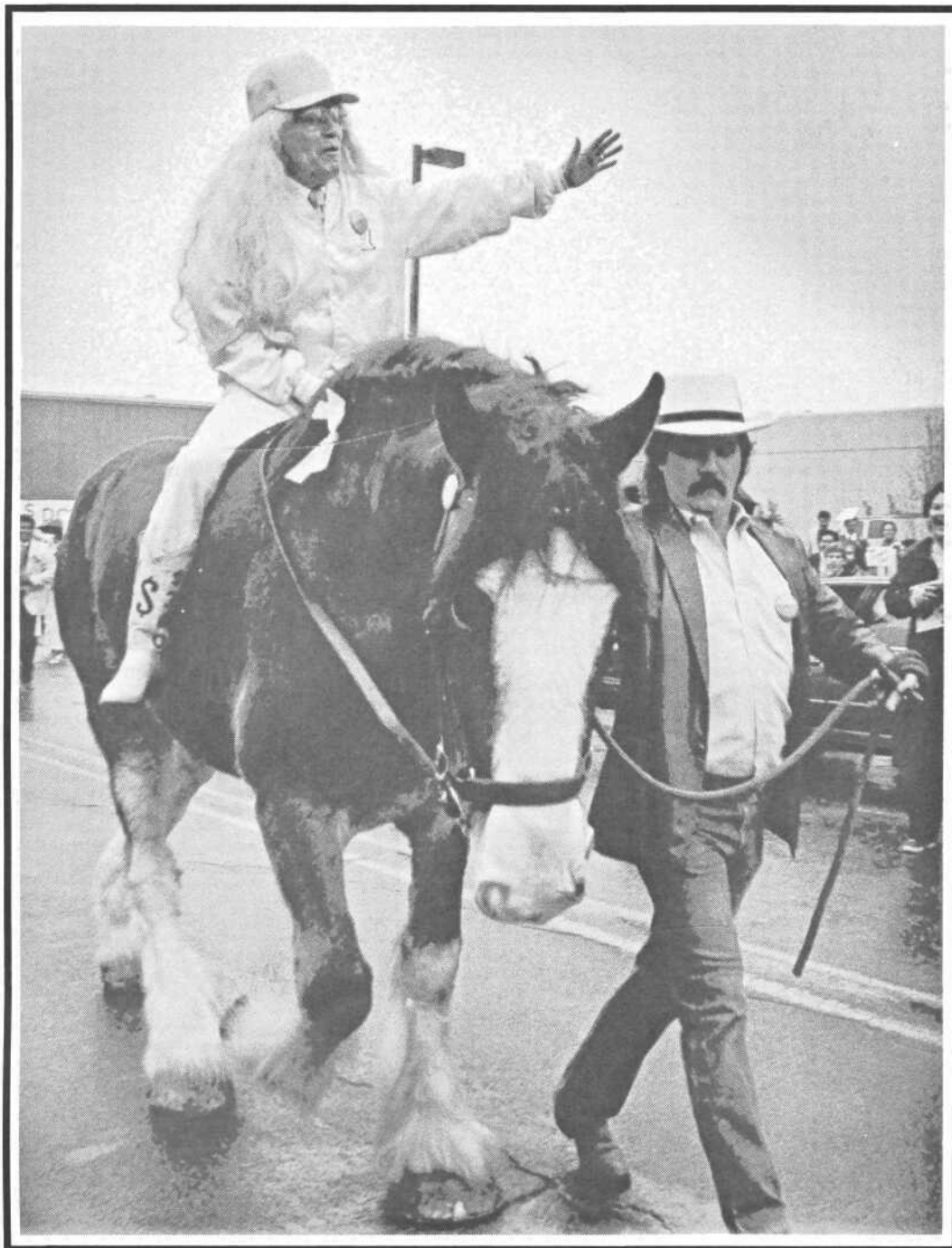


The JOURNAL



OFFICIAL SPONSOR



Vol. 11, No. 1, April, 1987

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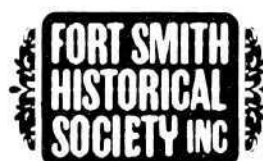
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The JOURNAL

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Fort Smith Historical Society

Ten Years Old

Amelia Martin

Ten years ago, on April 15, 1977, the Fort Smith Historical Society was formed to meet a long-standing need for an organization with the specific purpose of collecting, identifying, preserving and publishing the written and oral history of the Fort Smith area.

The purpose of this article is to briefly recount the history of the Society and tell about some upcoming features in *The Journal*.

Many books and articles had been written about the fort built at the confluence of the Poteau and Arkansas rivers, that was named Fort Smith, and the town by the same name that grew around it, but this did not serve the purpose mentioned above, and much Fort Smith historical information was being destroyed and lost forever as attics and storerooms were cleaned and old diaries, letters, ledgers, photographs, etc. were disposed of.

Keenly aware of the need to preserve Fort Smith history, eleven concerned persons met in the community room of the Fort Smith Public Library on October 29, 1976, to discuss the possibility of organizing a historical society in Fort Smith.

Carolyn Pollan, acting as moderator, called the meeting to order. Others in attendance were: Fadjo Cravens, Jr., Amelia Martin, Chris Allen, Thelma Wray, Gladys Krone, Doris West, Taylor A. Joyce, Edwin P. Hicks, Eloise Barksdale and Violet Burton.

Following a discussion of the need for protecting written and oral history and for a Fort Smith publication, followed. Means of financing and organizational procedures were also discussed, as well as the possibility of joining forces with the South Sebastian County Historical Society. A constitution and by-laws committee was appointed to submit a proposed constitution at a meeting set for Friday, November 19. Named to the committee were Taylor Joyce, chairman; Gladys Krone, Amelia Martin and Fadjo Cravens, Jr.

At the second organizational meeting, others had joined the original eleven. They were: Mrs. Byron Dobbs, Bernice Cole, Mr. & Mrs. William Mikel, B.E. Koschel, Hubert Curry and Sarah McCullough.

Mr. Curry and Mr. Koschel, from the South Sebastian County Historical Society, discussed the history of that organization, the purpose for which it was formed and its projects.

After discussion, it was decided the Fort Smith organization should be separate and apart from the South Sebastian County Historical Society with membership open to anyone who would like to join. "Fort Smith Historical Society" was chosen as the name for the organization and *The Journal of the Fort Smith Historical Society* as the name of its semi-annual publication.

Temporary officers chosen were: Carolyn Pollan, chairman; Fadjo Cravens, Jr., vice chairman; Thelma Wray, secretary-treasurer; Taylor Joyce, editor; executive board, Chris Allen, Eloise Barksdale, Gladys Krone, Bernice Cole and Amelia Martin.

Other organizational meetings were held, Articles of Incorporation were signed, a tax exempt status secured, a logo designed, and on April 15, 1977, a final organizational meeting was held.

The following officers and executive board were elected: Carolyn Pollan, president; Christine Allen, vice president; Thelma Wray, secretary and treasurer; Amelia Martin, corresponding secretary; Fadjo Cravens, Jr., Robert Taylor, Bernice Cole, Violet Burton and Taylor Joyce.

Other persons who have served as president of the Society are: Christine Allen, Phil Miller, Amelia Martin, C.B. "Pat" Porter, and Joel Stubblefield.

In September, 1977, the first issue of *The Journal of the Fort Smith Historical Society* was published with Carolyn Pollan and Amelia Martin co-editors.

This issue was funded by contributions from the organizers and a \$1,000 donation from Public Historical Restorations, Inc., with future issues to be financed from membership dues. A membership campaign was launched, and today the membership has grown to approximately 500 members.

In 1983, Sarah Fitzjarrald McCullough joined the *Journal* staff as associate editor.

Through the combined efforts of FSHS members, dedicated researchers, writers and persons who have shared historical materials and memories, *The Journal* is a publication we are proud to have represent Fort Smith.

Through the years, *The Journal* and its writers have won a number of awards in local history competition sponsored by the Arkansas Historical Association.

As membership increases and more money for printing is available, *The Journal* will be even larger and better. You can increase the membership!! Give memberships to friends and relatives — they are welcome gifts that give pleasure for years to come. Show your *Journal* to family, friends and neighbors. Encourage them to join.

As we begin our eleventh year of printing, remembering that today is tomorrow's history, in this issue we are featuring an overview of the past ten years of history in Fort Smith, as well as our usual features, including the 100-year-old news from the newspapers of 1887. At another place in this issue, we also include contents of past issues.

The Journal, in the immediate future, will feature the Federal Court of the Western District of Arkansas and the Federal Judges; more school histories and biographies of superintendents of Fort Smith schools; the docket of Fort Smith Justice of the Peace, Samuel Edmondson, 1860-1861; and much more.

Readers, here is another chance for you to help your editors. If you have biographical information about any of the Federal judges or school superintendents, please let us know by mailing the information to us at the Fort Smith Public Library, 65 South 8th Street, Fort Smith, Arkansas 72901. It will enrich the material we already have.

The Judges Are:

Benjamin Johnson, 1836-1849
 Daniel Ringo, 1849-1861
 William Story, 1871-1874
 Isaac C. Parker, 1875-1896
 John H. Rogers, 1896-1911
 Frank A. Youmans, 1911-1932
 Heartsill Ragon, 1933-1940
 John E. Miller, 1941-1967
 Paul X. Williams, 1967-
 Harry J. Lemley, 1938-1958
 J. Smith Henley, 1958-1975
 Terry L. Shell, 1975
 Oren Harris 1965-1976
 Richard S. Arnold
 H. Franklin Waters
 Morris S. Arnold
 Elsjane Trimble Roy
 George Howard

Superintendents of Fort Smith Schools

N.P. Gates, 1884-1890
 Dr. James Holloway, Sr., 1890-1902
 B.W. Torreyson, 1902-1905
 J.W. Kuykendall, 1905-1915
 Geo. W. Reid, 1915-1918

Dr. Lee Byrne, 1918-1920
 C.J. Tidwell, 1920-1923
 J.W. Ramsey, 1923-1954
 Chris Corbin, 1954-1971
 Dr. C.B. Garrison, 1971-1986
 Dr. Benny Gooden, 1986-

You are wondering about the picture on the cover of this issue of *The Journal*? This is a graphic portrayal of history made on February 24, 1987.

Bill Hutcheson, president of Hutcheson Shoe Company, is riding Mike the Horse, led by Phil White, Mike's owner.

Hutcheson's father, William L. Hutcheson, founded the shoe company in 1923 which was housed in Adelaide Hall on Garrison Avenue. In 1962, the company began operating the shoe departments in all Wal-Mart stores (owned by Sam Walton of Bentonville, Arkansas, and said by some to be the richest man in America).

Hutcheson Shoe Company then merged with Wal-Mart in 1978. Presently, Fort Smith is the headquarters and national distribution center for all shoes sold in Wal-Mart stores.

Bill Hutcheson promised associates in the Wal-Mart shoe department that if they exceeded sales goals set for 1986 that he would trot "Godiva-like" down the main street of Fort Smith.

Wal-Mart stores sold the shoes and here Hutcheson, donned in pink tights and blond wig, is taking his ride on the trusty Clydesdale, much to the delight of Wal-Mart associates and other local citizens, and to the pleasure of the Chaffin Junior High School Band which accompanied the whole stunt.

Mike is also pressed into service during the warm summer months to furnish carriage rides to citizens and tourists.

Phil White is on the board of directors of The Fort Smith Historical Society, and some of his accomplishments are included in the accompanying story, "What a Decade".

Fort Smith Historical Members

Do you know how much you are loved and appreciated? Your support and assistance make possible the preservation of Fort Smith history for future generations. Without your on-going support, the Fort Smith Historical Society and *The Journal* could not exist.

What a Decade!

1976 - 1986

Sarah Fitzjarrald

Most of us tend to think of history as events that happened twenty-five, fifty or a hundred years ago, often forgetting that today becomes history when the sun falls below the western horizon.

To celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Fort Smith Historical Society, we thought it would be fun to recapture the high points of the development of our town during the past ten years. The research has proved to be quite a revelation. We knew that Fort Smith was good, but the progress in ten years surprised even us.

And in the process, we gained a new perspective on the pioneers who have walked gallantly through our *Journal* pages. They were probably not aware that they were making history, either.

One of the first things that happened in the early Fort, even before Fort Smith became a town, was that a professor taught a class of three students. Fort Smith has always been educationally oriented, so let's begin with that.

SCHOOLS

Our public schools have remained fairly constant during the last ten years. In 1977 we had 28 schools, and in 1986 we had only 27. However, as older schools were dropped from the system, newer and larger schools were added. The two latest are Tilles and Euper Lane (elementary schools).

Student population has dropped from 12,956 in 1977 to 11,771 in 1986. One of the contributing factors in this drop is the number of private schools.

