	7-01-1954	6-30-1971		
Dr. C.B. Garrison	7-01-1971	8-31-1986		
Dr. Benny Gooden	9-01-1986			

The Flag, The Flower and The Honeybee

Sarah Fitzjarrald

THE FLAG

From the very beginning of their fine organization, the Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.) have been known for their patriotism. So it is not surprising that early in 1912 they would begin the process of the adoption of our State flag.

It all began when Mrs. C.W. Pettigrew originated the idea of presenting a Stage flag to the soon-to-be commissioned battleship, the *U.S.S. Arkansas*. A committee was formed including Mrs. Pettigrew, Mrs. W.A. Taggart and Mrs. Frank Tomlinson. They wrote to Secretary of State Earl W. Hodges, asking for a design of the flag, and received the startling reply that Arkansas had no State flag.¹

Since Arkansas was admitted to the Union in June, 1836, that meant there had been no official State flag for almost 76 years, a situation that the members of the Pine Bluff D.A.R. chapter felt strongly should be remedied as soon as possible.

They arranged a widely publicized contest, asking Arkansans to submit designs for the flag to Secretary of State Hodges, who had agreed to become custodian of the entries and to appoint a committee of selection.²

Hodges first made a search of the records to determine that there had been no official State flag and appointed his committee. He was chairman, and joining with him were Brigadier General B.W. Green, adjutant general of Arkansas; Dr. Junius Jordan, who held the chair of philosophy and pedagogy at the University of Arkansas; George B. Rose, a prominent Little Rock attorney; Mrs. Julia McAlmont Noel, Pine Bluff D.A.R.; Mrs. Joseph Fruenthal, Conway D.A.R.; Miss Julia Warner, a Little Rock teacher; and Mrs. P.H. Ellsworth, ex-president of the Arkansas Federation of Women's Clubs.³

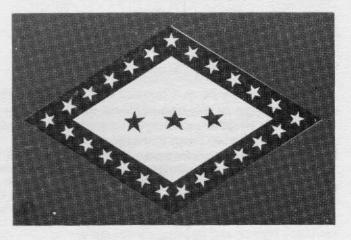
The winning design was chosen from sixty-five entries and was submitted by Miss Willie Hocker of Wabbaseka, who was also a member of the Pine Bluff D.A.R.

Featured among the designs submitted were the apple blossom, the State flower; bears, since Arkansas was once known as the "Bear State"; and various combinations of stripes, bars, stars, eagles, diamonds and circles.⁴

All entries which were submitted are still kept at the State History Commission (Old State House Museum in Little Rock).⁵

The explanation of our flag is as follows:6

"Miss Hocker chose for her design the national colors, red, white and blue. On a rectangular field of red she centered a large white diamond bordered by



The winning flag design of 1913 submitted by Miss Willie Hocker of Pine Bluff. The selection committee requested her to permit the word "ARKANSAS" to be placed across the center of the diamond and the three blue stars to be rearranged as necessary.

twenty-five white stars in a blue band. Three blue stars, lying in a straight line from left to right, were in the center of the diamond.

Miss Hocker explained that the red, white and blue colors signified that Arkansas was one of the United States. The three blue stars in the center of the flag had three different meanings. They represented the three nations - France, Spain and the United States to which Arkansas had belonged prior to statehood; stood for the year 1803 in which the Louisiana Purchase, of which Arkansas was a part, was made by the United States; and denoted the fact that Arkansas was the third state created out of the Louisiana Purchase. The twenty-five white stars bordering the diamond showed that Arkansas was the twenty-fifth state to be admitted to the Union. Two of these twenty-five stars, at the bottom point of the diamond, were parallel to each other; these, she said, represented the fact that Arkansas and Michigan were paired and accepted together in 1836. The diamond itself signified that Arkansas was the only diamond-bearing state in the Union.

The committee found one fault with Miss Hocker's flag. It did not contain the name of the state. They requested her to permit the word "ARKANSAS" to be placed across the middle of the diamond and the three blue stars rearranged as necessary. There is no record of her reaction to this effrontery, this meddling with her symbolism. But she did agree to the addition, and recommended that the three blue stars be arranged so that one was situated above and two below the name of the state.

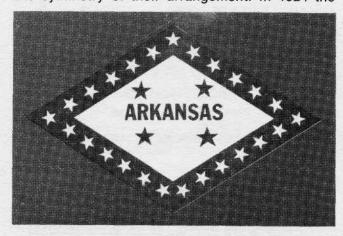


The Arkansas State Flag design as officially adopted, February 26, 1913, added the name of the state and placed two blue stars below and one star above the name.

On February 26, 1913, the legislature officially adopted this amended version of Miss Hocker's entry as a 'design for an official flag of this State'. Thus, the Pine Bluff ladies were able to have a State flag to present to the *U.S.S. Arkansas*.

Some time after the original design of the flag was adopted, it was discovered that Miss Hocker had failed to symbolize on it the fact that Arkansas had belonged to the Confederate States of America from 1861 to 1865. Consequently, the legislature voted in 1923 to add a fourth blue star to the flag to commemorate the Confederate period of the State's history. The Confederate star was placed above the letter "R" in the name "ARKANSAS" and the single star that had been above the name was moved and placed above the last letter "A" in the word "ARKANSAS". This resulted in a flag with two blue stars above the word "ARKANSAS" and two below.

Miss Hocker and others felt that the 1923 arrangement of the four blue stars had destroyed not only the meaning of the three original stars, but also the symmetry of their arrangement. In 1924 the



The Arkansas State Flag design of 1923 added a fourth blue star above the name of the state to represent the state's membership in the Confederacy. This arrangement of the blue stars destroyed the meaning and the symmetry of the three original stars.

legislature adopted the present arrangement, with three stars below the word "ARKANSAS" and one above. To make room for the three stars the word "ARKANSAS" was raised so that the lower line of the letters would be parallel to the center of the flag. Of these three stars, one was in the lower corner and the other two were placed symmetrically above it to the right and left. This arrangement was seriously criticized at the time, and has been since as having destroyed the original symmetry of the flag, but critics have never proposed a more satisfactory arrangement.

The legislative resolution of 1924 fixing the position of the name "ARKANSAS" and the arrangement of the four stars contains the only official definition we have of the meaning of the symbolism of the flag. Up to that time Miss Hocker was unofficial custodian of the meaning of the flag, and she seemingly made only two changes in her original explanation of the symbolism. Originally she said that the pairing of Michigan and Arkansas for statehood was represented by the two parallel white stars in the blue band on each side of the bottom point of the diamond. She had abandoned this by 1924, when the legislature officially adopted her explanation that the two blue stars below and parallel to the word "ARKANSAS" typified "that Arkansas and Michigan are twin States, having been admitted to the Union together on June 15, 1836." The official explanation of 1924 also failed to include her original statement that the three blue stars signified the year 1803.

The legislative resolution of 1924 declared the meaning of the flag to be as follows:

The twenty-five stars show that Arkansas was the twenty-fifth State admitted to the Union, the three blue stars below "ARKANSAS" typify the three nations of Spain, France and the United States to which the State successively belonged. They also



The Arkansas State Flag design of 1924 rearranged the blue stars and the name of the state as they appear on our flag today. This arrangement retained the Confederate stars above the name of the state and placed the original three stars below the name.

indicate that it was the third state carved out of the Louisiana Purchase. Also, of these three stars, the twin stars parallel with each other typify that Arkansas and Michigan are twin States, having been admitted to the Union together on June 15, 1836. The star above "ARKANSAS" is to commemorate the Confederacy, and the diamond signifies that this State is the only diamond-bearing state in the Union."

It should be noted in passing that Honorable Joe T. Robinson was governor of Arkansas and approved Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 11 which adopted our flag in 1913.

Also, there has been some confusion (at least to this writer) as to why it is written in all the accounts we have researched that Arkansas and Michigan were admitted to the Union together in 1836, since reference books (almanacs, etc.) give 1837 as the admission date for Michigan.

We wrote Dr. Walter L. Brown, chief of the history department at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, and author of the foregoing story, to

clarify it for us.

He replied that from the time of the Missouri Controversy in 1819-1821, states were paired on a slave/free basis. Accordingly, Arkansas and Michigan were "twins" in this sense. Arkansas came into the Union opposite Michigan even though Michigan had a boundary dispute and was not technically admitted until January 26, 1837.

THE FLOWER

In a story titled, "It's Apple Blossom Over Passion Flower As Arkansas Symbol," and datelined Little Rock, we submit the following, taken from the Arkansas News, September, 1984 edition:

The 1901 session of the Arkansas legislature adopted the apple blossom as the state flower, thus ending a furious campaign between the passion

flower and the apple blossom.

Mrs. Ed Barton of Searcy and Mrs. H.C. Rightor of Helena, local and state presidents of the Floral Emblem Society, have been credited with the victory of the apple blossom. Mrs. Frederick Hanger and the Arkansas Federation of Women's Clubs supported the passion flower.

The bill was introduced in the legislature by Senator Hal Norwood in a speech so challenging that one newspaper reported that "Norwood had his

opponent's scalp hanging from his belt."

The apple blossom bill might never have passed, however, without Mrs. Barton's work. She personally wrote letters to 500 prominent men, including every legislator, enclosing a pamphlet setting forth the advantages of the apple blossom and calling the passion flower "a pretty but rank and disagreeable weed, which isn't a native of Arkansas at all but will grow anywhere the farmer's hoe will let it."

Undaunted by a 102-degree fever, Mrs. Barton donned a red dress and appeared at the Capitol the day the vote was to be taken. She gave each legislator a shiny red Arkansas apple along with a note that said, "These are the results of our beautiful apple blossoms, but what is the result of a passion flower? A dried shriveled pod!"

Supporters of the passion flower had also been at work, for the walls were decorated with tapestries embroidered with gorgeous passion flowers. These tapestries had been prepared by the Women's Clubs to hang at the Arkansas pavilion of the St. Louis World's Fair.

THE HONEYBEE

As a State insect, the honeybee is popular. Adopted by the General Assembly of 1973, it is also the State insect for six other states — Nebraska, New Jersey, North Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont and Wisconsin.

STATE SONG

Arkansas was written by Mrs. Eva Ware Barnett in 1916, and copyrighted by her and Will H. Ramsey in that year. The General Assembly of 1917, by Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6, designated Arkansas as the official State song. It remained so until 1947, when there was a disagreement between the State of Arkansas and the copyright owners.