There were nine private schools in Fort Smith ten years ago, and in 1986, fifteen. The majority of private schools are church-affiliated and church-sponsored. The newest is Trinity Junior High School, managed and maintained by the three Catholic Churches in Fort Smith.

In addition to public schools, and incorporated in the overall program, is an adult education center of which we may be proud.

We also have Westark Community College, which is one of the state's finest. There are currently 3,692 students enrolled, representing an 11 percent increase over that of ten years ago.

The percentage of women students has grown from 44.1 to 56.8 in the ten-year period, and students are slightly older, both men and women. Ten years ago the average age was 25.7; now it is 26.8.

Vocational students have dropped from 45.5 percent in 1976 to 32.3 percent currently.

Much of the growth in enrollment has come from the surrounding area. Presently almost 55 percent of the students live outside Fort Smith, whereas ten years ago the percentage was thirty-four.

There has been a shift away from vocational programs to high tech areas such as electronics and data processing. Surprisingly, however, Westark does not quite reflect the national trends in that there has been a significant increase in education majors. Business courses remain popular.

The most significant change in Westark is probably the increase in the number of computers. Ten years ago, there was one large mainframe computer. It has been replaced by a larger, more powerful computer connected to 38 terminals scattered over the campus. There are also more than 100 other computers in classrooms, labs, offices and in other locations.

Ten years ago, secretaries and secretarial science students were excited about electric typewriters that used correcting tape to erase errors. Since then, a word processing revolution has occurred. There are now more than 25 work stations, and from every telephone on campus, faculty members may dictate letters and tests to a centralized word processing center at any time, day or night.

High technology has also affected the instructional process in many ways. Westark now provides educational programming and college announcements to more than 27,000 area homes over Channel 17 on the local TV cable system. Since the fall of 1986, students have been able to take the classroom portion of certain courses via TV, with travel to the campus only for orientation, lab work, review sessions and tests.

Westark has also had a new program since the early 1980s, that of the Business and Industry Institute, which has a staff working exclusively to develop custom training for area employers. Its most popular product is the statistical process control training for Fort Smith area manufacturers.

The appearance of the campus is now changing. A new two-million-dollar library is being completed, as well as a major expansion of the student union.

However, the most significant change in Westark is not discernible in appearance. Quality enhancements such as upgrading assessment tests for new students, periodical evaluation of instructors by classroom visitation of supervisors, grading criteria and other requirements have been tightened.

As Richard Hudson, Vice President for Planning and Development, says, "The college is now poised to assist Western Arkansas in another decade of growth and economic development."

FORT SMITH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Essential to the enhancement of education, culture and aesthetic appreciation of any community is its library. Fort Smith is fortunate to have one of the best.

Since 1976 the library has received some \$148,500 in different monies, federal and state grants, and a share of the Fort Chaffee mineral rights. It also shared \$35,000 with 16 other counties in the Library Development District I.

This money, averaged over ten years, represents a very low budget in supplying goods and materials for the operation of a library. What has been done with the money is nothing short of phenomenal.

Along with the purchase of more books to add to the stacks, there was also a new bookmobile added to the system. One of the branch libraries was moved from Midland Avenue to the Northside Community Building at 3606 North Albert Pike.

A book security system was installed in 1983.

One of the most significant additions to library service was the joining to the On-line Computer Library Center (OCLC) system in early 1985.

Shortly after that, a microcomputer was purchased for the library office.

Thelma Wray, head librarian since 1972, retired in September, 1985, and was succeeded by Larry Larson, who is still serving in that capacity.

Library materials have been purchased for older readers, large print books (fiction and non-fiction).

Television and video cassette recorder (VCR) was bought for library programming.

And, finally, money was provided to add the library holdings to the OCLC data base.

OCLC makes available eleven million books held in more than 6,000 libraries in the United States, Canada and Mexico. We can now share what we have in our library.

Importantly, also, is that putting the library's holdings into machine readable form, the library is taking its first step toward automation.

As Larry Larson said in a recent newspaper interview, "In the future, we'll be able to have an on-line card catalog and circulation system." He predicts it will happen some time in the next five years.

Larson has no doubt that the people in our town like what they see happening in the library. In 1986 the voters of Fort Smith approved with a 62% majority the reinstatement of the one-mill library tax.

CHURCHES

When enough people gathered around the early Fort to be recognized as a town, one of the first public buildings erected was a community church. Called the "Union Church", it was used by both Baptists and Methodists. We have been "into" religion since the very beginning.

We were, however, very surprised to discover that we have added 26 churches to those of 1977. We can now boast of 108 houses of worship, including the Jewish Synagogue.

Denominations listed are Adventist, Apostolic, Assembly of God, Baptist, Bible Missionary, Catholic, Charismatic, Christian, Christian Missionary Alliance, Christian Science, Church of Christ, Church of God, Church of God in Christ, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Episcopal, Full Gospel, Independent Fundamental, Interdenominational, Lutheran, Methodist, Methodist-United, Nazarene, Non-Denominational, Pentecostal, Presbyterian, Religious Science, Salvation Army, Unity, and the aforementioned Jewish Congregation.

As might be expected in our part of the country, the Baptists are well in the majority, followed by Methodists, Church of Christ, Christian, Presbyterian and Pentecostal.

The three Catholic Churches are among the oldest churches in town, even though Catholics are in the minority, representing the state average of about 3 percent. The Jewish Congregation is also one of the oldest churches in town, and they too are in the minority.

What else can we say except that we love the Lord?

HOSPITALS

Sparks Regional Medical Center is the oldest and largest of the three hospitals in Fort Smith. It began in 1884 as St. John's (Episcopal) Hospital, then became known as Belle Point Hospital, and later named Sparks Memorial Hospital.

From its beginning, Sparks has been constantly growing, serving the people of Fort Smith and surrounding area.

It now covers approximately six city blocks, and the last ten years has seen improvement and upgrading of all its programs, as well as the addition of always newer, more up-to-date equipment. Its newest is Magnetic Resonance Imaging, the very latest in high-technology for taking pictures inside the human body.

Another exciting innovation for Sparks is the new Litho-tripter, an instrument for dissolving kidney stones by using water and sound waves to disintegrate them, thereby avoiding the necessity for surgery. A mobile unit, Sparks will share its use with five other area hospitals.

Sparks Hospital has an in-patient Care Unit for the treatment of alcohol and drug abuse. It has a childbirth center, and an out-patient hospice program.

The hospital maintains the Tele-Care program, in which elderly people may enroll. The person using Tele-Care calls in to the hospital each day by a certain time. If the hospital does not hear from one of the people enrolled, a staff member calls the individual's home to see if everything is all right.

During the last ten years, the hospital has added the Marvin Altman Fitness Center, an Ambulatory Surgery Center, and a Free-Standing Fitness Center and Sports Medicine Clinic, as well as other programs.

Sparks also has a helicopter pad for receiving patients and transporting them elsewhere, if needed.

One of the unique features of the hospital is its co-generation plant which supplies all the electric power needed for the operation of this fine institution.

Directly across the street from Sparks Regional Medical Center is the new **Fort Smith Rehabilitation Hospital**. It is the smallest hospital facility in Fort Smith, having a 54-bed capacity for the treatment of patients. It is owned and operated by Rehabilitation Hospital Services Corporation, whose headquarters are in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania.

This small, privately owned hospital specializes in all types of rehabilitation, including occupational, physical, respiratory and others.

An underground "service" tunnel connects Fort Smith Re-Hab Hospital with Sparks Hospital, allowing Sparks to transport (by lease contract) goods and services needed by the smaller hospital. It is also convenient for staff members and other employees to walk to and from both units.

St. Edward Mercy Medical Center is the second largest hospital in Fort Smith. It first began as St. Edward's Infirmary, owned and operated by the Mercy Nuns, changing its name to St. Edward Mercy Hospital in 1907.

St. Edward moved to the east side of town and built a new hospital on Rogers Avenue. It, too, has shown much growth during the last decade.

St. Edward is also acquiring Magnetic Resonance Imaging, sharing a mobile unit with Washington Regional Medical Center in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

The hospital now has a six-bed in-patient hospice unit for the care of the terminally ill, with bedrooms and other facilities available for the support of the patients' families.

Among the hospital's accomplishments is the new four-level physicians' office complex constructed on the main Medical Center campus.

There is also the construction of a three-level outpatient Childbirth Center to help meet the demand for outpatient services and a different approach in concept of child care and delivery.

But probably its crowning achievement is the new 80-bed Harbor View Mercy Hospital two miles east of the main campus. This all-private-room psychiatric hospital sits on a hill, overlooking the lower areas which lie along the Arkansas River. There is also care and treatment of patients in alcohol and drug abuse.

Instead of Tele-Care, St. Edward Mercy Medical Center has Life-Line, a joint program with the Fort Smith Pilot Club members. Elderly people may rent, or buy, small electronic units which are worn as necklaces, bracelets or separately in a pocket. In case of trouble, such as a fall, a button is pushed on the unit, signaling the hospital. The hospital calls back, and if the person is unable to respond, alerts a responder previously designated by the person.

The small units rent for \$8.00 per month. A larger voice unit which allows the person to talk directly to the hospital leases for \$15.00 per month. The program now has 85 units in operation and hopes to have 120 by the end of 1987.

Just north of the hospital, on the grounds proper, is the Udouj Wellness Course, a half-mile walking path for employees and the public.

St. Edward Mercy Medical Center also maintains a helicopter pad.

The hospital is now in the process of doubling its twenty-one bed Intensive Care Unit to forty-two.

DOCTORS, DENTISTS AND OTHER HEALTH-CARE PERSONNEL

As might be expected, the last decade has shown a remarkable increase in qualified people to care for us. Physicians and surgeons have grown by fifty, and we now have some 225 listings in the telephone directory.

Dentists have almost doubled, having increased by forty. We now have 87 dentists.

Physical therapists and chiropractors are also growing in numbers.

The "new kid on the block" in medical and dental care is the "convenient-care, no-appointment-needed" clinic. These clinics have made their appearance in the last three years. We now have more than half a dozen and we predict more.

Another health-care related field is the home care service. Set up for the elderly and handicapped, it is also growing rapidly. The Area Agency on Aging is a prime example. Along with other services, it has a hospice program in which most terminally ill patients wish to remain at home. However, the Agency has contracts with the area hospitals to take those patients who decide to be hospitalized.

The Agency is also responsible for funding the Senior Citizens Center, which, in turn, provides meals-on-wheels, as well as in-home and skilled care.

The Area Agency on Aging is funded by Medicare, fund-raising, gifts, memorials and some insurance policies.

We cannot leave the subject of health care without mentioning in passing that the **Fort Smith-Sebastian County Health Department** moved from its rickety old quarters in 1980 to a new building on South 70th Street.

We are well cared for.

THE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Known locally as "Judge Parker's Courthouse" since the turn of the century, it was designated a National Historic Site in 1963. In that year there were 8,017 visitors; by 1977 the number had increased to 98,198; and in 1986 there were 160,019 visitors.

Encompassing approximately twenty acres, it also includes the Old Fort Commissary, one of the oldest, if not the oldest, building still standing in Fort Smith.

The commissary was used for many years as a museum, but is now closed. However, the building has been restored and is awaiting staff and personnel to become once again a high point of interest to visitors to the site.

The last ten years have shown much restoration of the courthouse and many improvements to the surrounding area. The courthouse building has been re-roofed, and it has been re-pointed, meaning that the mortar between the bricks has been removed and replaced with mortar as historically accurate as it was possible to make it.

There is a new wayside parking, and the gallows has been moved to the original site. Four non-historic buildings have been taken down in the area.

Archeologists have been busy excavating, always adding to the interests of "just how it was" in the early days of the Fort. During the excavation, the exact spot was found where the original flag was flown. Now, only a few feet away, so as not to disturb that excavation, a new flag pole was erected in 1986, flying the United States flag with 37 stars, representing the number of states when it was first flown in the period 1867-1876.

The flag is 36 feet across and 20 feet in depth. It is an outstanding landmark during daylight hours, and lighted at night, it offers a special lift to the spirit and heart of each of us.

Except for technological excavation, restoration work has been done by local labor. Local organizations have assisted in planting trees and other beautification work, among which are the Fort Smith Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Boy Scouts, Junior League and others. There is also a support group, the Old Fort Militia. Effective February, 1987, a one-dollar fee is charged for touring the site.

FORT CHAFFEE

Originally known as Camp Chaffee, construction began in September, 1941, and was finished in December of that year, when it assumed its first mission — to mold armored divisions.

It covered over 90,000 acres during the height of World War II, but is now reduced to 71,000+ acres. Situated some eight miles southeast of Fort Smith, it has played an important part in the economy of the city.

The post had opened and closed at least three times before 1956, when in March of that year it was redesignated as Fort Chaffee and became a permanent installation.

There were still periods of active and inactive status until December, 1963, when the Department of Defense announced that Fort Chaffee would be inactivated again at the end of June, 1965.

The mission of the post at that time became to provide facilities and support for summer training of National Guard and Army Reserve units.

Then in 1974, the post was redesignated as U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Chaffee (Semi-Active), and Chaffee personnel were in the process of preparing for that phase of its operation when the unprecedented fall of Vietnam occurred.

Fort Chaffee became a refugee processing center in April, 1975, and the first refugees arrived on 2 May 1975. In just 12 short days, Chaffee became a

temporary city, the ninth largest in Arkansas. The refugee population peaked on June 24, 1975, at 25,055. And by 20 December 1975 when the center closed, over 50,000 refugees had been processed there.

Again the post resumed its mission to provide facilities and support of National Guard and Army Reserve units for summer training and weekend training throughout the year.

Again in May, 1980, Fort Chaffee became a refugee center, this time for the Cuban refugees. In August of that year, it also became a consolidation center for Cuban refugees.

When it was over, there had been an accumulative total of 25,390 refugees who had been processed through the resettlement center.

Chaffee employees again began preparing the post for its present mission to provide facilities and support for summer training of National Guard and Army Reserve units.

OLD FORT MUSEUM



Old Fort Museum

The Old Fort Museum opened in 1979 at its present location on Rogers Avenue with exhibits which had been shown formerly in the Old Commissary building at the National Historic Site. Since that time, many exhibits have been added and during the last three years there has been a revitalization of energy and interest in the museum.

One of its most charming attractions is the old-fashioned soda fountain which dispenses "delectables" to visitors. It also is the background for many antique items found in the very old drug stores, which some of us might remember.

A system of "collections management and storage" has been introduced whereby artifacts are being properly treated, and put in optimum condition for storage and preservation.

All storage rooms have been cleaned, also with an eye to the proper storing of artifacts.

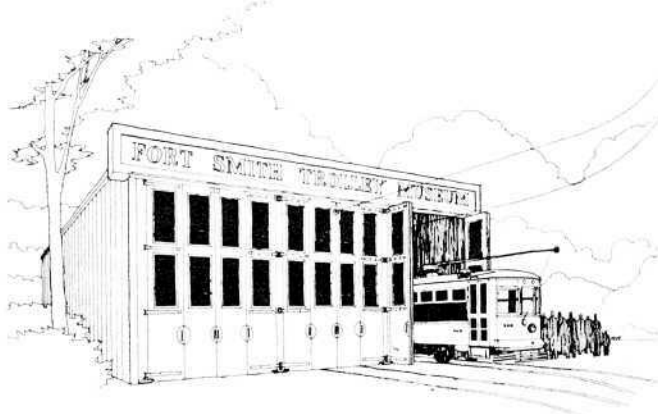
At this writing there is much enthusiasm because the staff and employees are ready to hang the mural to accompany the transportation exhibit.

During 1986 there were approximately 27,000 adults and 13,500 children (paid admissions) who visited the museum.

The entry fee has been increased, effective January 15th, to \$2.00 for adults and 50¢ for children. However, organized groups such as school students and others may visit the museum admission-free if arrangements are made ahead of time.

Group rates are always available, also.

FORT SMITH STREETCAR RESTORATION ASSOCIATION AND TROLLEY MUSEUM



Streetcars will run again in Fort Smith, as an educational museum and tourist attraction. This is the goal of the Fort Smith Streetcar Restoration Association, which was organized in 1979 for the purpose of restoring an original Fort Smith streetcar. Since that time, a second Fort Smith streetcar has been acquired and both cars are being restored to operational status. The restoration was done in borrowed quarters until the Fort Smith Trolley Museum car barn at 100 South 4th Street was completed in 1985.

When completed, the cars will operate on track from the car barn to the Old Fort Museum, which features a transportation exhibit room.

Other historical vehicles currently being restored at the Trolley Museum are a 1926 Model TT Ford truck, which was used by John Lelemsis, a peddler of produce and fresh meat in Fort Smith; a Fort Smith bus; a Union Pacific caboose; and a Burlington Northern caboose.

This restoration is completely funded by private donations of money, labor and materials. Work times: every Tuesday, 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and every Saturday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All workers and contributions welcome. Mailing address: 2121 Wolfe Lane, Fort Smith, AR 72901.

PATENT MODEL MUSEUM

The Patent Model Museum, 400 North Eighth Street, has been open to the public since 1976. It features 85 models made by inventors to show how their inventions were to look and work, dated 1836 to the late 1870s; also 17 pictures which were drawn of models dating from 1810 to 1836 which were destroyed in the December 15, 1836, Patent Office fire.

Each model is a unique idea in its own right. In miniature, these are the ideas that made America the great industrial nation it has become.

The museum is housed in a house which was built circa 1840, and is believed to have been built by the John Rogers family, founder of the town of Fort Smith. In a dilapidated condition, the house was purchased by Representative Carolyn Pollan in 1973, and with the aid of old photographs restored to the original design.

The Patent Model exhibit was the Pollan family's contribution to the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America.

Tours by arrangement. Call 782-9014.

CLAYTON HOUSE

The Clayton House is the restored home of William Henry Harrison Clayton, attorney in private practice, District Attorney under Judge Isaac C. Parker, Chief Justice for the U.S. Court of Appeals, father, husband, active community member, and a cornerstone in the foundation of Fort Smith history.

Restored by the Fort Smith Heritage Foundation, the house is open to the public, with tours daily except Monday.

Admission by donation. Telephone 783-3000.

NATIONAL CEMETERY

The National Cemetery in Fort Smith was among the first established by President Abraham Lincoln in 1862-67, or shortly thereafter. It comprises 15.8 acres of land and is situated in the immediate vicinity of the National Historic Site.

The first interment at the cemetery was that of Surgeon Thomas Russell, a veteran of the War of 1812, who was buried August 24, 1819.

Two Confederate generals are buried in the cemetery, Gen. James B. McIntosh and Gen. Alexander E. Steen.

The last decade has shown much improvement and beautification. The Avenue of Flags, begun several years ago, is an on-going extension of beauty. The flags are donated to the cemetery as gifts from the families of veterans who are buried there.

The Fort Smith chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Darby Rangers, and the American Legion have added their efforts in the beautification process by the planting of trees.

The streets have been resurfaced, and up-grading of existing buildings on the grounds has been accomplished.

One of the most striking features to be added to the cemetery is the 45-foot tall carillon tower erected on 16 October 1986 and dedicated on Veterans Day, November 11, with impressive ceremonies.

One of AmVets' (American Veterans) projects is installing a carillon in every national cemetery in the country. This is the 42nd one installed to date.

Funded by area veterans' groups and other private citizens, the carillon is a living memorial honoring deceased (and living) veterans who served our country.

Oakland DeMoss, director of the National Cemetery, plans to increase chiming times of the bells, depending, of course, upon scheduled interments when the chimes remain silent.

SERVICE, SUPPORT, SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Fort Smith is a highly organized city. The only requirement for forming a club is to get four or five like-minded people together and the deed is done. And organizations, like agriculture, thrive well in our climate, each adding its own special assets to the community.

In addition to Alcoholics Anonymous and similar groups, we have such organizations as Compassionate Friends, Help and Hope, LaLeche League, Parents of Prematures Support Group, Rosalie Tilles Foundation, Fort Smith Literacy Council, Young Women's Christian Association, ALSAC-St. Jude, and many others.

Among the civic-minded we have the Young Democrats, Republican Women's Club, Native Americans for Clean Environment, Lions Club, Morning Exchange Club, Noon Exchange Club, Rotarians, Kiwanians, Jaycees, and the grandfather of them all, the Chamber of Commerce.

Service organizations such as Friends of the Library, Frontier Researchers, Fort Smith Heritage Foundation, Junior Civic League, Junior League Altrusa, and the Fort Smith Streetcar Restoration Association are all alive and well.

That we like each other and wish to serve the community is evidenced by the fact that in only the last ten years we have added more than sixty organizations.

ART - MUSIC - ENTERTAINMENT

The Fort Smith Art Center began in the early 1940s and is one of our older organizations. It is housed in the first building to be renovated in the Belle Grove Historic District, the Vaughn-Schaap house.

Ten years ago the Art Center offered one exhibit per month; that number has now increased to four or five per month.

The Center has more competitions than any other art center in the state of Arkansas. They are: Student Competition (9th through 12th grades) in March; Annual Competition and Exhibition (artists 18 years and older may enter from across the U.S.); Whirlpool Sculpture Competition in October; Photography Competition in November; Christmas Card Design Competition and Exhibition (1st through 8th grades) in December.

Each year the Art Center has many activities not only at its own location but also under its sponsorship at other places. Among them are an annual antique show, pottery fair, art auction, "Oh, What a Night!" party at Fianna Hills, Spring Festival, vegetable-tasting luncheon, workshops and special exhibits.

There is also a permanent exhibit, including Boehm porcelain donated by Dr. and Mrs. William Knight.

The Center is open every day of the week except Monday. Hours are from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. except

on Sunday, when it is open from 2:00 to 4:00 in the afternoon. Admission has remained free from the beginning, but voluntary contributions are always welcomed.

The Art Center has enjoyed two auxiliaries, Amis de l'Art and the Photographic Alliance. Amis de l'Art has a gift shop behind the Art Center building which is open at certain hours all during the year. Funds raised are earmarked for the Art Center.

The Art Center has shown much growth during the last decade. In 1977 there were 109 members; presently there are 960 members. The Center is one of our best tourist attractions, and we are proud of it.

The Fort Smith Little Theater began in 1947 with the purpose of providing live theater and community entertainment. For many years it offered its productions in a converted store building on North O Street, but in 1986 it moved "out of the grocery store" into its new building on North Sixth Street. The new building seats two hundred patrons and has a top-quality lighting system.

Membership has grown to five hundred, and there is more community involvement in FSLT. Consequently, ticket sales are up considerably.

The first production in the new building was "The Biggest Little Whorehouse in Texas."

The Westark Drama Club has been around since 1976. Organized essentially for Westark Community College students, it nevertheless has individuals from the outside community who join regularly in production of shows. The group is small but consistently offers good drama.

One of our oldest music organizations is the Fort Smith Symphony Orchestra. It has provided quality classical music dear to the hearts of music lovers through many years.

And recently we have added the Fort Smith Philharmonic Orchestra to our roster of great music entertainment. Smaller than the older Symphony, it is growing and taking hold in the community.

Accompanying the music, we have dance bands such as the Arcadia Nighthawks, the Westark Jazz Band and others.

There is also the Old-Time Music Association (to preserve and perform the music of the Ozarks), the Riverblenders Barbershop Chorus and the Sweet Adelines.

And then there are the Fort Smith Ballet and the Western Arkansas Ballet, not to mention the Square Dancers and the Push Dancers.

Fort Smithians also take a truly active interest in entertainment. Besides the parks and swimming pools, we have ball parks, tennis courts, bowling alleys and nearby fishing holes.

Beginning in the spring, we have the Old Fort Days Rodeo, followed by the Old Fort River Festival. In the fall, we have the United Way Raft Race and the Arkansas-Oklahoma Fair with its midway and nightly live entertainment by big-name country and western singers and bands.

As it is with other communities, there has been a pronounced increase in the number of movie theaters in Fort Smith. Movies have been stand-by entertainment.

Arkansas has furnished the location for thirty-one movies since 1929, and the last ten years has shown increased movie production in western and north-western Arkansas.

In 1982, the eight-hour CBS (TV) mini-series, "The Blue and The Gray," was filmed in Fort Smith, just across the river at Van Buren, and at Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park in northwestern Arkansas. The Civil War saga attracted TV viewers all across the United States.

Perhaps the best movie ever made in Arkansas, "A Soldier's Story," was filmed almost entirely at Fort Chaffee, with some filming at Clarendon. Made in 1983, it was released in 1984.

Production is already under way on a new film, "Pass the Ammunition," at Eureka Springs, Arkansas, and it has only recently been announced that another movie is to be filmed shortly at Fort Chaffee. It is Neil Simon's semi-autobiographical story, "Biloxi Blues."

Not only have we made movies in Arkansas, but movies have been made about us in other locations. "True Grit," written by Charles Portis, a native Arkansawyer, was a story about the deputies of Judge Parker's court and the villains they dealt with. Released in 1969, it starred John Wayne and Glen Campbell. John Wayne won an Oscar for his performance in this picture, the only Oscar he ever won.

But one spectacular innovation in entertainment in the last five years is the video cassette recorder. Ten years ago, there was no such service in Fort Smith as the renting or selling of video tapes. Now there are stores all over town offering that service.

What this new turn of events will do to movie theaters is anybody's gloomy prediction (unless someone invents a miracle popcorn). At any rate, it does seem that we are rapidly approaching the time when the family television set will look absolutely naked without an accompanying video cassette recorder (VCR).

SWEET CHARITY

The United Way is, as might be expected, the largest fund-raising organization in town. It began in 1961 by setting its goal for \$192,593.46. The amount raised was \$194, 842.82. Thirteen agencies were assisted as a result.