The General Assembly of 1947 changed the official State song to the *Arkansas Traveler*, and appointed a committee to draft suitable words and music to be adapted from the old fiddle tune. The revamped *Arkansas Traveler* was never very popular.

Recognizing this fact, the General Assembly of 1963, by House Concurrent Resolution No. 16, reestablished *Arkansas* as the official State song, provided that Mrs. Barnett would assign the copyright to the State. This she has done, and the copyright now rests with the Secretary of State.

ARKANSAS STATE MOTTO:

"Regnat Populus", the people rule.

ARKANSAS STATE TREE:

The Pine was adopted by the 52nd General Assembly of 1939.

ARKANSAS STATE BIRD:

The Mockingbird was adopted by the 47th General Assembly of 1929.

ARKANSAS STATE GEM:

The Diamond, adopted by the 66th General Assembly of 1967.

ARKANSAS STATE MINERAL:

Quartz Crystal

ARKANSAS STATE ROCK:

Bauxite

PLEDGE TO THE ARKANSAS FLAG:

"I Salute the Arkansas Flag With Its Diamond and Stars. We Pledge our Loyalty to Thee."

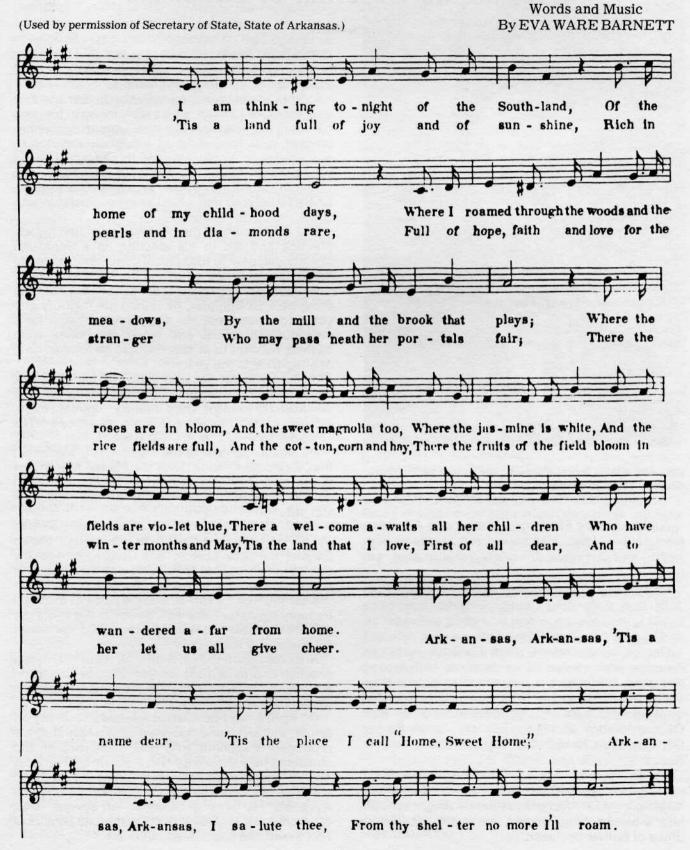
FOOTNOTES

- "Arkansas' Flag is Fifty Years Old," by Walter L. Brown, ARKANSAS HISTORICAL QUARTERLY, I, 1963
- 2. ibid
- 3. ibid
- THE ARKANSAS NEWS, September, 1984, Old State House Museum, Little Rock, AR, 72201
- "Arkansas' Flag is Fifty Years Old," by Walter L. Brown,

ARKANSAS HISTÓRICAL QUARTERLY, I, 1963
7. HISTORICAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE (ARKANSAS)

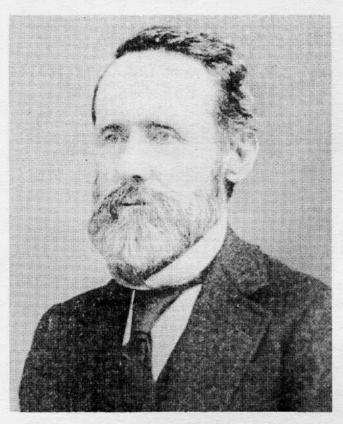
"ARKANSAS"

THE OFFICIAL ARKANSAS STATE SONG



Milliam Meade Fishback Seventeenth Covernor of Arkansas

Amelia Martin



Governor William Meade Fishback. Photograph by Tim Cope. Courtesy Southwest Times Record.

William Meade Fishback, Governor of Arkansas from 1893 to 1895, also served the people of Fort Smith and Arkansas in many roles during his lifetime.

An attorney and newspaper editor, he was born in Jefferston, Culpepper County, Virginia, November 5, 1831, the oldest son and first child of Frederick and Sophia Ann (Yates) Fishback.

One of his ancestors, John Fishback, came to America with twelve other families and settled Germana, Virginia. It is interesting to note that in addition to Governor Fishback, three other governors of Arkansas were among descendants of that German colony of 1714. They are James Sevier Conway, Elias Nelson Conway and Henry Massie Rector.

William Fishback was educated in his native state of Virginia, graduating from the University of Virginia in 1855. After graduation he taught school, and while teaching studied law in the Richmond office of Luther Spellman.

This man, who was destined to become Governor of Arkansas thirty-six years later, came west in 1857, stopping first at Springfield, Illinois.

In Springfield he was admitted to the bar and also met Abraham Lincoln, who took a fancy to him and gave him his first legal business. Apparently unimpressed with Springfield as a suitable location to practice law, in November 1858 this adventuresome young lawyer moved to Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Within a month he decided to move to Greenwood, where he entered into a flourishing partnership with Judge Soloman F. Clark.

The inevitability of the Civil War disrupted his law practice and led to his election as a Sebastian County delegate to the special convention called to determine Arkansas' course in the secession crisis.

He first voted against the secession, but after the firing on Fort Sumpter, he joined the majority and voted for secession. He did, however, hope for a peaceful resolution, and when his hopes were dashed, he went to Missouri where he took an oath of allegiance to the Union.

In St. Louis he became editor of the St. Louis Democrat. After the capture of Little Rock, Fishback was asked to form the Third Infantry Regiment there. Instead, he established a Unionist newspaper, The Unconditional Union, in Little Rock.

He was an advisor to the loyal state government that was organized in 1864 with Isaac Murphy as governor, and aided in writing the Union constitution of 1864, sometimes referred to as the "Fishback Constitution".

On May 5, 1864 he and Elisha Baxter were elected by the Murphy Legislature to the United States Senate, but their seating was delayed and finally denied in February of 1865 along with that of several other representatives from ex-Confederate states.

After the war, he served in Little Rock as a federal treasury agent for Arkansas, using his discretionary powers to protect many impoverished Confederates from property seizures.

After his return to Fort Smith, he resumed his law practice and for almost ten years concentrated on building his legal firm into one of the most notable in western Arkansas.

On April 4, 1867 he married Adelaide Miller of Fort Smith, the orphaned daughter of Joseph Miller, a prominent merchant who had been robbed and murdered on a Mississippi River steamboat in 1850. The Fishbacks established their home in Fort Smith suburbs, near what is now Greenwood and Rogers Avenues. He was a member of several civic organizations, including the Commercial League of Fort Smith, the Masons and the Elks.

William and Adelaide were the parents of six children, five of whom lived to maturity: Louis, William, Mary, Bertha and Herbert. Adelaide died December 6, 1882. William never remarried.

In 1874 he was elected as a delegate from Sebastian County to the constitutional convention. After the adoption of the constitution, he was selected as a Democratic nominee for the Legislature and in 1876 was elected to the 21st General Assembly. He was re-elected in 1878.

Arkansas' debt after the war was Fishback's main concern. He believed that only the "just" debt should be paid because some of the debt had been contracted fraudulently and other parts were imposed by Reconstruction, according to *Governors of Arkansas*, copyrighted by the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees in 1981.

Although conservatives of the state were opposed to his views, in 1884 his proposal, which prohibited the Legislature from levying any tax or from making any appropriation to pay either principal or interest on three categories of bonds, won in the general election 119,806 to 15,492, *Governors of Arkansas* said.

This was adopted as the first amendment to the state constitution.

His candidacy for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination failed in 1880, and his try for a seat in the Senate in 1884 failed also. He was elected to the legislature from Sebastian County in 1884. His attempt to capture gubernatorial nomination in 1888 also failed.

But in 1892 he received the Democratic gubernatorial nomination, and in the general election Fishback carried 68 of the state's 75 counties.

Fishback left the governor's office in January of 1895 and never held another public office, but continued to participate in politics, contributing much to the unity of the Democratic party.

As one of Fort Smith's most honored citizens, he continued to practice law in Fort Smith until he suffered a stroke in early Februray 1903. He died peacefully in his sleep and was buried in Oak Cemetery.

For reasons unknown, grave stones were never placed on his and his wife's graves.

The Fort Smith Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, became aware the graves were unmarked and felt it appropriate during the 150th birthday celebration of Arkansas statehood that Governor Fishback's grave be properly marked designating it as the resting place of a governor of Arkansas. The chapter bought a stone and had it set in place. On June 2, 1986 in a sesquicentennial ceremony of remembrance, the stone was dedicated by members of the Fort Smith Chapter D.A.R. Speakers for the dedication were Mrs. Stanley A. Isaacks, Honorary State Regent of Arkansas D.A.R., and Mrs. Art Martin, Regent Fort Smith Chapter. The ceremony also included pledges to the American Flag and Arkansas Flag and the American's Creed



Violet Isaacks, left, Honorary State Regent of Arkansas D.A.R., and Amelia Martin, Regent Fort Smith Chapter D.A.R., pay final tribute to former Governor Fishback by placing American and Arkansas flags on his grave site. Photography by Tim Cope. Courtesy Southwest Times Record.

led by Mrs. W.D. Barksdale, Flag Chairman of the Fort Smith Chapter, and a closing prayer led by Mrs. Louis Peer. As a final tribute, American and Arkansas flags were placed on the graves by officers of the Fort Smith Chapter.

When news of Governor Fishback's death reached Little Rock, the State Legislature, which was in session, closed for the day and Representative J. Frank Weaver from Sebastian County, an intimate friend of Governor Fishback, paid tribute to him. Senator Norwood, also a friend and great admirer of the deceased statesman, presented a resolution which was adopted by the Legislature expressing the sorrow of the members of the Legislature at the passing of the former governor.