In 1977, the goal was \$600,000, which was increased by more than \$80,000 in money actually raised. There were 21 agencies who benefitted.

In 1986, the goal was \$1,150,000, and the amount raised was more than \$50,000 above that goal. Twenty-four agencies were assisted as a result.

The number of charities to receive United Way funds in 1987 has been increased to twenty-six.

Project Compassion began with the inspiration of one woman fifteen years ago. Gloria White says, "It was my dream that no one die alone in a nursing home."

With Mrs. White's concern and effort, the idea has spread nationwide and there is no way to estimate how many people have been helped. But Gloria White adds quickly, "It was my idea, but the compassion was already here. We built on that love and concern in other people."

Her dream now is to have the funding and the operation to remain in place so that it will continue. Project Compassion is a United Way agency and this dream, too, will come true.

Speaking of dreams, **Fulfill A Dream** was founded in 1982 by Gloria Wagner, a registered nurse. The purpose of this organization is to make dreams come true for catastrophically ill children. It is among the first groups of its kind to be organized in the nation, particularly in a town this size.

Fulfill A Dream has made it possible for children to take trips to Disneyland, Disneyworld, the Super Bowl in California, the World Series Games in St. Louis, and trips to California to visit movie stars, as well as others.

Youngsters have received gifts such as "a free-wheeling bicycle and helmet," television sets, stereos, video cassette recorders, and many others.

Two Christmas shopping sprees were furnished for ten or twelve children by one of the local stores.

The group has scheduled its fourth annual Rainbow Camp this summer. The first of its kind in Arkansas, it entertains youngsters who have leukemia or other forms of cancer.

Even though this is a young organization, it has helped many children. In 1986 alone, it touched the lives of approximately 70 children.

The **Gregory Kistler Treatment Center for Physically Handicapped Children** was founded in 1978 by Wayne and Betty Kistler (see *The Journal*, September, 1984, issue).

The purpose of the Center is to provide long-term, free therapy not available elsewhere in Arkansas. It began slowly, treating some 10 patients per week.

In 1984, it moved into new quarters in a modern brick building at 920 Lexington Avenue, leased at a nominal fee from Sparks Regional Medical Center. The Center pays its own utilities.

The Center has a small staff of highly-qualified, highly-trained professional therapists in all phases of therapy. They use Neuro-Development Treatment (NDT), which is considered the treatment of choice in pediatric therapy since it treats the whole person.

The Center is funded solely by private donations and occasional private or state grants. They receive no federal funding.

Since they began nine years ago, they have treated more than 350 children. By anybody's calculations, that is a record to be proud of.

The **Borderline Chili Heads** sounds like a very unlikely name to call some of the most charitable individuals one is apt to meet. The local branch of the organization, a division of CASI (Chili Appreciation Society International), began here in 1983. The purpose of CASI is to promote chili as the national food. The branch organizations are called "pods."

What intrigues us about our local pod is that while they are having all that fun carrying on chili cook-offs, they are doing it all with an eye to how much they can help local charities.

An auxiliary was formed two years ago to help them help others. It has definitely helped.

In February, they planned an amateur cook-off to help the United Palsy Association (national). There is also an annual cook-off, Judge Isaac C. Parker's Memorial Chili Cook-off. And more cook-offs besides.

In December, they have Christmas parties for needy children.

They began with six members and the number has grown to about thirty-five; not a large organization to be sure, but one which "cuts a wide swath" when it comes to helping people.

The **Fort Smith Junior Civic League** was formed in 1942. A charitable organization from its beginning, it founded the Bost School, named for Dr. Roger Bost, Fort Smith pediatrician, opening with six children.

It has since become Bost Human Development Services (BHDS) and is a facility for total care of developmentally handicapped children from cradle to death. It is also the model for similar centers all over the United States.

The Junior Civic League has assisted other charitable organizations, but beginning with 1987, its total funds will be donated to BHDS.

Their chief fund raiser is the annual Red Stocking Revue, a high point of entertainment for Fort Smith and the surrounding area. With an out-of-town director and crates and crates of imported costumes, local talent rehearses for only two and a half weeks and produces a top quality professional show worthy of cities much larger than Fort Smith.

The **Junior League of Fort Smith** technically marks its birthdate in 1960. But prior to that time, as early as 1925, the group actually began as the Junior Auxiliary of the Rosalie Tilles Children's Home. In 1950, they grew into the Service League; and in May of that year, they opened a day nursery and a thrift shop, the Bargain Box, to support the nursery and other projects.

In 1960, the Service League became a member of the Association of Junior Leagues, Inc., and adopted as its own the goals of the 258 leagues throughout the world: to promote voluntarism, to develop the potential of its members for voluntary participation in community affairs, and to demonstrate the effectiveness of trained volunteers.

They have most assuredly lived up to their goals, helping with hundreds of projects in the community.

Probably their best known sponsored project is the annual Old Fort River Festival. The League created and organized the festival in 1980 as its 20th anniversary gift to the community. Since then, some 70 other charitable organizations, with their own booths and concessions, earn over \$100,000 for their own projects.

At present writing, the League owns "Marble Hall" at 311 Garrison Avenue, where it still operates the Bargain Box.

The **Southwest Times Record Community Christmas Card** began in 1977. Like many of our other charities, it was the brainchild of one person who wanted to help people. This person is the editor of the Fort Smith *Southwest Times Record*, Jack Moseley.

The idea is simplicity itself. "Send a dollar per name," Moseley invited newspaper readers, "and on Christmas Eve we will publish the names of contributors."

Readers liked the idea and responded. Not only would they see their names in the paper (in a good way), but they would also be in on the satisfaction of joining in the combined effort of many others.

The first year brought in over \$5,000. The amounts per year have consistently grown, and in 1986 almost \$15,000 was collected. The money is given to one different charitable organization each year, and recipients are not United Way agencies.

What gives Jack Moseley and the rest of us a lot of satisfaction is that some 50 other newspapers across the United States have picked up the idea, as well as some papers in England and Australia.

As Moseley wrote about the continuing effect of this effort, "... children are being clothed, the hungry fed, the forgotten sheltered, the sick treated, and worthwhile community projects are being completed."

That's what we call truly "reaching out."

CITY SERVICES

The operating budget for Fort Smith in 1977 was \$11,193,500. The 1987 budget lists appropriations of \$24,595,800, more than double that of ten years ago.

Population in 1970 was 65,393; in 1980 the census showed 71,626. If the rate of growth continued through 1986 as it did from 1970 to 1980, we can assume that we now have about 75,500 citizens looking to City Government for necessary services.

For most of us, three things come to mind when we think "City." They are water, sewage disposal and streets.

Plans proceed for the Lee Creek Dam project. All that the city is waiting for are federal permits to construct the project, so Fort Smith will continue to enjoy an ample supply of top quality water. In the meantime, water line maintenance crews spend much of their time repairing broken mains and installing new pipe.

The next ten years will see a highly efficient leak detection program to reduce water system losses. We can also expect that the city will ensure newly developing areas adequate supplies and pressure systems.

During the last ten years, Fort Smith upgraded sewer line maintenance capability with the acquisition of TV inspection equipment and high pressure jet cleaning trucks. City forces and sewer customers can now see the insides of service lines and mains to determine their condition and make the necessary repairs.

The city is now continuing its program of rehabilitating the collection system to eliminate excessive amounts of ground water and rain water.

As long as the kitchen sink and bathroom facilities are in good working order, we do not spend much time pondering the city's problems with water supply and sewage disposal.

Streets, however, are a different matter. They are daily reminders of a pressing and on-going need for the city to "do something!"

Headed by City Administrator Stribling P. Boynton, the administration has done and is doing something.

In September, 1985, the citizens gave them a vote of confidence and passed an additional one cent sales tax for street repair and associated drainage projects.

Through block meetings, Boynton invited townspeople to air their complaints and make suggestions. Work began almost immediately and signs are up all over town, "Your penny at work."

Total projected revenue from the one cent sales tax for the next five years, by 1991, is over 41 million dollars. We are rolling prettier with each passing day.

Two city departments apt to be taken for granted unless we have an emergency or get a traffic ticket are the fire and police departments.

In the last ten years, two fire stations have been moved and rebuilt. Ten new trucks have been acquired, nine pumper trucks and one ladder unit.

The fire department maintains a rescue unit, and in 1982 "jaws of life" equipment was purchased.

In addition to answering fire alarms, the department provides rescue units to automobile and river accident victims, local flood victims; performs fire hazard inspections; investigates code violations, fire scenes and bomb threats; monitors gas well drilling; issues burning permits; and conducts station tours.

All of these duties are carried out by a personnel of approximately 110, under the supervision of Fire Chief James W. Moore.

What really causes us to salute our fire department is that fire response time is normally three minutes or less.

The Fort Smith police department operates with a personnel of about 130. In addition to directing traffic, giving citations and arresting criminals, the department also carries out many other functions we accept without thinking too much about them.

There are crime prevention programs (Neighborhood Watch, for example), bicycle safety programs, drug awareness programs, assisting with school safety patrols, and assisting local organizations with fingerprinting children at their parents' request.

Patrol officers assist in home security by checking homes while the residents are out of town, and the department will lend engravers to citizens to mark valuable items for future identification if needed.

Something new was added in 1986 — mounted police. This is a no-cost volunteer program with the "mounties" riding their own horses. They assist with special assignments such as parades, and do this on their own time.

The crime rate in Fort Smith is definitely no higher than State or National statistics reflect. With citizen awareness growing, home burglaries are lower than in many other cities.

Another innovation begun only six months ago is "Crime Stoppers." Telephone number 78-CRIME is publicized, allowing for anonymity of a person's calling in information. It is working. Reward money of almost \$1,000 has already been paid out.

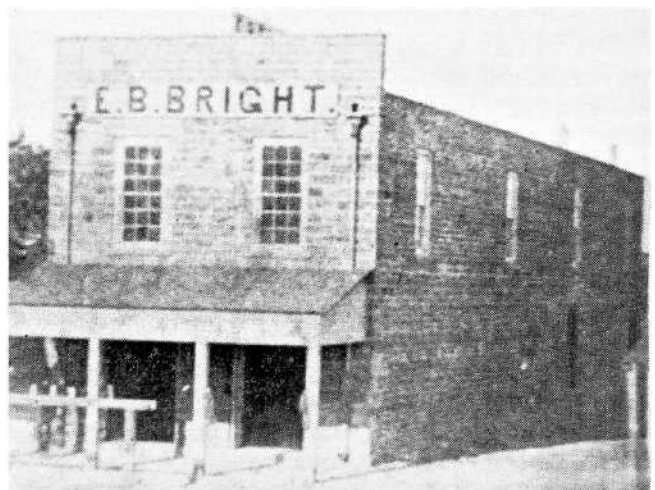
These are the "bare bone" necessities any city must furnish. Add to that the other things we never really think about — a new seven million dollar water reservoir and a six million dollar waste treatment plant — we must conclude that Fort Smith is not only a great place to visit, but it is also a great place to live.

DOWNTOWN



It all began when Ralph Baker restored three buildings on Garrison Avenue, put a courtyard in the middle, and called it "Old Town." The buildings now serve as shops, businesses, offices and apartments. That was in 1973. Victor Cary, longtime friend of historians (and restoration projects), now owns Old Town.

Next, Phil White became interested. He restored "Marble Hall," one of the three oldest buildings still in existence, circa 1850, and the only one in use at the present time.



Marble Hall as it appeared in 1863. Photo courtesy Phil White.

That was the beginning of White's many accomplishments. The Ward Hotel lobby was restored to its original condition and the rest of the building converted to office space.

The Old Downtown Garage and Gas Station was also converted to office space.

The Wirsing Gun Shop, rich with memories and stories of outlaws who used to patronize the store to buy guns or have theirs repaired, is now a modern law office.

Putman Funeral Home, one of the city's finest, most solid structures, with massive 24-inch walls, has become the Thomas Quinn Guest House with 10 luxury suites.



Thomas Quinn Guest House

Belle Grove School, Fort Smith's oldest school building, is now an apartment house with luxurious apartments.

The list goes on and on — the Carney building, the Tilles building, Media Square and others.

But one of his most imposing restoration projects is the Old Cumberland Presbyterian Church which houses Phil White's own business, Asylum Design.

Brunswick Place, another of White's projects, is now a complex of stores, apartments, offices and a galleria. Charming and unusual, the street in front furnishes space during the spring, summer and fall months for the Farmers' Market, open Wednesdays and Saturdays. The Farmers' Market may not be as new as simply "brought back."



Brunswick Place with restored Old Cumberland Presbyterian Church in left background.

Other architects and private investors began to follow suit after Baker and White got started. Of course, it did not happen overnight, but it does seem that suddenly, at the west end of Garrison Avenue the Old Frisco Station is a fine restaurant; Adelaide Hall is under restoration; and on each side of the Avenue clear to the Old Goldman Hotel at 13th Street, work is in progress, with more planned.