From the funeral notice printed in the Fort Smith Elevator, February 13, 1903, we quote, "The funeral was largely attended and conducted in a manner befitting the prominence and worth of the distinguished dead. Besides a very large concourse of people from all vocations who came to show their respect for a friend, there were escorts of Masons and Elks, and a military guard of Fort Smith Rifles.

"The State Legislature was represented by Senators Sengel and Wood, and Representatives Whitley, Gibson, Weaver, DuLaney and Crutcher, who placed upon the grave a beautiful floral tribute from the State. Flowers were sent from many places abroad, and the grave was completely hidden with their profusion."

Persons paying their respects at the dedication ceremony included Sebastian County members of the Arkansas Legislature, city officials, members of both the Fort Smith Chapter D.A.R. and Mary Fuller Percival Chapter D.A.R. from Van Buren, members of the Old Fort Chapter Sons of the American Revolution, media representatives and other persons who attended to pay tribute to this honored citizen of Fort Smith.

A stone for the grave of Mrs. Fishback is being prepared by the Cotner Monument Company and will be set in place on her grave when ready.

The Fort Smith Chapter D.A.R. will also be marking with an appropriate marker the grave of Acting Governor John Williamson, who is buried at Russellville, Arkansas.

SOURCES

- The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northwest Arkansas, Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1889
- Fort Smith Elevator, Fort Smith, Arkansas, February 13, 1903
- Southwest Times Record, Fort Smith, Arkansas, June 3, 1981
- 4. The Governors of Arkansas,
 University of Arkansas Press,
 Fayetteville, Arkansas, 1981.
 Edited by Timothy P. Donovan and
 Willard B. Gatewood, Jr.

Did You Know?

In 1967 Winthrop Rockefeller became the first Republican governor of Arkansas since the Reconstruction period.

Among the first women settlers in Arkansas were a group of "worthy but poor girls" who were sent as wives for men at Arkansas Post. Each woman's dowry was one cow and a calf, a cock and five hens, a gun and ammunition, an ax, a hoe, and a supply of garden seed.

Bee A. Dillard was the first woman to graduate from the University of Arkansas Medical School in 1896.

The first duel between Arkansans was fought on March 10, 1820, by William O. Allen, a member of the legislature, and Robert C. Ogden, a young lawyer.

Nine out of ten early Arkansans were farmers, growing mostly corn and cotton.

Horse racing and bear hunting were popular sports in pioneer Arkansas.

Bauxite, the ore used to make aluminum, was discovered in Arkansas in 1887 by State Geologist John C. Branner. Mining began in 1899 and Arkansas soon led all other states in production. Arkansas supplies 96% of the nation's domestic bauxite.

In the 1920's Arkansas was the first state in the union to ratify the Child Labor Amendment to the United States Constitution. The legislator who led the floor fight for ratification was Miss Erle Chambers.

Arkansam?

The name ARKANSAS comes originally from a tribe of Indians who at the time of the early French explorers lived west of the Mississippi and north of the Arkansas River.

The name of the Indian tribe was QUAPAW, or OO-GAQ-PA. Alogonquins pronounced it OO-KA-NA-SA; The World Book Encyclopedia puts it UGAKHOPAG (Downstream People).

David Y. Thomas, in his book "Arkansas and Its People" has this to say: "The French first undertook to spell it; so it is first a Gallicized Indian name. In Father Marquette and Joliet's Journal of 1673, the Indian name is spelled AKANSEA. In LaSalle's map a few years later, it is ACANSA. Hennepin, about 1681, wrote it AKANSA. A map based on the journey of LaHarpe in 1718-1722 has the Arkansas River written ARKANSAS: and the tribe of Indians at its mouth, LES AKANSAS. Captain Zebulon Pike, the noted explorer, about 1811, spelled it, no doubt, just as he thought it should be, ARKANSAW. Then

Arkansas?

Nuttall, an educated man, while traveling in Arkansas in 1819 wrote it both ARKANSAS and ARKANSA...."

"In the act of Congress, in 1819, creating the territory of Arkansas, someone wrote the word 10 times, and always ARKANSAS.... About this time in a treaty with the Quapaw Indians, it was written ARKANSAW...."

And the confusion continued.... Back in the early days of statehood, Arkansas's two U.S. Senators were divided on the pronunciation. One was always introduced as the Senator from ArkanSAW: the other as the Senator for ArKANSAS (pronounced like Kansas). Finally, in 1881, the Arkansas legislature settled the matter. By legal enactment, the legislature declared that the state should be spelled ARKANSAS, but pronounced ARKANSAW.

The ARKANSAW pronunciation preserves the memory of the Indians who were the original inhabitants of our State, while the ARKANSAS spelling clearly indicates the nationality of the French adventurers who first explored this area.

Boston Store Closing Touches City

Jack Moseley, Editor Southwest Times Record

When an institution dies, emotions are touched much the same as when you lose an old friend. Thursday, July 3, 1986, was such a day in Fort Smith.

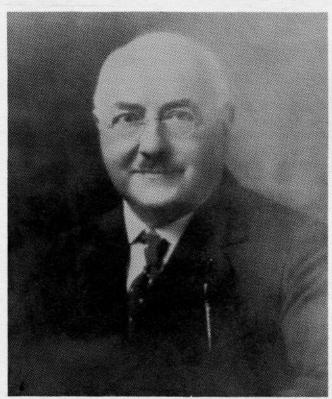
The Boston Store was not just a place to buy things; it was a living tradition that touched the lives of more than a million people who passed this way.

Eastern dudes in spats, good guys, and painted ladies from waterfront hotels, Oklahoma Indians and New York cowboys who trained at Fort Chaffee, proper parsons and dance hall honeys, struggling farmers, moonshiners and revenuers, adventurers eager to move on into the Great Southwest in the wake of the Civil War and Vietnamese refugees who found Fort Smith a place to start their lives again.

Its story was not just that of one merchant prince family, but of several thousand employees who met needs of all those people for 107 years.

The Boston Store might not have ever been here if it had not been for one man's love for Fort Smith.

The Boston Store was given life in 1879 at Magazine and Witcherville by Aaron Fuller, Julius and Sigmund Baer. These three adventurers struck out for the wilds of Arkansas after working at their first and only jobs in the Boston Store of Chicago. Aaron set up shop in Witcherville, while Julius and Sigmund went "on down the road" to Magazine.



Rudolph Ney

After two years, the three decided to merge resources and relocate at Fort Smith, the "Jumping off place to Indian Territory." In 1882, Rudolph Ney, a 22-year-old native of Germany, decided to leave Leadville, Colo., and see the Ozarks. In Fort Smith, Ney met, courted and married the Baer brothers' sister, Marie, and became part of the Boston Store family.

The small dry goods and grocery business in Fort Smith did well, furnishing farmers and providing their wives with bolts of cloth and an assortment of "store-bought" goods. But the Baer brothers and Fuller wanted a bigger market. And in 1892, they moved on to St. Louis and joined forces with Charles Stix to form what today is the famed Stix, Baer and Fuller Stores of Missouri. Rudolph Ney was urged to join them as a full partner, but he believed in Fort Smith as a place to raise his family. And although the Baers and Fuller were ready to close down the Fort Smith store, Ney offered to buy them out over a period of years and keep the Boston Store here.

"I never regretted that decision," he told friends years later.

Ney quickly established a reputation for "doing something extra" for his customers. So in addition to selling English cashmere for 15 cents a yard, pure silk for 20 cents and men's hose for 3½ cents a pair, he brought the Chicago's World's Fair of 1894 to the people of Fort Smith. This was done in the form of a special book containing pictures of the fair's major attractions. That book was presented as a gift to Boston Store customers and today is a collector's item.

That same year, the Van Buren branch of the Boston Store brought "the finer things" from the East to Crawford County.

Charity parties and plays were presented at the Ney home for the benefit of orphanages and service organizations.

By the turn of the century, the Boston Store was proudly selling merchandise approved by the Consumers League. The store's credit policy was 10 percent annual interest on all accounts not paid by the first of each month. And in order to bring new fashions to Fort Smith each season, summer clothing was sold for "up to 20 percent below cost" in the early fall to make room for new stock and provide the needed capital for the business. Those annual sales meant that \$7 suits could be obtained for \$3.85 in Fort Smith.

Officially, Ney was only 11 years old in 1906, when Jerome Ney, his son, was born. This was because the father had been born on Feb. 29, 1860, and celebrated his birthday every fourth year.

During the early 1900s, many longtime employees joined the Boston Store family. One woman, a fitter, would remain with the store for more than 60 years, and her customers would travel more than 100 miles just to have her alter their clothes.

New departments were added. And almost any day would find Rudolph Ney seated in the ladies glove department, personally greeting his customers

and discussing the latest news.

One unique service of this era was an employee who specialized in supplying gowns for the women of Fort Smith's "houses". Her job was to take the latest fashions from the store and show them to the madams, who selected dresses for "the girls" who lived in "the houses" near the waterfront off Garrison Avenue.

In 1924, Jerome Ney came home from school at his father's request. Although he had wanted to be a lawyer, the son agreed to come into the business, but felt he needed to get some training away from Fort Smith. He went to Chicago and applied to Mandel Bros., which had no job openings. Not yet 20 years old, he landed a job anyway by offering to work for nothing to gain experience. The offer so impressed his bosses that they ended up paying him \$12 a week, the top salary for a salesman although "Jerry" Ney actually began his department store career as a stockboy.

Two years later, the son returned to Fort Smith and the Boston Store, then located in the Anheuser-Busch Building on Garrison Avenue. "Anheuser-Busch then was very big in real estate. Here, they had a beer warehouse on Rogers Avenue and the store building on Garrison," recalls Jerome Ney. "We rented from year to year on the basis of a handshake. If business had been good, our rent went up. If it had been bad, our rent was the same.

"I suggested to my father that everyone would be better off with a long-term lease. But the building owners in St. Louis didn't operate that way. I was very young and insisted on trying. I went to St. Louis and came home with the first five-year lease Anheuser-Busch had ever given anyone. In 1936, we agreed to buy the building for \$130,000, which seemed like all the money in the world right after the Depression. I didn't have the money, of course, but finally got an insurance company to make a 100 percent loan."