The 800 block of Garrison Avenue will have a mall with boutiques, cafes, and a skating rink.

Dee Carroll became Director of the Coalition for Development in downtown Fort Smith in 1985. It is his duty to coordinate all the efforts in revitalizing downtown. He acts as the liaison between the city and all private interests. "This is the right time for accomplishment," he says.

And it is working. The city sold the property to build a luxurious 255-room hotel on Rogers Avenue, one block south of Garrison, which was first called Plaza Hotel — now called Holiday Inn Civic Center. Shortly thereafter, the city built a parking garage to accommodate the hotel and other businesses.



Fort Smith Plaza Hotel, completed in 1986. Name changed to Holiday Inn Civic Center. 255 rooms; 13,426 square feet of meeting space; and banquet facilities for over 1200. Photo courtesy of City of Fort Smith.



Lobby of Holiday Inn Civic Center. Photo courtesy of Holiday Inn.

Christmas 1986 saw lights and decorations on Garrison Avenue for the first time in years. As Carroll says, "There is a revitalization of spirit."

Even though Fort Smith is a small town, relatively speaking, we serve a trade area which has a fifty-mile radius, with a population of approximately 200,000 people.

Across the Arkansas River to the north, we have Van Buren, a smaller city of beauty and charm with its own active historic restoration.

On our west, across the state line in Oklahoma, we have Blue Ribbon Downs, parimutuel race track (quarter horses).

With a strong Chamber of Commerce, headed for 31 years by the late Paul Latture (see April, 1986, issue of *The Journal*), industry has been sought and has come to the area, bringing a solid and lasting prosperity. The Chamber of Commerce is still going strong, with an interest not only to new industry but to tourism as well. Richard Sugg succeeds Paul Latture.

We can look forward with much optimism. But Jack Moseley, editor of the *Southwest Times Record*, says it best:

"Consider this tourism possibility:

"Come to Fort Smith for the National Historic Site. Not for just a few hours, but for several days. With

Fort Smith as your tourist headquarters, go to the races one day in Sallisaw. Visit the Cherokee attractions another. Board a boat on the riverfront and cruise over to Van Buren to shop historic Main Street. The next day, why not hop on a train at the old depot (which now sits alongside a private railroad on which a passenger train could be added), rumble through the Boston Mountains, eat a meal on the rails, visit Fayetteville, enjoy an afternoon return trip, arriving back in Van Buren just in time for a moonlight cruise on the river and a late dinner at an area restaurant, perhaps followed by a little live entertainment and dancing.

"Impossible? Not at all. The overwhelming majority of everything needed to develop such a vacation experience is already here. We just have to put it all together and use our imaginations a bit."

Fort Smith is now the sister city of Cisterna, Italy, due to our own Darby's Rangers. All we can add to Moseley's comments is that the tourist might wish to see Cisterna Square, soon to be opened on Garrison Avenue and ride the trolley, soon to run again in Fort Smith.

The way we see it, imaginations have been fired up for ten years, and the pot is boiling. Nothing is impossible.

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Gail Underwood, Fort Smith Public Library
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Cpl. Bob Stevenson, Police Community Relations
Janie Glover, Chamber of Commerce (Fort Smith)
Jennifer Brown, Director, Gregory Kistler Treatment
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Joan Stratman, City Administration
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Mrs. Nenya Hayworth, Asylum Design

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Capt. Jerry W. Gregory, Fort Chaffee
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Kathleen Gray, Cooper Clinic
Mrs. Josephine Decker, Holt-Krock Clinic
June Bradney, Holt-Krock Clinic
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Janet Corbin, Fort Smith Junior Civic League
Dorothy Williams, Altrusa Club
Lee Merry, Fort Smith Junior League

Final Sebastian County Arkansas Sesquicentennial Event Naturalization

Amelia Martin

December 17, 1986, is a date to be remembered forever by the 177 residents of the Western District of Arkansas who became citizens of the United States of America on that day, and others who attended their naturalization ceremony.

All naturalization ceremonies are special to persons involved in them, but this one held extra special meaning. It was the last of many special events held in Sebastian County during the Arkansas Sesquicentennial Celebration; is believed to be the largest naturalization ceremony ever held in Arkansas; and it was the privilege of the principal speaker, State Senator Travis Miles, to have Gaing Nguyen, for whom he was guardian until her eighteenth birthday, and five members of her family among the 177 new citizens.

The 177 persons, representing thirty-five nationalities, were proclaimed citizens by the U.S. District Judge, Morris "Buzz" Arnold, in a solemn ceremony held in the Holiday Inn Civic Center in Fort Smith.

After residing in the United States five years or longer, and many months of studying the history and government of the United States, taking written and oral tests and demonstrating good moral character, the 177 candidates pledged their allegiance to the United States of America and were awarded citizenship.

The ceremony began with the Presentation of Colors by the Arkansas Army National Guard and an invocation by Dr. Stanley Farmer, First Presbyterian

Church, Van Buren, Arkansas. John F. Cook, III, attorney, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Memphis, Tennessee, presented the petitioners, and the Oath of Allegiance was administered by Sallie Lea Champion, Courtroom Deputy Clerk.

Candidates were welcomed by Violet Isaacks, Regent of the Fort Smith Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. In her welcome, Mrs. Isaacks said, "We fought for and won this country and we want you to share it, support it, be loyal to it, and love it as we do."

State Senator Travis Miles' message to the new citizens has a message for all citizens of our great nation, a reminder of our great privilege to live in the United States of America, for whose freedom our forefathers fought and died. With Senator Miles' permission, the body of his address follows:

"East is East, and West is West,
And never the twain shall meet,
Till earth and sky stand presently
At God's Great Judgement seat.
But there is neither East or West,
Border, nor breed, nor birth,
When two strong men stand face to face,
Though they come from the ends of the earth.'

"To all you new Americans, I want you to know that, in one way at least, I am envious of you. You have become Americans by choice, rather than by accident of birth. First, you have come to America, and I suspect for some of you, that alone was a major



New Citizens take Oath of Allegiance led by Sallie Lea Champion, Courtroom Deputy Clerk. Photo courtesy *Southwest Times Record*.

accomplishment, won at a cost of material possessions, leaving members of your family, and a farewell, perhaps forever, to your homelands. Your very being here represents a victory. Then you made the decision to seek American citizenship, and that required the overcoming of obstacles, such as the barriers of language and customs. You had to study, to learn a new way of life, and I commend you for that. You are Americans by choice, and I can only imagine how that feels. I will never experience it for myself.

"I want to tell you that you are now citizens of the greatest nation on the face of the earth, the greatest social experiment in the history of mankind, a country founded on the principle that one nation, under God, can be indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

"Yours is a nation made up of fifty states and some 250 million people who believe that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights. That among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Yours is a nation that was forged to overcome oppression, tempered in the awful crucible of civil war, and flourishes today as a beacon of freedom, hope and prosperity for all the world to see.

"You are Americans now, and I want to encourage you to 'drop the hyphen'. You know, in some quarters, it is considered fashionable to be Irish-Hyphen-Americans, or German-Hyphen-Americans, or Italian-Hyphen-Americans, or Afro-Hyphen-Americans, or Japanese-Hyphen-Americans, or Cuban-Hyphen-Americans, or Vietnamese-Hyphen-Americans. Webster's Dictionary defines 'hyphen' as a symbol used to divide and I have to wonder if a hyphenated American is indeed a divided American? I say to you, 'drop that hyphen' because you're Americans now.

"Sure, it's okay to hold on to memories, to preserve and pass along your culture, and we'll all be the richer for it. But don't use it to divide, to set yourselves apart, because we were all immigrants once, and we're all Americans now. The only difference is a generation or two, or five, or ten. You know, there have been times in our nation's history, when we... quote, Americans, unquote... did use the hyphen to set people apart, like when the potato famine devastated Ireland in 1846, and Irish immigrants were greeted in New York with signs that read, 'No Irish need apply', when they sought jobs to support their families. So they fanned out all over this land and became a part of the American Dream. At least two of their descendants have attained the high office of President of the United States. So, 'drop the hyphen' — you're Americans now, and that's what counts.

"You know, the United States of America is the world's oldest living republic, and at various times in our nation's history, we have regarded the great population centers of our nation as 'melting pots' — cities like New York and San Francisco, and more recently, Miami — melting pots, where culture, races

and creeds were fused together, and people became 'Americans' in the truest sense of the word.

"I would suggest to you that today your city, Fort Smith, Arkansas, has become a 'melting pot' of people and cultures. I am proud of that, and I believe you should be, too.

"Consider for a moment that in a five-mile drive from downtown Fort Smith to Wildcat Mountain Road, if your taste desires, you can experience a Greek salad, an American hamburger, a dish of European-inspired yogurt with your choice of toppings, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Vietnamese packaged foods, Southern barbecue, Hagen-Daz Ice Cream, Italian pizza, Mexican tacos, and Chicken Chow Mein. Your food might be served by anyone from Zisimos Catsavis to Jim Lewis to Tommy Calderera to Steven Chen.

"While you're driving out Rogers Avenue, you might have the opportunity to wave to people from any of a hundred different nationalities and cultural backgrounds and by turning your radio dial, listen to anything from the Russian Tchaikovsky to the American Willie Nelson to the Australian Olivia Newton-John to the English Duran Duran. And, if the time of day is right and one of the establishments you visit has a television on, you just might get to see performances by such great American performers as Mikhail Baryshnikov, or great American athletes like Fernando Valenzuela, Alberto Salazar, Uwe Von Schamann or Akeem Olajuwon.

"Right here in western Arkansas we are a part of a melding of people, customs and cultures that could exist, in all this world, only in America, **The Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave.**

"And now, you're a part of it, and we're glad. I'm going to presume to tell you something about the cultural heritage we now share. You know we Americans like our music. We like to sing about the Sidewalks of New York, the Moon over Miami, the Yellow Rose of Texas, the Saint Louis Blues, A House in New Orleans, Chicago, Chicago That Wonderful Town, Colorado Rocky Mountain High, Oklahoma Where the Wind Comes Sweeping O'er the Plain, and how We Left Our Hearts in San Francisco, Our City by the Bay.

"America, it's a beautiful land. It's beautiful for 'spacious skies', like I hope you'll someday see, in, say Montana, the 'Big Sky Country'. 'For amber waves of grain', like we have in Arkansas, Texas and Oklahoma. For 'purple mountain majesties', and boy, do we have them, the Catskills, the Alleghenies, the Adirondacks, the Smokies, the Ouachitas, the Ozarks, the Sierras, and the granddaddy of them all, the Rockies, standing majestically 'above the fruited plain', which you'll find, as far as the eye can see, in Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa and the Dakotas.

"'America! America! God shed his grace on thee.' This is a prayer we say, every time we sing this song, 'America the Beautiful'. It's a prayer we earnestly mean, and one which we believe God has truly answered, just like when we ask Him to 'crown they good with brotherhood'... well, maybe He, and we,

are still working on that one. We're not quite there yet, but we keep asking because we **are** striving for brotherhood, 'from sea' ... the Atlantic on the east ... 'to shining sea' ... the Pacific on the west. America is 'beautiful for Pilgrims' feet' ... you know, the first immigrants, 'whose stern, impassioned stress' ... that means they were determined in the face of great odds and obstacles that we can't even conceive of today. 'A thoroughfare', like a road, a wide, open highway, 'for freedom beat, across the wilderness'. You know, this country **was** once a wilderness. It's hard for us to imagine now, but those first settlers had to carve a nation out of a wilderness, and we can be truly thankful that they did. 'America! America! God mend thine every flaw.' That's another little prayer we pray because we know we sure aren't perfect. We've come a long, long way, but we still have a long way to go. And it continues, 'confirm thy soul in self-control'. That means self-regulation to see that we don't ever get too big for our britches and that we always have respect for the rights of others. 'Confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law.' Liberty, of course, means freedom ... 'liberty in law' means that we are a democracy. We govern ourselves. Our nation is built on a cornerstone of freedom, and we make our own laws to protect and preserve it.

"'O beautiful for heroes proved, in liberating strife' — that means that we Americans have always fought for what we believed in, from Valley Forge and Bunker Hill to Gettysburg and Appomattox, to Belleau Wood and Chateau-Thierry, to Sicily and Normandy and Bastogne, Guam, the Marianas and Corregidor, from the Yalu River to Pork Chop Hill, to Phnom Penh, Pleiku and the Mekong Delta 'who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!' Well, that just means that the principles we believe in are more important, sometimes, than whether we live or die ... and some of us have died to defend them.