The Depression years in Fort Smith were hard on everyone, but the Boston Store survived and even grew. "I attribute much of our success to the way we dealt with people. We had the things they wanted and went out of our way to serve them," Ney remembers. "There was one lady here in town who was a recluse. She never came out in public. She would call one of our employees and describe the kind of dress she wanted. Everything was done by telephone. We would deliver the dress to her home, leaving it on the doorstep. No one ever saw the lady but she was one of our best customers for 20 years. And she trusted that employee completely."

The Depression was when the Boston Store offered this dinner for 35 cents in the Wicker Room:

roast goose, dressing, giblet gravy, potatoes, buttered peas, fresh apple sauce, French cream slaw, biscuits, coffee or tea, and blackberry cobbler with whipped cream.

And despite the economics of the era, the Boston Store "went modern" in 1932, becoming the first department store in Arkansas to be completely air conditioned. "To cool all three floors, it cost \$21,488.69. In 1932, that was an awful lot of money," says Ney.

A little money went a long way. "We used to have fabulous company picnics. Sometimes, we would charter a train and take all the employees and their families to Mountainburg. Believe it or not, you could do that for only \$150 in those days."

Rudolph Ney died in 1936 in the town he had

refused to leave.

World War II, War Bonds, thousands of soldiers at Fort Chaffee — and Jerome Ney was "drafted" as regional officer of the Office of Price Administration in Atlanta, Ga., a post he agreed to hold for "no more than six months." But he felt what he was doing important and accepted a new assignment as Chief of Program Planning in Washington. "I was engaged in preparing a shoe rationing program. My wife has never forgiven me for not telling her in advance that shoe rationing was imminent. She had to surrender her shoe stamps in order to buy shoes for our two little boys, Jerome Junior and Randy."

Establishing price control programs, making speeches throughout the country, appearing before congressional committees, Jerome Ney remembers those years as "the most difficult and back-bending efforts of my life." His six months of government

service stretched into four years.

When he returned to Fort Smith, Ney was nationally known. Many encouraged him to run for congress, but he had had enough of the political arena.

Recognized nationally for his understanding of retail trade, he promptly was elected to the board of the American Retail Federation. In 1947, he was named chairman of the board of that organization.

Two years later as the result of ever-broadening business activities, Ney was elected to the board of Stix, Baer and Fuller, the department store his uncles had helped establish before the turn of the century. Later he was vice president of the St. Louis-based firm. His association with Stix, Baer and Fuller continued until 1960.

When the Korean War began, Ney was asked by President Harry Truman to become director of the Office of Price Management. He declined, stating he felt it would be almost impossible to administer effective price controls during a period of relatively limited conflict.

The 1950s and 1960s were "good years for a good business in a good town." The Boston Store prospered and grew; thousands of new customers helped to usher in the credit card era. And Ney bought other stores in Oklahoma, Colorado and Texas. "But home always remained Fort Smith."

Here was where Jerome Ney kept his heart. Here was where he worked to attract new industry through the chamber of Commerce, worked to better the lives of people through Community Chest and United Fund, served on the advisory boards of both Sparks and St. Edward hospitals.

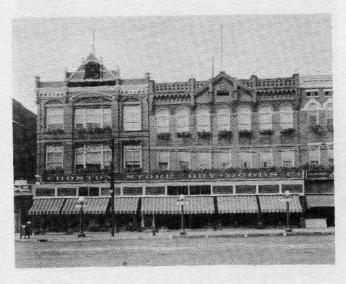
In 1965, the Boston Store shocked Fort Smith by putting a new front on the downtown store; 1971 brought Central Mall and a completely new store, although the downtown store was retained for another year. Ney's sons came into the business.

"Many people have the idea merchants are only interested in profit," Jerome Ney says, puffing on a small cigar. "Profit is necessary, but it's not everything. I would never be part of a publiclyowned corporation. The fun part of my life has been

BOSTON STORE
BOSTON STORE GAER BROS. PROFS
BAER BROS. PROFS
WHOLESALES RETAIL DRY GOODS, MATS, CAPS & BRESSMANING DEPARTMENT

DRESSMANING & MILLINERY.

Baer Bros. business block, Fort Smith, circa 1882. Photo courtesy Jerome Ney.



Garrison Avenue location before remodeling. Photo courtesy of Jerome Ney.

having a family-owned business that allowed me to be independent and hopefully be a contributing factor to the community and trade territory.

"That has allowed me and my family to do things that sometimes lost money, but we still wanted to do them. Things like the Irish Fortnight and the Italian Festival.

"Just as my father never regretted not leaving Fort Smith, I have never regretted the circumstances that made it impossible for me to become a lawyer. I could not possibly have enjoyed being an attorney as much as I have enjoyed being a retailer." For Jerome Ney, Fort Smith will remain home, and hopefully, he will open a smaller specialty store. And the Boston Store will again be a living tradition in this city.



Boston Store on Garrison Avenue, 1965. Photo courtesy of Jerome Nev.



Randy Ney (left) and Jerome Ney, Sr. at Mall entrance of Central Mall Boston Store, which opened in 1971. Photo courtesy of Southwest Times Record.

Vinnie Ream

Maggie Smith

Approaching Sesquicentennial for Arkansas, 1986, it is appropriate that attention to persons of the past who have prospered our state outside its bounds be given a place today.

Such a person was Vinnie Ream (1847-1914) the sculptress, known internationally for her statue and for the bust of Abraham Lincoln, both of which are displayed in our nation's capitol. The statue is in the capitol Rotunda.

Vinnie Ream came to Fort Smith with her family while she was a very young girl. Judge William Carnall opened a real estate business with Vinnie's father, Robert Lee Ream. Vinnie's mother was Lavinia McDonald Ream. She had a sister, Mary Ream Fuller, and two nephews. Vinnie colored the real estate maps for the firm. This was in the 1850's. The family returned to Washington D.C. before the Civil War.

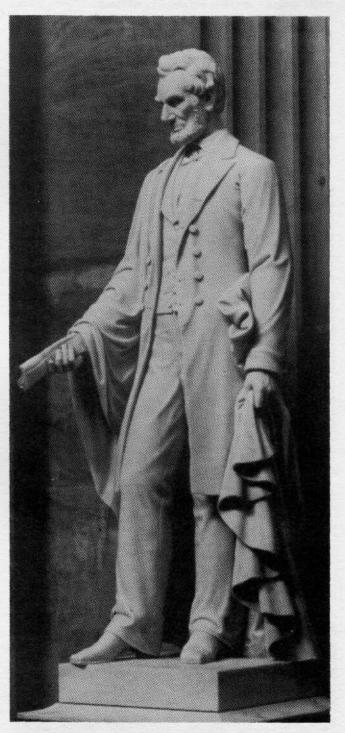
Undoubtedly the name "Vinnie" is short for her mother's name, Lavinia, which she was given. Judge Carnall is noted for having said to her father, "She should be sent to Italy to take lessons." This is the fact caught by historian's of Sebastian County, The Goodspeed's 1889 History.

Going abroad for study was the usual thing for American students. She must have accomplished this, for before the Civil War came on she was in Washington D.C. where she worked in the post office as a clerk. Here she was as a teenager when congress opened the contest of artists turning in their conception of the likeness of President Abraham Lincoln. He had already served a first term as President and had been overwhelmingly reelected for a second term.

As was (and is) the usual thing to have the President's likeness preserved for humanity, congress chose the figure of Lincoln prepared by teenager Vinnie Ream. This fact came from the introductory remarks made by Senator Morrill at the unveiling of the statue in April of 1866. He said, "Four years ago a little girl from Wisconsin occupied a little place in the Post Office Department at \$600 a year. She had faith that she could do something better. Congress, with almost equal faith and liberality, gave her an order for the statue of the late, deceased President Lincoln."

Vinnie was roughly twenty years of age at this unveiling which took place with much pomp, ceremony, and a clamoring crowd, too many to be allowed in for the ceremonies.

There is a treasure of a description of Vinnie, written by the "then" George Brandes, who "took all literature for his province" and wrote exhaustively of meeting Vinnie when they were both entrained for Rome, Italy, coming down through France. George Brandes was Denmark's exemplary young doctor of



Abraham Lincoln, 1809-1865 Signed right base Vinnie Ream, 1870; marble, 6'11". Purchased 1871. Rotunda. Photo from Art In The United States Capitol.

Literature. He was widely proclaiming that Jesus Christ was a myth, was not an historic figure and could not be proven. It is for his writing of Vinnie that he is mentioned here. He writes:

"Apparently English or North American, a girl got on the train which is bound from Florence to Rome. Her parents follow her. She settles them with much laughing and joking, then seats herself with her back to me. She begins talking to me in Italian. I reply as best I can when she asks me in English, "You are Italian?" I tell her, then she goes on the explain that she has lived in Rome for two years and has been to Carrara, France working on a statue Congress at Washington has ordered from her. She had lived first in Paris, later taken up work in London, in Berlin, Munich, Florence, and settled down in Rome. Here she had executed the bust of Cardinal Antonelli."

The railroad bridge had been blown up and the passengers had to get out and walk, a long distance over very bad roads. He says of this it was his first experience "over Roman Campagna by moonlight with two brown eyes gazing into mine." Both these young people are in their twenties.

He further says of her that she was a true artist, a true woman and "I have never, in any woman, encountered a will like hers. She was forever busy.'

Yes, and Vinnie Ream remained very busy as she demonstrated her talents in many additional fields. Painting and design, especially of medals and awards, was she capable and original in these.

It is fitting that in the former home of Robert Todd Lincoln a room holds the work of Vinnie Ream since her first notable success came from having done his PENSIVE LINCOLN statue, the Pen Arts Building.

In the home she and her family maintained in Washington, 1632 K Street, N.W., her husband, Brig. Gen. U.S. Engineers, Richard L. Hoxie, assisted with keeping open house one day a week to accommodate her many friends, admirers and persons among artists who made a concerted practice of seeing what Vinnie was creating. Among these notable persons was Arkansan Albert Pike who was putting together the fine library which is yet a viable Masonic Library in the nation's capitol.