"'America! America! May God thy gold refine, till all success be nobleness, and every gain divine.' That, of course, is just another little prayer, which says all these great riches we have here in America need always be used in the right way, to help people, and for the glory of Almighty God. 'O beautiful for patriot dream, that sees beyond the years,' we're a nation of dreamers, you see, and we always will be. We love our country and we want the best for her. 'Thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears', well, maybe not always, but we're working on it, and hopefully, someday, our cities will be shining and pure, and pain and suffering will be all but eliminated. A lot of us are working toward that end, and now that you are American citizens, you can help. 'America! America! God shed His grace on thee, and crown thy good with brotherhood, from sea to shining sea. Amen.'

"Familiar to all Americans, probably even to you newest ones, is the brief poem with which I now shall close. At least, a **part** of it is familiar to you. Because,

you know, we Americans have an annoying habit of picking out **just a part** of our favorite poems, and committing that part only to memory. I, for one, like to look at the entire poem, because **sometimes**, the less familiar portion is just as meaningful as the more often quoted one:

The New Colossus

By: Emma Lazarus

(Inscribed on a tablet in the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty in 1903)

"Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles, From her beacon-hand
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
'Keep ancient lands, your storied pomp!' cries she
With silent lips. 'Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!'"

After Senator Miles' final words, the candidates lined up to receive their certificates of naturalization.

The ceremony was closed with all present repeating the Pledge of Allegiance led by Girl Scouts of America Troop 188, and the retiring of the colors.

Following the ceremony, new citizens, relatives and friends attended a reception hosted by the Fort Smith Chapter DAR.

The National Society DAR, which was organized in 1890 by a group of women for the promotion of Education, History and Patriotism for Americans, has long been interested in those who have come to American shores seeking a new home.

In 1913, this society founded in Washington, D.C., the Americanization School for helping persons of foreign birth who live in the United States to get an education and learn the history of America.

By an act of Congress in 1919, this school was incorporated into the District of Columbia school system, but the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution has continued to print the DAR Manual for Citizenship which is distributed to all candidates for citizenship to assist them in their study. The manual was originally printed in nineteen languages and English, but is printed in English only now, in accordance with the United States Immigration authorities.

The Fort Smith Chapter DAR was organized in 1912 as the Martha Baker Thurman Chapter (name changed in 1960). As far back as records are available, members of this Chapter, with the cooperation of the District Court, have made all arrangements for naturalization ceremonies held in Fort Smith. This includes planning the agenda, securing color guards and speakers, and providing a reception after the ceremony.

NATURALIZATION RECORDS

The Fort Worth Branch of National Archives has custody of approximately three feet of naturalization records created by the Fort Smith Federal Courts. The naturalization records of the U.S. District Court include declarations, petitions, and oaths of admission (1872-1906); declarations of intention after the 1906 Act (1907-1949); petitions after the 1906 Act (1911-1964); and stubs of naturalization certificates (1907-1926). The records of the U.S. Circuit Court include naturalization orders (1900-1906) and petitions (1906-1911).

NATURALIZATION LAWS

Since the founding of our nation, the process of naturalization has been of concern to the people of the United States and through the years laws governing naturalization have changed many times. The following narrative, which gives a brief background of these changes, is used by the National Archives in its various microfilm publications of naturalization records:

NATURALIZATION

Since colonial times, the process of naturalization has been of special concern to the people of the United States. A grievance against George III on this point appears in the Declaration of Independence: "He has endeavored to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws of Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migration hither..." The concern carried over into the Constitution which provided that "The Congress shall have the Power... To establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization..." (article 1, section 8). Although this concern shifted from one of welcome to one of judicious selection, it took over 100 years to do so and the tradition of an open door remains operative, especially for political refugees.

From the beginning of its independent existence, the Government of the United States has placed the final decision in citizenship applications on judges. From 1790 to 1906 the courts were the sole administrators of naturalization laws, and although U.S. consular and Immigration and Naturalization Service officers now dominate the initial naturalization process, the courts remain the authority that grants citizenship. "Any common law court of record" has been available to alien applicants since the passage of the first naturalization law in 1790, and this phrase has embraced federal, state and territorial courts, as well as those of pre-territorial organized units such as the District of Alaska.

The first naturalization act, passed by Congress on March 26, 1790 (1 Stat. 103), allowed an alien to obtain citizenship by one visit to a court after only 2 year's residence in the United States. Congress, feeling that it had set the standard for citizenship too low, repealed this act and passed another on January 29, 1795 (1 Stat. 414), which, except for a brief period (1798-1802), established eligibility and

procedural requirements that so far have been the foundation of U.S. policy and legislation in this field.

Eligibility requirements were as follows: (1) sex: male or female, (2) age: 21 or over (the children of a successful applicant became citizens automatically, others under 21 could initiate regular procedures upon attaining that age), (3) race: "white", (4) residency: 5 years within the United States, including 1 year within the state in which the court of application was located, and (5) general attributes: "free," of "good moral character" in the eyes of the court, and loyal to the United States.

Procedure was a two-step affair. After at least two year's residence, an alien filed with a court a "declaration of intention" to become a citizen. At least three years after filing a declaration, he or she could return to court and file a "petition for admission to citizenship," which the court then granted if finding the applicant otherwise eligible.

The one exception to the generally liberal naturalization process established in 1795 was the result of a movement against foreigners in the United States that arose during the undeclared naval war with France. The Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798, among other things, required the filing of a declaration 5 years before admission to citizenship and residence of 14 years in the United States, including 5 years in a state (1 Stat. 566). Reaction against the harshness of this law finally became so strong that on April 14, 1802, Congress supplanted it with a new naturalization act (2 Stat. 153), which reasserted the provisions of the 1795 act.

The act of 1802 was the last piece of legislation affecting the basic nature of naturalization until 1906. During these 104 years, a number of revisions were made that merely altered or clarified details of evidence and certification without changing the basic nature of admission procedure. In 1824, for instance, Congress passed an act affecting applicants who had to wait until they were 21 to initiate naturalization procedures by allowing them to count their residency as minors toward the 5-year residence requirement (4 Stat. 69). In 1855, citizenship was made automatically possible for alien wives of U.S. citizens (10 Stat. 604). In 1862, Congress waived the filing of declarations by aliens honorably discharged from the Union Army (12 Stat. 597). A similar act covering the Navy and Marine Corps was passed in 1894 (28 Stat. 124), and in 1918 an omnibus act valid to this day was passed that retained these provisions and added that military service of 3 years or more entitled an alien to file for citizenship (40 Stat. 542). In 1870, the naturalization process was opened to aliens of African descent (16 Stat. 256).

By the turn of the 20th century, the steadily increasing numbers of immigrants entering the United States each year had given rise to a number of problems, among them the increasing burden placed upon clerks of courts, who did most of the work related to naturalization procedures. To relieve this burden and to provide a "uniform rule for the

naturalization of aliens throughout the United States," Congress passed an act on June 29, 1906 (32 Stat. 596), establishing the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, and put some of its officers in charge of examining the petitions for citizenship filed at courts. Although the judges kept their independence, henceforth the findings and recommendations of this agency have been the basis for final determination of courts as to the admission, denial, or continued investigation of alien petitioners. Although arguably only technical, the change to executive branch control over the examination process was a basic one.

During World War I, immigration visas were first introduced, and with the passage of the Immigration Act of 1924 (43 Stat. 153), these documents became necessary to enter the United States. The requirements for obtaining visas could be called the initial step in naturalization from that time onward. The salient feature of this act was the establishment of a ceiling upon the total number of immigrants that could enter the United States each year. Immigration in unlimited numbers, which had been so desirable during the late 18th and in the 19th century, came to an end at this time, even for "whites." The act introduced a "national origins" quota system based on the 1890, later the 1920, census. In effect, this gave immigrants from the British Isles and West Europe an advantage over those from other parts of the world. Independent countries of the Western Hemisphere were exempted from the quota system.

There was no major change in naturalization laws for a considerable period following the 1924

Immigration Act. Congress did pass an act on September 22, 1922 (42 Stat. 1021), that retracted automatic citizenship for alien wives of U.S. citizens, although they could file a petition for citizenship after a 1-year residency and did not have to file any declaration. In 1940, Congress passed a law that required both parents must be citizens before minors could acquire citizenship based on parental status (54 Stat. 1145).

A new Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 (66 Stat. 163) introduced three changes worth recording here. It extended annual quotas of not fewer than 100 immigrants to countries whose citizens had previously been ineligible to enter the United States as candidates for citizenship. It also established an overall annual ceiling at a flat one-sixteenth of one percent of the population of the United States as of 1920, replacing the previous system whereby Congress reestablished the overall figure periodically. Lastly, it eliminated the mandatory filing of a declaration of intention, presumably because this step had been replaced for all practical purposes by that of obtaining an immigration visa. The role of the courts was thus reduced to making the final determination on admission.

The last overhaul of the immigration and naturalization system to date (1981) occurred with the passage of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 (79 Stat. 911). This act eliminated the national origins quota system, giving to all independent countries the same number of entrants under the overall ceiling.

SOURCES

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Fort Smith Times Record, December 18, 1986, pages 1A and 7A

Secretary's minutes, Fort Smith Chapter DAR

Ritual, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, page 22

National Bylaws and DAR Handbook of the NSDAR, page 89

Manuscript of address of Senator Travis Miles

Preliminary inventory describing the records of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Arkansas (other court divisions are included) held in the National Archives, Fort Worth, Texas, Branch.

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State Senator Travis Miles

Poets and Poetry

Gretchen Youmans

Sarah Fitzjarrald

Gretchen Youmans was born July 10, 1895, in Fort Smith. Her parents were Frank and Delia (Enroughty) Youmans, and her father was a former federal judge for the Western District of Arkansas.

A lifelong resident of Fort Smith, Gretchen grew up with three brothers and two sisters, attended local schools and graduated from Fort Smith High School (now known as Darby Junior High).

She was a member of First United Methodist Church, Lydian Sunday School class, the National League of American Pen Women (Fort Smith Branch), and a charter member of the Fort Smith Branch of the Poets Roundtable of Arkansas.

She served First United Methodist Church for many years as assistant librarian.

Deeply religious, Gretchen's serious poetry reflects her faith. But she also had a sparkling sense of humor and a rare charm which touched everyone she met.

She died December 19, 1986, at the age of 91, leaving a legacy of poetry and memories which will endure.

She is survived by a sister, Catherine McCartney, of Fort Smith, and a brother, Paul E. Youmans, of Denver, Colorado, several nieces, great-nieces and great-nephews.



Gretchen Youmans

THERE WAS A STAR

There was a star, Lord,
Always ahead to mark
The way that led me to the manger
Where you lay.
Light shown all around you when
I saw you there, but not as now,
Now in the dark.
How did you find me, Lord?
There is no light,
There is no star,
But here beside me in the night
You are.

FIRST BIRD SONG

Melody trickling into dawn,
Waking spring, and breaking
Silences these months unbroken,
Is strangely yours, Mockingbird.
Can it be remembered music
Heard in the summer past — or is your ear
Attuned to hear your whole life long,
The lilt of every song
That has been tossed upon the air
And never lost?

SURPRISES ARE SURPRISING

Mother looked like Mother
when I went away on Monday
To visit Grandpa, but when Father
brought me home on Sunday
The house was lighted, and I saw her
standing at the door,
And thought, "I didn't know that she
was beautiful before."
Did Father see? I tried to speak,
then felt I needn't do it —
The way he smiled showed plain as day
that he already knew it.

WESTWARD HO

On galloping chairs
We cross the plains
In the room upstairs,
But when it rains
Then John and Mary
Come inside,
And each one wants a horse to ride.
More horses though,
For John and Mary,
Would crowd things so
There on the prairie,
That we all climb
Up on the bed,
And go by wagon train
Instead.

MIDSUMMER MOCKINGBIRD

Out of the deep night! stillness
A single golden raindrop of sound,
Repeated, growing in volume
Into a deluge of molten music,
Pours into a world of moonlight
Struck breathless by this cascade of melody.

MY NIGHT LIFE

"Lift up your head, your posture is wrong,"
Helpful friends offer as we walk along,
"Straighten your shoulders, your waistline draw in,
Thrust forward your chest, and pull backward your chin."
My faith lacking now in my physical grace
I feel need of building it back into place —
And, listing domestic concerns by the score
I say my goodbyes, and go into my door
To work at my stance, but to find I forgot
What parts should protrude, and what others should not.
So waiting for dark seems the course left to me —
I break all the rules, and walk comfortably.

In Loving Memory



VERNA SOIFER

Verna Soifer, 87, newspaper columnist, retired teacher, poet, and contributor to *The Journal*, died February 13, 1987, in a Fort Smith hospital after a brief illness.

She was a member of the United Hebrew Congregation, Retired Teachers Association, the Fort Smith Branch

of the National League of American Pen Women, and other civic organizations.

She began her professional writing career at the age of 75 and had become a daily contributor to the *Southwest Times Record* with her column "Living With Yourself", which gained her many fans.

Throughout her long career as teacher and civic-minded citizen, she received many awards, among which was the prestigious "Golden Apple".