Lincoln Statue Described by Miner Kilbourne Kellogg

The features of Mr. Lincoln are admirably rendered; and it was this faithful delineation of character which

obtained for Miss Ream the commission for this statue over many able competitors. The head and features are forcibly, yet truthfully modelled; the hair boldly managed in flowing masses as by the skill of experience; and the expression of sadness mingled with benevolence is touchingly portrayed, well conceived and appropriate to the expression and meaning of the statue. The head bending slightly forward and downward seems to regard with anxious solicitude the multitude of a newly-liberated people to whom is presented by the right hand the "Proclamation" of their Emancipation. A long circular cloak covers the right shoulder and arm, falls backward off the left, being held partially under the forearm and caught up by the left hand, which grasps its ample folds as if in readiness to cover with the protecting mantle of the Government the defenceless beings who are to receive the inestimable boon of freedom. A beautiful thought of the artist, aptly and ingeniously sumbolized. The cloak is happily arranged to give breadth, as well as dignity to a very tall and meagre figure; it plays also a useful part in aiding to support, where it touches the ground, the weight of the statue.

The proportions of the figure are very exact, an extraordinary merit which well repays the years of silent and laborious study given by Miss Ream to modelling the entire anatomy of the figure before casting the drapery upon it. Well would it be were all aspirants for excellence to take the same rugged path so wisely and perseveringly pursued by this young lady.

The figure is well poised, standing firmly and naturally; and its action is in perfect harmony with the idea represented. There are no unnecessary or trivial details in the drapery to mar the grandeur of effect, large and varied masses being introduced with such artistic knowledge and feeling as to give manliness and dignity to the subject. Indeed there seems a unity of idea and design expressed throughout the work, and an absence of those conventionalities which are so often visible in the productions of those who have derived their ideas of Art principally from the schools in which they study.

Did You Know?

Arkansas was an unwilling participant in the Civil War. She was one of the last four southern states to secede, and did not do so until the outbreak of war forced her to take a stand.

The Texas Revolution of 1836 was planned by Sam Houston and his friends at the Old Tayern in Washington, Arkansas.

The Mountain Meadows Massacre was the killing of 123 immigrants from Arkansas and Missouri by a group of Mormons and Indians in Utah in 1857.

Davy Crockett passed through Arkansas on his way to Texas in the fall of 1835 and spoke at a dinner given in his honor at Little Rock.

The original Bowie knife was made by James Black, a blacksmith at Washington, Arkansas, for Colonel James Bowie about 1830.

Arkansas supplied an estimated 50,000 men to the Confederate armies and about 10,000 to the Union forces.

Inquiries

Inquiries printed free, but must pertain to Fort Smith area, or be submitted by a member of the Fort Smith Historical Society.

* * * * * *
FLETCHER, SELF, NORMAN

Ambrillia NORMAN, b. 29-8-1833 Alabama. d. 29-8-1919 Sequoyah, Oklahoma. m/l ca 1850-1853 Jacob S. SELF who was born ca 1823 Jackson County, Alabama, d. before 1864 Texas (?). m/2 James FLETCHER, b. ca 1815 Tennessee, d. bet 1880-1900 Sebastian Co., Arkansas. One son Ephraim L. Fletcher (b. 1874) and lived in Sebastian County for many years. Need any information on all above. Marilyn Swan-Dyer, 1643 North Fairmount, Wichita, KS 67208.

SPAIN, SHOOK, RUTLEDGE, MILEHAN, WARD Miles Marion SPAIN, b. 1817 North Carolina, d. between 1880-1900 (probably in Sebastian Co., Ark.) m. ca 1848 TN to Nancy SHOOK, b. ca 1832 TN, d. 1915 OK. They had 13 children, some of whom married into RUTLEDGE, MILEHAN and WARD families, probably in Sebastian Co., AR. Most of the family moved over into Sequoyah Co., OK ca 1910. Any info. Marilyn Swan-Dyer, 1643 North Fairmount, Wichita, KS 67208.

TOWNLEY/TOWNSLEY

Desire to contact members of John Thomas TOWNLEY family: wife, Mollie/Nellie. Children: Alice Townley m. John Risse, Jr.; Helen/Helena Townley; Hugh/Hugo Townley m. Rose Luporini; John Leslie Townley and Vernon Montgomery Townley m. Verna Blanch Kelly. In Carroll County, Arkansas 1880 census. Darla T. Love, 95 West 1000 North, Midway, Utah 84049.

CATAWBA INDIAN CONVENTION

Seeking information regarding CATAWBA and non-reservation Indian Convention held in Fort Smith circa 1895; names of 257 Indians attending, copy of bylaws, etc. Rufus N. Cox, 909 North Kennedy, Apt. 111, Edmond, OK 73034.

LERBLANCE

Seeking information on Judge Elijah Hermogene LERBLANCE of the Creek Nation. Rufus N. Cox, 909 North Kennedy, Apt. 111, Edmond, OK 73034.

HILL, SMITH

Need marriage record and place of burial for William McCager (Micoger) HILL and wife Adaline Marvelia Delcenie Ann SMITH, who are said to have lived in or near Fort Smith circa 1883-1892.

WITHERS

I am researching family of Robert Augustus WITHERS and Laura Lenora (Floyd) Withers. Lived in Lavaca, AR in 1911. A1C Joel R. Hill, S69-Z1-7725, PSC Box 4573, APO San Francisco, CA 96270-0006.

PARKER

Need obituary of Francis Marion PARKER, said to be a deputy marshal "for his uncle" Judge Isaac Parker. Born 14 Nov 1842 in Tennessee, believed to be son of John W. Parker 1815-1889 and Elizabeth (Burgess) 1822-1877. Family lived at Vaughn (Benton County, AR) at one time. F.M. died at age 52 at Fort Smith on 9 Feb 1894. Mrs. Bobby G. Wilson, Rt. 8, Box 416, Fayetteville, AR 72701.

TUSING

Looking for obituaries on Mary M. TUSING, died 1 Feb 1939, and Benjamin F. TUSING, died 22 Feb/March 1949, both of Lavaca, AR. Carolyn (Tusing) Surine, Rt. 2, Box 128, Barneveld, N.Y. 13304.

KINKADE, DAVIES

Need information on family of George F. KINKADE and Nancy E. (DAVIES) Ashbury who were married 1879 in Fort Smith, AR. Mary F. Solomon, Rt. 1, Box 249, Symsonia, KY 42082.

CORRECTION

Column 1, page 25, Vol. 10, Issue 1, April 1986 Mrs. Benton's Kindergarten should read Mrs. Denton's Kindergarten.

In Memoriam

Edna Earle Massey

Edna Earle Massey, beloved teacher in Fort Smith schools for 44 years and member and choir director of the First Methodist Church where she was minister of music from 1945 to 1984, died Friday, July 11, 1986. Memorial contributions may be made to the organ fund at the First United Methodist Church. She is survived by two cousins, Cynthia Ann Dougan of Van Buren and Joe Bill Hackler of Rogers.

Book Notes

Review copies of books are placed in the Arkansas Room of the Fort Smith Public Library as a gift from the author and the Fort Smith Historical Society.

LOGAN COUNTY, ARKANSAS, HISTORY BOOK

Is being prepared for printing by the Logan County Historical Society, Box B, Paris, AR 72855. Price \$35.00 plus \$2.75 postage and handling.

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Logan County, Southern District, Booneville, Arkansas, Marriage Records: Book 1, 1901-1906. Contains 638 marriage records with bride and groom index. Price \$10.00 (includes postage and handling).

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Three volumes, each volume hardbound, profusely illustrated with photographs. One of the most complete and interesting family histories available. Order from Ralph E. Mills, 2160 Fort #4, Trenton, MI 48183. Volume I (limited supply) @ \$31.00 each, Volume II @ \$25.00, and Volume III @ \$25.00.

Volume I, by Katie R. Mills, is the story of the first seven generations of the descendants of Simon Mills, whose earliest date in America is found at Windsor, CT, 18 October 1639, through his son John Mills (1668/9-1697/8) of Simsbury and West Simsbury, CT.

Volume II, by Katie R. Mills and Ralph E. Mills, 495 pages, continues the story of the Mills family through the 8th and 9th generations.

Volume III, by Ralph E. Mills, 618 pages, continues the Mills family through the 10th generation.

ARKANSAS PIONEER COOKING, SESQUICENTENNIAL SOUVENIR

Calligraphy Guild of Arkansas, Inc., P.O. Box 7706, Little Rock, AR 72217. Phone (501) 455-2743. Paperback. Prices: 1-25 copies, \$2.00 each + 50¢ postage/handling; 26-50 copies, \$1.75 each + \$1.00 postage/handling; 50-100 copies, \$1.50 each + \$1.50 postage/handling.

With a grateful nod to nostalgia, a sanctioned Arkansas Sesquicentennial project, this book presents typical menus and "receipts" for the pioneers of Arkansas in those years when they sought and won statehood — a long cabin family breakfast, a tavern noonday business dinner and an official formal supper to celebrate the achievement of Statehood. A brief and interesting history of the occasion accompanies each menu, and the book concludes with a letter written 1st Inst., March 1836, to Cousin Nettie, delightfully describing Cousin Rachel's trip from Little Rock to Washington, D.C. by stagecoach, which included viewing Halley's Great Comet.

Unique and authentic content give this booklet an historical flavor and presents an aspect of Arkansas Statehood not found in text book, archives or documents.

ADVENTURE TALES OF ARKANSAS: A CARTOON HISTORY OF A SPIRITED PEOPLE

Signal Media Corporation, P.O. Box 1576, Little Rock, AR 72203. Price \$5.95 + 5% sales tax. (Quantity prices available.) Postage prepaid by publisher. Sanctioned Sesquicentennial project by KLRA Radio in Little Rock.

ADVENTURE TALES OF ARKANSAS is a delight-fully illustrated 48 page softcover book offering in a comic strip format an entertaining, factual account of Arkansas History from prehistoric to modern eras. Educational and fun for all ages.

Dr. C. Fred Williams, professor of history at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, prepared the text in a manner which engages the reader's imagination. The humorous illustrations were created by Dr. Foy Lisenby, profesor and chairman of the history department, and by Dr. Jerry C. Poole, professor of art, both of the University of Central Arkansas.

MacCUBBIN CLAN LINES

Newsletter. Volume I, issues 1 through 6. Loose leaf format, 8½ x 11 inches, punched for three-ring binder. \$3.00 per issue; \$12.00 for complete Volume which includes the Annual Index. Order from Miss Sheila L. Martin, Editor, *MacCubbin Newsletter*, 1 Goodman Lane, Pensacola, FL 32506.

Issue 5 of the newsletter is 41 pages of MacCubbin (and various spellings) family records and stories, including family group sheets — a valuable research tool for MacCubbin family researchers.

News Notes

An Index to Obituaries, Booneville Democrat, 1899-1958 (Logan County, Arkansas) has been compiled and donated to the Booneville Library by Frances White. Compiling this tremendous addition to genealogical research in Logan County consumed hundreds of hours of work during two years, and for all researchers of family history in Logan County, we say thank you to Frances White.

Dr. Benny Gooden, superintendent of the Boonville, Missouri, School District for the past eight years, has been selected to become the Fort Smith School District's new superintendent to replace Dr. C.B. Garrison, who will retire August 31 after 15 years as superintendent.

Mark Spangler is the new Director of the Old Fort Museum in Fort Smith, replacing Sandy Robinson who has moved from Fort Smith to Wisconsin.

Tom W. Dillard, the former Director of the Department of Arkansas Heritage, has joined the staff of the University of Central Arkansas as Director of Archives and Special Collections. Dillard expects the UCA Archives to eventually rank among the top five research facilities in the area of state and local Arkansas history.

City National Bank at 1222 Rogers Avenue, May 23, 1986, began displaying the historical flags that have flown over Arkansas — those of France, Spain, Oklahoma, Arkansas, the Confederacy and the United States.

Six individuals and one organization were named recipients of annual Social Studies Educators' Frontier Achievement Awards April 25 for their outstanding contributions to the historical development of Fort Smith and their help in preserving the city's heritage. Winners were Roy Thomas for his work in restoring the pharmacy at the Old Fort Museum; Carolyn Pollan for her work restoring the Tilles House, helping organize the Fort Smith Historical Society and other services; Mitty Hawkins for her work with the Heritage Foundation, the Clayton House and the Bonneville House; Melissa and Doug Parker for their restoration of the bed and breakfast McCartney House; and the American Legion Post 131 for their restoration of the doughboy World War I statue in front of the Legion Hall.

A special Frontier Achievement Award went to Dr. C.B. Garrison, retiring superintendent of Fort Smith Public Schools, "for his support of Fort Smith historical development and its heritage."

Breeden Dodge of Fort Smith has erected one of the largest flag poles in the area from which flies a 30' X 50' United States flag. A time capsule was placed in the base of the flagpole which contained a sesquicentennial issue of the *Southwest Times Record*, a 1986 telephone book, a sesquicentennial pin, a statement by Senator David Pryor and a copy of an autobiography by Lee Iacocca, Chrysler's chairman of the board.

"Rediscover Downtown," the logo for Coalition for Development in Fort Smith, is plastered on the Chamber of Commerce building at North Sixth Street and Garrison Avenue. Local artists, Ralph and Nancy Irwin, painted the billboard, which was dedicated July 3, 1986.



Trolley Museum Carbarn Dedication.
Photo courtesy Southwest Times Record.

About 400 people attended the open house and dedication ceremony for the Fort Smith Trolley Museum's carbarn on Sunday, July 13, 1986. Speakers were Bill Vines, mayor of Fort Smith, and Dr. Art Martin, president of the Fort Smith Streetcar Restoration Association. The flag ceremony and raising of the Arkansas flag was conducted by Collin and Keith Irish.

Also on display was a Union Pacific locomotive, antique cars and gasoline engines, and the Union Pacific Railroad's continuous presentation of its "Operation Life Saver."

More than 25 women from the Fort Smith area have been selected for inclusion in the 1985 edition of Outstanding Young Women of America. They are: Cynthia Pence Wakefield, Peggy Embry Pilgrim, Gretchen Catherine Borengasser, Debra Kay Kraus, Becky Jernigan Kremers, Brenda Jan Dodson, Jan Carol Bowlin, Jama Kay Watkins, Karen L. Williamson, Brenda Kay Cantwell, Kim Welton Cloninger, Clara Lynn Tucker, Janet Lynn Decker, Diana Sims Payne, Linda Faye Smith, Cathy Mosley, Theresa June Williams, Kimberly K. Kunkel, Leigh Ann Venable, Terri Lynn Smith-Leins, Cheryl Day Chapman, Janell Nelson, Marti Diane Edwards, Mary Sue Jones and Shareen Pruitt.

1886 Newspapers

FORT SMITH ELEVATOR
May, 1886 - October, 1886
Abstracted By
Thelma Wray

The *Elevator* was a weekly publication consisting of four pages. The circulation was 3,000 and the subscription price was \$1.00 per year. The *Fort Smith Elevator* is on microfilm at the Fort Smith Public Library.

In 1886 the population of Fort Smith was 10,000. It was a peaceful town. "No bank robbery or anything of the kind more than petty house burglaries have ever been committed here since the war. Our police force consists of a chief and two or three assistants during the day and night. . . ."

The future is bright, "We have in operation the largest cotton seed oil mill and compress in the world, the best system of waterworks in the southwest, gas and electric light factories, street railways, iron foundries, furniture and wagon factories, best county jail in the state. . . . We have located at this point the largest U.S. Court in the United States which has jurisdiction over the five civilized tribes immediately west of us and a large portion of Arkansas. The business of this court expends for officer's fees, witnesses and other general expenses at least \$200,000 per year, and Fort Smith gets nearly every dollar of it. The United States has appropriated \$100,000 to build a new court house, post office and internal revenue offices, also \$50,000 for a U.S. jail. . . . Our public school fund of over \$300,000 is being used in the erection of good and substantial school buildings a county and city court house worth \$50,000 will be built in the near future."

"Fort Smith is in exactly the right position to be a city, being neither too near or too far from other cities. Her railroad prospects are such as will make her the center in the exchange of commerce between the states of Missouri, Texas, Kansas and Louisiana, Tennessee, Kentucky and the states and territories west of Arkansas. . . . Thus it will be seen we have the hub, the spokes are bound to come."

On Tuesday morning last at the German Catholic church in this city by Rev. Father Pius Boehm, Mr. Julius Edleman to Miss Minnie Goetz. After the ceremony the bridal party repaired to the residence of the bride's aunt, Mrs. E.C. Lanigan, where they entertained a large number of friends during the day, and in the evening dancing was in order. All callers fared sumptuously. The young couple received

many handsome and useful presents from relatives and friends, which were highly appreciated. The *Elevator* extends best wishes for the future happiness and prosperity of Julius and his bride.

BOUND TO GET A GREASED-LIGHTNING TRADE

C.H. Boyd, of the firm of Boyd and McCauley, went to Kansas last week and bought four car loads of flour and one of corn, besides a large amount of other produce, and now they have it piled up in their cash store at cash prices so cheap it will make you dizzy to hear prices quoted. This is a result of buying and selling for spot cash. They sell all kinds of groceries so infernal cheap that it gives them a greased-lightning trade, and their clerks have no time to monkey around on the sidewalk, but are kept on the keen jump from morning till night.

It is with deepest sorrow that we chronicle the death of Mrs. Amelia Munder, wife of Mr. Charles Munder, who died at her home in this city at 5 o'clock on Monday evening last, after an illness of over six months duration, during which time she suffered greatly, but bore it all with remarkable fortitude and patience, being at all times hopeful and cheerful, believing she would recover. She was first attacked with rheumatism, which brought on dropsy, and then followed lung disease.

Mrs. Munder was in the 47th year of her age, and has been a resident of this city since she was a mere child, and was widely known, being a daughter of Mrs. Anton Euper.

THE WATER WORKS

At the last meeting of the City Council the water works committee made a report condemning the works in some respects, stating that owing to a lack of cement, improper construction and bad repairs, the reservoir was unfit to fulfill the requirements of the water works franchise, etc. Mr. Thomas informs us that the cement is on the way here to repair the reservoir, which will be done as soon as the material arrives, and that everything that can be done to give the city good, clear wholesome water will be resorted to.

STRAYED OR STOLEN

The undersigned desires information concerning one bay horse seven or eight years old, with double nose, or part in nose; hair off back where harness has chaffed; about 15 hands high, in fair working order and barefooted; mane lays on the left side, and one of the forefeet is somewhat crumpled; known as the Jim King horse. Strayed from C.M. Allen's place, near Pocola, I.T., where any information can be addressed to W.H. Allen.

The opening ball at the Hotel Peebles (formerly Hotel Main) in this city takes place between the 1st and tenth of next month.

BELLE STARR

Court having adjourned, Belle Starr left for home on the Canadian River on Tuesday morning last. She has two indictments to answer here, one for being an accomplice of John Middleton in the stealing of McCarty's mare, which Middleton was riding when he was drowned in Poteau in May, 1885, and the other for leading a party of three men who robbed old man Ferrell near Cache, C.N. about three months ago, Belle being dressed in male attire. She says she anticipates no trouble in establishing her innocence in both cases. On Saturday last she had her photo taken on horseback at Rhoeder's Gallery especially for the Globe-Democrat and on Monday had another photo taken with Blue Duck the Cherokee under sentence of death to be executed July 3rd. Just before starting home she showed us a fine pair of black handled colt revolvers, 45 calibre, short barrel, which she had purchased at Wersing's the evening previous for \$29 cash.

Ex-Deputy Marshal J.W. Searle died at his residence in the suburbs of this city on Tuesday morning last. His remains were interred in the National Cemetery on Wednesday, the funeral ceremonies being conducted by the Grand Army of the Republic, of which he was a member. Deceased leaves a family who have the sympathy of this community in their great loss.

Henry Williams, one of the oldest and best police officers this city ever had, has resigned, desiring to take a little rest. John Hendricks fills the vacancy at present.

Wednesday morning Mr. O.S. Rieff, of St. Louis, and Miss M.B. Farrow, of this city, were married at the First Presbyterian Church by Rev. W.A. Sample. Both young people were deservedly popular, and the church was crowded to its utmost capacity by friends who gathered to witness them take this

important step and wish them a joyous voyage over the sea of life. The attendants were Mr. Walter Jacoway and Miss Emily B. Farrow; R.W. McFarlane and Miss Emma McClure; Mr. Bleecker Luce and Miss Jessie Cravens; Mr. Tom Davis and Miss Mamie Baker; Mr. John Mayers and Miss Maud Smith. After the ceremony the bridal party repaired to the residence of Mr. J.M. Tenny, where, with a number of friends, they partook of an elegantly prepared collation, after which the happy couple took the 'Frisco train for St. Louis, their future home.