She is survived by two sisters, Lois Craig and Helen Aingworth, both of Stillwater, Oklahoma.

(For a copy of her biography and some of her writing, see the September, 1985, issue of the *Fort Smith Historical Society Journal*.)

Verna Soifer wrote to many people in varied positions in life, but one of her columns in particular spoke to everyone:

Self Pity

Poor little me! I never had a chance. The odds were against me. Things didn't work out right for me. I could have if... I wanted to but... Stop it! Stamp your foot — face yourself, Honey, you just didn't show your gutsiness. Of course you had talent. You even had a lukewarm desire. A burning desire? No, or you would have tried harder. When all is said and done, you've got to make your own chance. It's absolutely up to little old you! Get with it NOW.

We share with you her last two newspaper columns, printed in the *Southwest Times Record*:

February 15, 1987

Cantankerous people can be the most difficult problems of their families who love them the most. Don't we know? We see the varying examples all around us. We are all for those of sturdy independence; but when that independence becomes stubborn, unreasonable resistance, families should be firm, just, loving — but they should not feel guilty in refusing to continue the impossible.

I'm talking to myself and to my peers of the eighties and the nineties — for goodness sake — let's try to give a little, yield a little, and be more flexible at this stage of life. We must, we must, for the sake of those who love us and are responsible for us.

February 17, 1987

What stifles you? Check your mental allergies. What bores you? Switch to something that piques your interest.

What triggers your anger? Name it and find out why.

What disgusts you? Avoid the experience if it is something revolting.

What frustrates you? Work to prevent it happening.

What frightens you? If it is reasonable, it can be understood and somewhat alleviated, usually.

What depresses you? There is much help available for you — find it.

What worries you? You can quit being a worrywart, if you wish.

What makes you sick? It could be psychosomatic.

If a Physical doesn't tell why — then it's up to you.

These questions are all negative. Check your answers. They will help you know yourself.

This column was followed by the editor's note that saddened her many readers: "Due to the death of Verna Soifer, this is the final column."

Verna Soifer is gone, but her influence lives on in the lives of the students she taught and the words of wisdom in her column.

JOHN LUCE

John Luce, who served the citizens of Fort Smith for more than 40 years and was recognized nationally as an expert in water resource development, died February 17, 1987, in Fort Smith. Burial was at Oak Cemetery with a Masonic graveside service.

As an employee of the Fort Smith Water Department, which he later headed for 25 years, Luce and fellow city workers saved the city from being totally without water in the summer of 1929. With less than one 24-hour supply of water for 38,000 people, Luce supervised the non-stop digging of a 400-foot canal that brought water to the city after the Poteau River became so low that municipal pumps were useless. The men's frantic but successful effort, which was partially conducted by lantern light in a snake-infested river bottom, went unreported to the people of Fort Smith for more than 50 years.

In 1947, Luce, 24 city workers, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and hundreds of volunteers were involved in a massive effort to keep downtown Fort Smith from being flooded when a leak developed in a reservoir dam at Wister on the River. The leak was plugged, and the potential disaster was averted.



John Luce went on to become city water superintendent, to serve three seven-year terms as chairman of the Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission under both Democratic and Republican governors, to be chairman of the Southern Water Resources Board, and be awarded the nation's highest honor for water supply development — the Fuller Award.

President Gerald Ford in 1976 named Luce to head the Arkansas-Oklahoma Arkansas River Compact Commission that oversees water development projects in both states. Luce retired from that post in 1983.

Shortly before his death, Luce was recognized for his work with the Soil Conservation Service in western Arkansas, where he planned and executed dozens of flood control and water supply projects that eliminated many rural floods and assured adequate water supplies for smaller communities.

A lifetime member of the American Water Works Association, he was instrumental in developing licensing and professional planning for major water projects in Arkansas, where he was a leader in the Arkansas Water Works Association for many years.

A member of St. John's Episcopal Church, he was a 32nd degree Mason and member of Belle Point Masonic Lodge No. 20, where he was a past master.

He is survived by his wife, Fern; two sons, Bill of Fort Smith and John B. Luce, Jr., of San Antonio, Texas; two brothers, William F. Luce of Guatemala, Central America, and Charles M. Luce of Irving, Texas; three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



CECIL WELLER, SR.

Cecil Weller, Sr., a Fort Smith School Board member who was active in many civic and church groups, died in his home December 29, 1986, of a heart attack.

Weller was a deacon of Grand Avenue Baptist Church, serving a five-year term on the National Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, and was a

Boy Scouts of America executive in the local Westark Area Council from 1969 through 1981.

He was chairman of the Fort Smith Parks and Recreation Commission, a board he served on since 1983, a member of the Sebastian County Park Commission since 1984, and a veteran of the Korean War.

He served as finance chairman and president of the Fort Smith Girls Shelter; chairman of the Salvation Army Advisory Board; past metro chairman of Christian Businessmen's Committee; past chairman of the mayor's prayer breakfast; past secretary

of the Men's Fast Pitch Softball Association; and secretary of the Fort Smith Rotary Club.

A graduate of the University of Alabama, he also did graduate work in history at the university.

In March, 1985, he was elected to a three-year term on the Fort Smith School Board. He also was chairman of the school board's athletic committee and served on the board's properties committee and public/student affairs committee.

He is survived by his wife, Sarah; two daughters, Margie of the home and Dotti Newberry of Rogers; a son, Eddie of Fort Worth, Texas; two sisters, Francis Philbrick of Tacoma, Washington, and Patsy Stevens of Birmingham, Alabama; a brother, A.J., of Florissant, Missouri; and two grandsons.

GUY HIXSON

Guy Hixson, 76, a business manager for the Fort Smith School District, died November 4, 1986, in a Fort Smith hospital. Burial was at Roselawn Cemetery.

He was a member of the First United Methodist Church, Lions Club, Sebastian County Tax Board, County Board of Education, Retired Teachers Association, and Aldergate Sunday School Class.

He is survived by his wife, Verneil; two daughters, Guyla Hardman of Helena and Marsha Willis of Fort Smith; a half sister, Leda Lockwood of Muldrow, a step sister, Pearline Brawdy of Muldrow; two brothers, Marvin of Fort Smith and Carl of Muldrow; three half brothers, Evert of Tahlequah, Wayne of Fort Smith and Waydron of Dallas; and three grandchildren.



KEN CHRISTOPHER

Ken Christopher, 76, a member of the Fort Smith Historical Society and a contributor of historical information, died October 16, 1986. Burial was at Oak Cemetery.

He was a self-employed real estate broker, a member of the Fort Smith Board of Realtors, Southside Rotary Club and the First Christian Church, a charter member of the Quiet Birdman Association, an Air Force veteran of the Korean War, and an Army Air Corps veteran of World War II.

He is survived by his wife, Louise; three daughters, Connie Smith of Fort Smith, Beth Turtle of Manhattan, Kansas, and Kimberly Allen of Manitoba, Canada; a son, Robert Christopher of Snowmass Village, Colorado; a stepson, Dr. Walden Williams of Jonesboro, Arkansas; two brothers, Tom Christopher of Princeville, Illinois, and Jerry Christopher of Moline, Illinois; and six grandchildren.



ERIC ALLEN

Eric Allen, nationally known novelist and Fort Smith area newspaperman, died October 27, 1986, at age 70. He lived at Liberty, Oklahoma, and is buried in the Liberty cemetery.

The most recent of his thirty novels is "Smoke in the Wind." It is adapted from the 1971 motion picture by the same name, for which Allen wrote the screenplay.

Allen's first novel, "Hangtree Country," first released in 1958 and distributed worldwide in many foreign languages, could be his favorite. Another likely favorite is a Gothic mystery, "Voices in the Wind," published by Signet Books in 1967. It was written from a woman's point of view, under his mother's name, Erica Long Allen.

While Allen spent much of the last 30 years writing fiction based on fact, he also worked for many years as a newspaper writer and editor.

In 1963, the *Southwest Times Record* recruited him from the Enid (Oklahoma) *Morning News*, where he worked as the paper's news editor.

Allen spent the first of his nine years writing features for the SWTR "Southside News" edition. His last eight years at the paper were spent as a travel feature writer and photographer.

From there, he went to Sallisaw to work on the *Sequoyah County Times*, and after a year there, moved to Muldrow where he purchased the *Big Basin Herald* newspaper. After a little more than three years in Muldrow, Allen retired to write his novels and short stories at home.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two daughters, Linda Redding of Fort Smith and Waiva Strain of Alma; two sons, the Rev. Stephen Allen of Chattanooga, Tennessee, and the Rev. Bruce Allen

of Kerrville, Texas; two sisters, Audrey Czarnikow of Scott, Oklahoma, and Vangie Burris of Roland; two brothers, Dayton of Roland and John of Liberty; 10 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

FLORENCE ST. JOHN

Florence M. St. John, 79, a retired school teacher and contributor of historical information to the Fort Smith Historical Society, died September 10, 1986, in her home. She was an English teacher at Darby Junior High School from 1928 until her retirement in 1957, and was a member of First United Methodist Church.

A memorial service was held in Roebuck Chapel of First United Methodist Church, and her body was donated to science.

She is survived by a nephew, Sherley Bain Adams of Mobile, Alabama.

WILLIE METHENY

Willie Lorene Metheny, 65, wife of a former member of the Fort Smith Historical Society board, died in her home March 31, 1986, with burial at Oak Cemetery.

She was a retired nurse at St. Edward Mercy Medical Center, a member of West-Ark Church of Christ and the American Legion Auxiliary.

She is survived by her husband, Arlie; five sons, Robert of Memphis, Ronald of Fort Smith, James and William, both of Dallas, and Gary of Conway; a sister, Mary Boydston of Strathmore, California; two brothers, Loren Stroble of Independence, Missouri, and J.W. Stroble of Vernon, Texas; and four grandchildren.

MAMIE BARTON

Mamie Barton, 86, retired Belle Grove school teacher, died February 27, 1987, in a Fort Smith hospital. She was a member of the First Baptist Church. Graveside services were held March 3 at Oak Cemetery.

She is survived by a brother, Hugh Morrison of Fort Smith, four nieces and two nephews.

The family received friends at the home of Elizabeth Mullens, 5801 South Y Street.

ANNUAL BELLE FORT SMITH TOUR OF HISTORICAL HOMES

Saturday and Sunday
May 16 and 17, 1987

For information and tickets, write:

Clayton House
514 North 6th Street
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72901
Telephone 501-783-3000

OLD FORT RIVER FESTIVAL

Thursday through Sunday
May 7-10, 1987

The Fort Smith Junior League is the sponsor of this event that has something for everyone — food, fun, and fellowship.

Inquiries

Inquiries are printed in *The Journal*, as space allows, free of charge. They must refer to the Fort Smith area or be submitted by members of the Fort Smith Historical Society.

* * * * *

REAMS, DUNN, OVERTON

Need additional information re above family names. Would like to correspond with anyone doing research on these families. REAMS, Fort Smith area 1880. Need death date for Amanda E. Dunn, widow of James Dunn, last known date in Fort Smith 1900. Need further info regarding Vinnie Reams m. James Overton of Bonanza 1900. Other REAMS given names: William H., Mark, Millie, Lily, Nettie, Claude, Clayton. Families also lived in Indian Territory. Betty Gill, 2321 Felicia Avenue, Rowland Hts., CA 91748.

* * * * *

BALL, BOESSER, GIVENS, HUFF, JUNK

Have photographs of members of the Ball, Boesser, Givens, Huff and Junk families who lived in Fort Smith 1890-1910, which I would like to give to descendants. Please contact Joyce Page, 7501 Long Pine Drive, Springfield, VA 22151.

* * * * *

FIX

We are attempting to locate the burial place of Cyrus L. Fix. Our information says he died at Lone Wolf, Arkansas, June 17, 1917. Grady A. O'Connor, Choctaw Historical Society, 2701 North Triple XXX Road, Choctaw, OK 73020. Telephone 405-390-2771.

* * * * *

BRUCE, CLARK, VERNON

Looking for information about Asa Clark, b. 1808, Maine; died 4 June 1890, Fort Smith. Wife Sarah died 1891. Need parents and Sarah's maiden name. Have connections to the Bruce and Vernon families. Steve Clark, c/o C.W. Clark, Route 1, Box 553, Hackett, AR 72937.

* * * * *

RHODES

I am looking for information regarding Jacob Rhodes from South Carolina and Jefferson County, Arkansas, in 1855 or '56 who went to California with a wagon train from Fort Smith. Our information is that he joined up with an ox team and took six months to reach California, arriving in 1856. He would have been 20 or 21 years of age upon his departure and would have been traveling as a single male. Harvey B. Rhodes, 20824 Lakeside Court, Sonora, CA 95370.