DAY - STEINER

A large number of intimate friends of Mr. James Day and Miss Annie Steiner assembled at the residence of Mrs. A. Steiner on Wednesday evening last to witness the marriage ceremony of this popular young couple. At 8 o'clock the bridal party entered the room, and the ceremony pronouncing Jim and Annie man and wife was pronounced by Rev. Father Pius Boehm, of the German Catholic Church. The attendants were Mr. Will Bollinger and Miss Bettie Degen and Mr. Thos. B. Latham and Miss May Hibberd. After receiving the congratulations of friends the wedding feast began and refreshments were served until a late hour, when the guests departed, leaving behind many good wishes for the future happiness and prosperity of Mr. and Mrs. Day. Hoping that their days may be many and their lives prosperous the Elevator extends congratulations.

The following is a list of the presents received by

the young couple:

Fine three-ply carpet, Frank Bollinger; fine cook stove, Capt. John Vaughan; five dollars cash, Grandma Euper; bed spread, Mrs. John Degen; fine comfort and lace curtains, Mrs. M. Hook; bed spread, Miss Ellen Bollinger; 1/2 doz. towels, Miss Luda Haag; towels, table linen and napkins, Mrs. John Kuhney; table linen and napkins, S.N. Givens; table linen and napkins, Mrs. Theo Vogel; set silver knives and forks, Mrs. Ed White and Mrs. Tom Hurley; silver coaster, Andy Grier; silver sugar bowl, Mrs. Sam Bollinger; silver spoon holder, Annie and Eddie Swift; silver butter dish, Misses Lillie and Florence Nabors; silver butter dish, Will Stalcup; silver cake stand, Mrs. Will Vogel; silver cake stand, Misses Tillie and Melia Bollinger; silver butter dish and pick stand, Miss Minker Miender; silver pickle stand, Pat Keating; handsome china tea set, Mike Hurley; glass water set, Henry Venney; handsome washstand set, W.L. Ingraham, W.H. Parker and W.K. Stalcup; handsome rug, Miss Eda Euper; handsome toilet set, Mrs. R.C. Bollinger; carving knife and fork, Ed O'Neil; handsome plush cologne case. Miss May Hibberd; three bottles champagne, Geo. Davis; handsome tidies, Miss Lillie Degen; 1/2 doz. napkins, Miss Bettie Degen; rocking chair, Mrs. Frank Bollinger; fine cake, Guler and Brunaldi; fine cake, Mrs. Henry Schneider. Flowers and bouquets from various persons.

The malarial fever season is now upon us, and in order to save doctor's bills you should go to P.R. Davis and get a supply of his pure Kentucky Malarial and Ague exterminator. One dose three times a day before meals will give you an appetite and keep you in a happy frame of mind.

A young man had been arrested for kissing a pretty girl and she was on the witness stand. "You say," said attorney for the defendant, "that the young man kissed you against your will?" "Yes, he did, and he did it a dozen times, too." "Well, now is it not true that you also kissed him during the affray?" Objected to; objection overruled. "Now answer my question," continued the attorney. "Did you not kiss the defendant also?" "Yes, I did," replied the witness, indignantly, "but it was in self-defense." Case dismissed.

Washington Critic

When the news of John G. Fletcher's nomination for governor by the Wheelers was learned the faces of the Fort Smith office-holding Republicans were a wonder to behold. They spread. A broad grin diffused itself over each. When his declination was announced the same visages grew as long as cows' tails.

The first hog sale at the city pound will come off Monday next at 2 o'clock p.m. There is quite a collection of swine.

Presbyterian Church services next Lord's Day morning and evening. Country as well as city people are welcomed, at the corner of Franklin and Mulberry Sts.

THE HOG LAW

The City Council did a very unwise thing when they ordered all hogs to be penned up. They should by all means have allowed them to run until some kind of scavenger system had been adopted and placed in operation. The absence of hogs from the streets and alleys is even now plainly perceptible in the presence of accumulating garbage and cesspools of green water. Then the idea of penning up the hogs in the city is also a bad sanitary measure, and is just the reverse from last year's order, when everybody was compelled to turn their hogs out.

The rule adopted last year was by far the more sensible, as it did away with the stench arising from hog pens, and the hogs acted as scavengers, keeping the streets and alleys clear of decaying melon rinds, vegetable matter, and all filth.

We say, and we think we voice the sentiment of every sensible man in the community, turn the hogs out or else put on six to ten scavenger wagons at once. If you take them off the street, put them out of town.

June 25, 1886 A CEREMONY OF 1853 Laying of the Corner Stone of the Old Methodist Church on Howard Street

For the past ten days the work of tearing down the old structure, where for a period of thirty-three years some of our oldest citizens have worshipped, has been in progress, and today the job is about complete. The disappearance of this old landmark is witnessed with regret by many of Fort Smith's old time citizens. It was built in 1853, and on the 16th of April of that year the ceremony of laying the corner stone took place. Among the relics contained in this corner stone which were removed on Monday, was a Fort Smith Herald, published by John F. Wheeler, in which we find published the following order of ceremonies to be observed in the laying of the stone, the Temple of Honor, Odd Fellows and Masons all joining in the procession.

"The procession will form on Washington street in front of the Odd Fellows and Masonic Halls, in the following order: Marshal of the day, Band, Temple of Honor, Odd Fellows and Masons. The procession will move down Washington street to the corner of Sycamore, down that street to Front street, up Front street to Garrison avenue; up the Avenue to Knox street; down that street to Mulberry; down Mulberry to Howard; up Howard to Church edifice, where the ceremony will be performed in the following order: Prayer; singing of an Ode; music; depositing documents in corner stone; music; Masonic ceremony; music; Odd Fellows ceremony; music; oration, by J.S. McAlister; prayer. Procession will then return to the place of starting in the same order as it came."

Nearly all of those who formed that procession have long since passed away, though there are some still among us who took a hand. The deposits made in the stone consisted of Bible and hymn books, By-laws, regulations, degrees, etc. in Masonry and Odd Fellowship; a few coins, etc. The books and other papers were badly decayed, and the writing entirely obliterated on most of them.

On the 10th of August, 1880 in repairing the church, the corner stone was opened and some other deposits made consisting of a Bible, a copy of the Arkansas Methodist, Christian Advocate and some Masonic documents; also an Arkansas war bond issued Setember 2, 1861, and signed by W.R. Miller as Auditor of State (who by the way is now a candidate for the same office), one ten dollar Confederate bill, and two Arkansas Treasury warrants. These were deposited by J.R. Kannady, who states on the back of one of the bills that he was present at the laying of the stone in 1853.

These relics are now in the possession of Capt. Frank Park, and were shown to us on Tuesday by Miss Mary Park.

PARIS AND FORT SMITH STAGE LINE

Stage leaves Fort Smith regularly every morning except Sunday; arrives at Paris at six p.m., coming up same time. Office and stable at Layman's wagon yard, Fort Smith.

YANTIS - SPARKS

Wednesday evening about sundown, Mr. James A. Yantis and Miss Lucy J. Sparks were married at the Presbyterian church, by Rev. W. A. Sample.

MEEK - McEACHIN

On Wednesday evening at 9 o'clock, Mr. James M. Meek and Miss Mattie McEachin were married by Rev. J.L. Massey, pastor of the Methodist church of this city.

BRADBERRY

On Monday night death invaded the household of Mr. James Bradberry and took therefrom his oldest son, John, aged nine years, who had suffered for more than ten weeks with cerebro spinal meningitis. The funeral took place on Tuesday at the Catholic cemetery.

At the residence of the bride's parents in this city, on Tuesday evening, July 6, 1886, Mr. J.L. Edrington to Miss Lula Aydlett, daughter of Mr. T.P. Aydlett, all of this city.

CRAWFORD - PHILLIPS

At 11 a.m. on Wednesday Mr. R.B. Crawford of Wiriston, Tennessee, and Miss Naomi Phillips, of this city, were married at the home of the bride.

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Michael Moran, aged 71 years, died at his home in the suburbs of this city on Tuesday night last and was buried in the Catholic cemetery on Wednesday.

An excursion numbering about ninety or one hundred went over to Van Buren on Monday evening last to witness a game of baseball between a Fort Smith nine and the Van Buren Cyclones. It was one of the most interesting games we ever saw, being closely and hotly contested by both nines. During the ninth inning the game stood twelve to twelve, with the Fort Smith nine playing the last half of the inning, when the Cyclones refused to play, claiming an out the umpire, Mr. John Gannaway, decided not out, and according to the rules of the game our boys were credited with nine tallies to nothing. We are very sorry any dissatisfaction occurred as we think the game was between two of the best nines in the state.

The City Council has levied a tax of five mills on all property within the corporate limits of the city, for general purposes. As the total assessment of real and personal property in the city is \$1,952,108, the amount derived from this levee will be \$9,760.54.

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Sebastian county has a new post office called Randolph. It is at the home of Squire Tom Rogers, twelve miles out on the Greenwood road, and Miss Munsey Rogers is the postmistress.

Up to the present time the City Recorder has licensed thirty-nine drays.

The City Council has passed an ordinance prohibiting the penning of hogs in the city limits, which we understand provides that when a person only keeps one or two hogs, and keeps their pen clean and free from stench, they will not be molested, but when a filthy pen is kept, and is declared a nuisance by the sanitary board, the owner will be required to remove the hogs from the city limits altogether.

A resolution was adopted at the last meeting of the council stopping all work on the streets until further orders because the city treasury is empty.

In accordance with request of Chief Little the council will immediately purchase 500 feet more of rubber hose for use of Fire department.

The hog pound in rear of city hall is kept supplied with stock by the coon hog-catchers, who are said to be enterprising enough to turn them out of lots if the supply runs short on the streets.

Three females of questionable character were before Mayor Grey on Monday on a charge of being inmates of a bawdy house. They were fined \$5 and costs each, and in default of payment were sent to the cooler.

Carnall Bros. sold this week three lots in front of Belle Grove school house for \$1500, and eighty acres of prairie land nine miles out for \$350.

SABBATH SCHOOL CELEBRATION

At Pleasant Ridge school house, on the 29th of July (next Thursday), there will be a Sabbath school celebration and picnic. Seven Sabbath schools and the public generally are invited to take a hand in the proceedings. The programme will be interesting and a good time is anticipated. The speakers selected are Messrs. T.P. Winchester, John S. Little, J.B. Forrester and Rev. Allen. A special invitation is extended to all candidates to be present and see the dear people. The committee of arrangements are J.L. Gilliam, Ras. Cook, R.H. Patton and Thomas Gilliam. Pleasant Ridge school house is three miles northeast of Salem City, near the Fort Smith and Waldron road.

On Friday last in accordance with the sentence of the court, Lincoln Sprole and Calvin James paid the dreadful penalty prescribed by the laws of God and man for the crime of murder. This execution took place between the hours of 1 and 2 o'clock, and was well conducted, nothing occurring out of the usual channel of such affairs. Sprole was taken to the Catholic church on Thursday evening where he received the rite of baptism, which was administered

by Rev. L. Smith. On the way he was taken to a barber shop and had a clean shave. He appeared to enjoy his walk to the church and back, it being his first out door exercise for more than a year. Calvin James was baptised in the jail on Friday morning by Rev. A.J. Phillips of the African Methodist church. Sprole slept well during his last night on earth and partook of a heavy breakfast on Friday morning. From an early hour in the morning people could be seen around in front of the jail, eager to get a glimpse of the condemned men, and long before the hour of execution arrived a large crowd had collected, among whom were a few females and children, but we are pleased to say, comparatively few. Both men appeared to take their last hours easy, and had little to say. At 1 o'clock jailer Pryor and two deputy marshals entered the jail, and giving each of the men an entire change of clothing - black coats and pants, white shirts and neat slippers - requested them to PREPARE FOR DEATH.

They soon arrayed themselves, assisted by their fellow prisoners, and announced themselves ready. Sprole's farewell to his prison friends was quite a touching scene, and caused him to weep bitterly, while tears forced themselves to the eyes of many of his companions. James was not perceptibly affected. In the ante room of the prison the death warrants were read by Deputy Marshal Carroll, after which the condemned were brought out and the DEATH MARCH to the gallows was taken up, Rev. Smythe walking just in advance of Sprole and his attendant. Once on the gallows the terrible affair was soon over. Rev. Smythe conducted brief religious services with Sprole, while Rev. Phillips attended to James. This over, the condemned were placed on the death trap and asked if they had anything to say. Sprole merely shook his head, being too much affected to talk, while James replied in the negative. In a shorter time than it takes to write it the arms and legs of the unfortunate men were pinioned, the ropes adjusted, the black caps drawn, the trigger sprung, and Lincoln Sprole and Calvin James were launched into eternity, the whole proceeding from the time they left the jail occupying less than twenty minutes. Both necks were broken, and they died without the least struggle. James had a wife and children in the Territory, but neither his or Sprole's people have visited them. Sprole's body was interred in the Catholic cemetery while that of James occupies a place in the potters field. The Elevator of last week contained an account of the crimes and trials of these men and a repetition of the same is unnecessary at this time.

Their fate should serve as a warning to others; for "murder will out", and "he who sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed." Murder is a terrible crime, and he who commits it must not think he will escape punishment, for he will pay the penalty some way sooner or later.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * August 6, 1886 HOME ENTERPRISE

-The Fort Smith Wagon and Carriage factory known as Mr. William Siegust's, on Texas road near the avenue, is fast becoming recognized as one of the best in the state. He has doubled his force and is now prepared to do good work of every description coming under the head of his line of business, such as wagon and carriage making, blacksmithing, horseshoeing and general repairing at living prices and on short notice. He has also been building stage coaches for western lines which are giving entire satisfaction. Through his energy and untiring perseverance he has certainly established one of the best wagon and carriage factories in the city, and is turning out a good make of wagons at the rate of six per week. He has also in connection with his factory a paint shop which is supplied with the best of workmen, all of whom appear to be kept very busy with the brush. An establishment of this character is a credit to our city and should be well patronized.

DEATH OF AN ESTIMABLE LADY

Mrs. Ellen J. DuVal, wife of Hon. Ben T. DuVal, of this city, died at Eureka Springs, Ark., July 30, 1886 in the 55th year of her age. Her body was brought home on Friday last.

On Tuesday evening last the corner stone of the Belle Grove school building was laid under the auspices of the masonic fraternity of this city, State Grand Master T.C. Humphreys being master of ceremonies and Rev. W.A. Sample, Grand Chaplain. Among the documents deposited in the stone were a list of the names of the President and his Cabinet, Governor, State and Congressional officers of Arkansas, County officers of Sebastian county, Fort Smith school board, superintendent and teachers, copies of the *Times, Tribune* and *Elevator,* Masonic By-laws, etc. The ceremonies were very impressive.

Mr. I. Isaacson, late of Cache, Choctaw Nation, has just opened a first-class store at No. 190 Garrison Ave., Fort Smith, Ark. where you can get anything in the way of dry goods, groceries, boots, shoes, hats, caps and notions. His goods are all fresh and his prices are as low as the lowest. He invites all his friends to call and see him.

OPENING OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Our public schools opened on Monday last with Superintendent N.P. Gates at his post, with Prof. H.B. Edmiston as principal and Misses N.J. Cooney and Ella Carnall assistants in the High School in the Patrick building where they will remain until the new school house is completed.

The Belle Point school with Prof. Maurey as principal, assisted by Misses Clara Cunningham, Baker H. Williamson, Dwyer and Annie Lee Cunningham.

The Peabody school, with Prof. W.L. Edmiston as principal, assisted by Misses Belle Evans, Emma McClure and Maggie Wood.

The Belle Grove school, now using the Reeves building on the site of the old Methodist church, is looked after by Misses Campbell and Fannie Meek. The Howard school (colored) is presided over by Prof. Trent, assisted by Prof. Mitchell and Miss Trent.

The enrollment at Belle Point is about 340 and the High School is 66. The other enrollments we did not get.

September 17, 1886 'FRISCO EXCURSION

The 'Frisco will sell excursion tickets from Fort Smith to St. Louis and return on the following date, viz: September 18th, 19th and 20th limited to September 30th for \$15.05 each; September 23rd, 27th and 30th, limited 5 days from date of sale, for \$20.10 each; October 2nd to 8th inclusive, limited till October 11th for \$15.05 each; October 11th, 14th and 21st, limited 5 days from date of sale for \$20.10.

Cass. Hall, agent

Messrs. Bocquin and Reutzel and Jno. T. Booth will erect a store house each, to be two stories high, on the lots next to the old post office building which is on the corner of Garrison avenue and Green street, and Mr. J.K. Barnes, who owns the same, will add one or more stories and extend it back to make it 100 feet deep.

The committee on streets and alleys are doing some good work with the chain gang, but there is still lots more to do. Some of the town branch bridges are getting bad, and the walk and bridge at the corner will soon be patched to death. Put in a few new pieces and it will do away with so much patching, which is generally of inferior stuff and does not last well.

While excavating a ditch for a water pipe on the reserve back of the New Orleans Restaurant on Monday, the workmen unearthed some human bones. Some fifty or more years ago, when Fort Smith was situated between the 'Frisco extension and the point of rocks on Poteau, a beautiful grove of trees stood where these bones were found, and was likely used for a graveyard by the French who first located here, but there has been no one buried there for the last 45 or 50 years.

DIED

Daniel S. Martin died at his home in the Choctaw Nation, three miles south of here, on the 9th inst. Dan was just 21 years of age, and was a promising young man who will be missed by many friends and relatives who mourn his loss.

Died at the residence of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson, in Fort Smith, Septmber 18th, of congestion, Miss Lelia, in her 16th year, beloved granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. R.A. Caldwell of Jenny Lind.

* * * * * * * * * * *
October 1, 1886
THE DEATH OF B. BAER

Bernard Baer died at the residence of his brotherin-law, Mr. M. Joel, in this city, on Friday, the 24th ult. He was born in Boden, Germany, April 12, 1837.

A BEAUTIFUL PRESENT TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH FROM THE LATE MRS. ELLEN J. DUVAL

We were shown on Tuesday last a beautiful and exquisitely engraved gold chalice set with diamonds made expressly for the Catholic church at this place. as directed by the late Mrs. DuVal, from whom it was a present to the church. Mrs. DuVal had a ring set with small but unusually brilliant diamonds which she prized very highly. As stated in her obituary notice, Mrs. D. devoted all her own earnings and savings to charity. Some years ago she resolved to earn money by making and selling fancy work to be used in purchasing a gold chalice, in which she desired to have set the diamonds of her ring. Before her death she gave the ring to Father L. Smythe for that purose, having made and saved money enough to buy the chalice, which cost \$100. The ring cost \$150. Father Smythe had the chalice made and the diamonds, seven in number, put in. It is now at the Merchants Bank, where it will remain until it is consecrated by the bishop after which it will be placed in the church, where it will remain a lasting relic to the memory of an estimable lady and devoted member of her church.

October 8, 1886

The fair begins on Tuesday next and continues five days.

Governor Simon P. Hughes will deliver the opening address at the fair next week. He should be honored with a large assemblage of our people.

The laying of the corner stone of the M.E. Church South at Van Buren took place on Tuesday of last week. The *Argus and Press* displayed enterprise by publishing handsome cuts of the building as it will appear when completed.

Sam Starr, husband of Belle Starr, who has been on the dodge for some two years past, was brought in on Thursday of last week by Tiner Hughes, to whom he surrendered on the Sunday evening previous. It will be remembered that a few weeks ago he was captured by the Indian police after they had wounded him in four or five places, and subsequently made his escape. They had him surrounded in the woods, when his wife slipped in with Hughes and Sam surrendered to him crossing the river into the Choctaw Nation the same night. As soon as he arrived here he was admitted to bail in the sum of \$1,000 and released. He stands indicted here in connection with Felix Griffin for breaking into the post office at Blaine, Choctaw Nation. He says they have no charges against him in the Nation except for carrying a pistol, and that he would have surrendered to the police the day they shot him if they had asked him to. His wounds are about well. He is taking in the fair this week, after which he and Belle will return home.

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il - some sort of graphic is used, other than a portrait. por - a portrait of the person(s) named is on page indicated.

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