* * * * *

GOODNIGHT

Am engaged in a massive research project to develop a comprehensive history of the Goodnight family in America. Have some Arkansas notes on the Goodnight family, but need assistance of anyone knowing of a published history of this family at any time. Wilbur H. Eskite, Jr., 13414 Dowlais Drive, Rockville, MD 20853.

* * * * *

WALTON, BUCHANAN

Need burial place of Henry J. Walton. I quote from letter written in Fort Smith, dated May 19, 1863, by J.E. Buchanan to someone addressed as "Pap": "I am sorry to tell you that Henry Walton is dead. He died on the 18th of this month... You can tell his wife that he was put away as decent as could be expected..." Also, who was J.E. Buchanan? Mrs. Elvyn H. Cline, Route 2, Box 125, Ozark, AR 72949.

* * * * *

CHANDLER

Looking for burial site of Roy Chandler and his wife, Dovie. Died in Fort Smith in the late 1950s. Mrs. J.L. Fuller, 203 F Street, Taft, CA 93268.

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PARKS, QUESENBURY

Seeking information on Adeline Parks Quesenbury, wife of Wm. Minor Quesenbury. Her father believed to be Robert Parks. Lived in Fort Smith and Cane Hill, Arkansas. Diane Richards, 4004 Ranch View Road, Fort Worth, TX 76109.

* * * * *

FARRIS

Seeking information on Will Farris, sentenced at Fort Smith by Judge Parker. Robert J. Farris, 76955 Nellie Lane, Cottage Grove, OR 97427.

* * * * *

DUNLAP, GOFORTH, TRAYLOR, WILSON

Need any information on wagon train from Alabama and Mississippi which went through Sebastian Co., Ark., ca 1884, on the way to Indian Territory. Supposed to have been quite a large one. Some families: Dunlaps, Goforths, Traylor and Wilsons. Rev. William Harvey Wilson, b. 2-11-1852 (prob. Ala.), d. 2-2-1892, Cravens, Choctaw Nation, I.T. (now Latimer Co., OK); m. Nancy Jane Traylor, b. 8-28-1861, Alabama, d. 7-18-1943, Wilburton, Latimer Co., OK. Rev. Wilson was said to have preached a sermon on Sugar Loaf Mountain ca 1884. Apparently stayed in Sebastian County until at least 1890 before moving on. Marilyn Swan-Dyer, 1643 North Fairmount, Wichita, KS 67208.

Genealogy News

The following letter comes from Mrs. E. Joyce Christiansen, 408 West Chestnut, Butler, MO 64730:

"I would like to tell you about two books that I have published.

"First, there is *Our James Crow*. This James Crow was my Gt-gt-grandfather. He entered Revolutionary War from Virginia. After the War, he lived and died in Monroe Co., W. Va. I proved his connection to my branch of the family (Crow family), and his service record, making him a newly found Patriot. I have 400 bloodline descendants listed in the book, with some information on each of them, pictures, newspaper items, etc. The book has 193 pages, 8½ x 11. Is indexed. Paperback. Price, \$15.00 postpaid.

"Then, I still have some *Bates County Missouri Cemeteries*. I searched for, found, and read 92 cemeteries in Bates Co. The book is in two volumes with a total of 997 pages, 5½ x 8½, is semi-hard back. There are more than 5,000 surnames listed in them. It has an overall surname index, with each cemetery having its own index also. Also there are directions for finding each cemetery and a Bates Co. map. These sell for \$25.00 postpaid for the set."

Ms. Keelie Thomason is publishing genealogical material on Stoddard Co., MO. She currently has Marriage Records, 1876-1885, approx. 100 pages. Price \$10.95 plus \$2.00 shipping. Coming soon Stoddard Co, MO, Birth, Death and later Marriage records. Ms. Thomason's address is Rt. #3, Box 139, Dexter, MO 63841.

Worthington Descendants is a newsletter edited by Frances Brengle which is written quarterly. Includes unlimited query column related to the Worthington family. Annual subscription \$12.00. Frances Brengle, 6619 Pheasant Road, Baltimore, MD 21220.

Address for editor of *MacCubbin Clan Lines* is Miss Sheila L. Martin, 1 Goodman Lane, Pensacola, FL, 32506.

Frontier Researchers, located in Fort Smith, has a new mailing address. It is: Frontier Researchers, P.O. Box 2123, Fort Smith, AR 72902.

Frontier Research, currently published by Frontier Researchers of Fort Smith, is currently printing a series containing the names of all known Confederates who fought at the Battle of Pea Ridge.

A new historical and genealogical society has been formed in Saline County, Arkansas. Dues are \$5.00 per year, and includes the newsletter. Write Saline County Heritage and Historical Society, P.O. Box 221, Bryant, AR 71613.

The address for the Jefferson County Genealogical Society is P.O. Box 2215, Pine Bluff, AR 71613.

Polk County Genealogical Society may be contacted by writing P.O. Box 12, Hatfield, AR 71945.

Proceeds from the sale of *The Mountain Meadows Massacre, An Outlanders View*, by Jim Lair, will be used for the preservation projects in progress at the 1880's vintage courthouse in Berryville, Arkansas. Price of the book is \$30.00 plus \$2.00 postage. Order from Carroll County Historical & Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 249, Berryville, AR 62616.

Those who are interested in south Logan County, Arkansas, may be interested in contacting Wilba Yandell Welling, P.O. Box 405, Fort Smith, AR 72914. She has published some marriage and cemetery records for the southern district of Logan Co.

If you research in Indiana Courthouses, for 50¢ request a copy of *Research in Indiana Courthouses; Judicial and Other Records*. Write to Mrs. Emma Lents, Family History Section, Indiana Historical Society, 315 West Ohio, Indianapolis, IN 46202.

Price changes: Arkansas birth certificates are now \$5.00, with full name, town, county, date, names of both parents required; death certificates are \$4.00.

Ohio State Dept. of Vital Statistics has reduced the cost of *uncertified* copy of birth and death records to \$1.10 per copy.

Vital record fees for Maine are now \$5.00 for certified copy, \$3.00 for uncertified copy. If no date is known, search fee is \$10.00 per hour.

The latest genealogy fraud is now the genealogy chain letter. The letter states that chain letters are illegal, but this one is merely selling a service. IT IS STILL ILLEGAL. DO NOT PARTICIPATE. IF YOU RECEIVE ONE, CONTACT YOUR POST OFFICE.

Address for some family publications:
BLACK Family Research Organization, P.O. Box 665, Harrah, OK 73405.

HEYDON-HAYDEN-HYDEN, 7911 Yancey Drive, Falls Church, VA 22042.

MOYER-ARENDELL and LOONEY-CLAYTON, 1910 Fordham Place, Gretna, LA 70053.

VAUGHN, Etc. Newsletter is edited by Verna Banes, 5302 Marsh Creek Drive, Austin, TX 78759. If anyone has information on any VAUGHAN (any spelling), please send it along to Mrs. Banes.

The Arkansas History Commission has announced they now have a new seven roll set of indexes to pension given by the U.S. Government to veterans of the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the various Indian wars, and a few early Civil War soldiers. These payments were made for service in the regular army, navy or marine corps. The files are in alphabetical order and give: name of veteran, name of dependent, service unit, certificate number and state of residence.

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James and Mary Veatch Ellis, Their Sons and Other Descendants, was published in 1985 by Ann-Jannette Emerson, 540 Latimer Road, Santa Monica, CA 90402. 6 x 9 inches, 704 pages, illustrated, indexed, \$35.00.

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From the Genealogists Notebook, Genealogical Association of Sacramento *Bulletin*:

"VIRGINIA STATE PENSION ACT, was enacted prior to the Federal Pension Program, and paid more. Therefore, the 465 Revolutionary War pensioners, residents of Virginia, signed the Virginia State Pensions and not the Federal Pension. For information write: Archives Division, Virginia State Library, 12th & Capital Streets, Richmond, VA 23219.

"REVOLUTIONARY WAR: The Branches of the National Archives and Records Service now have available a complete set of the following: M804, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application File, 1800-1900; M881, Compiled Service Records of Soldiers who Served in the American Army during the Revolutionary War; and M860, General Index to Compiled Service Records of the Revolutionary War Soldiers."

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MAINE: The *Bangor Daily News* is running a query column in the Sat/Sun edition. They ask for genealogy questions. Write Family Ties, *Bangor Daily News*, P.O. Box 1329, Bangor, ME 04401.

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**A GUIDE TO FAMILY HISTORY SOURCES
IN THE WINTHROP COLLEGE ARCHIVES**

The Winthrop College Archives in Rock Hill, North Carolina, has issued *A Guide to Family History Sources in the Winthrop College Archives*, a comprehensive listing of 500 family surnames for which information is available. Also included in the guide are record groups containing family history information available in the Archives.

The guide is available for \$6.00, including postage. To order, please write to: Archives, Dacus Library, Winthrop College, Rock Hill, S.C. 29733 or call 803-323-2131 (ext. 28).

The Archives is open for research to the public. Normal hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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Glenn Gleanings is a newsletter containing GLENN family records and inquiries. It is edited by Bette Brengle-Poole, 2203 Aquila's Delight, Fallston, Maryland 21047. Issue 5 contains eight pages. Particularly interesting in this issue is an article "The Name and Family of Glen(n)" and a two page autobiography written by J.R. Glenn, born September 7, 1849, in Cherokee County, Alabama.

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The Fort Smith Historical Society has received a new concept Ancestry Chart from the Scrimgeour Genealogical Concepts Company. This chart allows the user to chart nine generations of ancestors, not only by name, but also by life span, locality and occupation. It is 23 x 35 inches, printed on high quality cardstock, and is supplied in a sturdy mailing tube.

The chart is not available in stores, but may be purchased directly from Scrimgeour Genealogical Concepts, Midtown Mall, Box 187, Worcester, MA 01614. Phone 617-753-1392. Price per copy, \$7.95 plus \$2.00 postage and handling. Quantity prices are available upon request.

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Mary Frances Beasley of Fort Smith, Arkansas, has published a 194 page book, *Culp and Related Families*, which is carefully researched and well written. Softbound copies, indexed, price \$25.00 postpaid. May be ordered from Mary Frances Beasley, 613 Clifton Court, Fort Smith, AR 72903.

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The Tulsa Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 585, Tulsa, OK 74105-0585, has published *Shadows of the Past, Volume 1*. This book is an inventory of the cemeteries of the northern section of Tulsa County, Oklahoma. The cemetery inventories were collected by the Girl Scout Troop 202, of the Magic Empire Council, for their community service award under the direction of TGS member Margaret Hawkins.

The 8½ x 11 inch vinyl covered, velo bound, indexed volumes are \$20.00 plus \$3.00 postage and may be ordered from the Tulsa Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 585, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74101-0585.

Volume II, covering cemeteries in the southern section of Tulsa County, will be published in 1987.

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The Clan Buchanan Society of Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas are looking for Buchanans and their septs. Please contact H.G. Buchanan, 2610 Creswell, Shreveport, LA 71104.

Letters from Readers

Your editors appreciate your letters and comments. We are pleased if you enjoy *The Journal*, and your words of encouragement and appreciation add fuel to our efforts. Thank you, too, for being alert to errors and for caring enough to tell us about them.

Accuracy of any manuscript submitted for printing in *The Journal* is the responsibility of the writer, but because our aim is for 100% accuracy, each manuscript is carefully edited for both writing and content. Obvious errors are corrected, but unfortunately all resource materials for the article are not available to your editors. Accuracy and quality of any writing are only as good as the amount, type and condition of research materials available and the integrity and ability of the researcher and writer.

When research cannot be done entirely from primary records, writers must use secondary sources and take the chance of picking up and using inaccurate statements made by previous writers. Please keep up your efforts to locate and make available primary source materials: i.e., letters, diaries, journals, dockets, photographs, etc. Also, all submitted manuscripts regarding Fort Smith history are considered for publication in *The Journal*.

One publication carries this notice: "Errors found in this publication are put there on purpose. We aim to please everyone, and some folks are always looking for mistakes." This is not true of *The Journal*. Any error in *The Journal* is accidental and will be corrected when written proof of correction is presented.

Keep the comments coming, good or bad!

Amelia Martin, Editor

Sarah Fitzjarrauld McCullough, Associate Editor

I want to thank you all for the many hours of pleasure that *The Journal* has given me. I look forward to receiving each new issue and when it arrives, everything else is put aside until I have read it from cover to cover...

Mary Bradney Sanders, Huntington Beach, CA

Enclosed are my dues for 1987. As usual, I look forward to receiving my *Journals*, and I enjoyed reading the article on the "Boston Store." My wife and I shopped there when I was stationed at "Camp Chaffee," and reading the story, I was reminded of the time I went in to make a purchase and told the young lady who waited on me that I would like to buy some "shots." She looked at me rather funny and said, "Buy what?" I said, "Shots. You know, underwear." She laughed and said, "You must be from Boston, you mean shorts." It probably loses something in the telling, but we both had a good laugh at it at the time.

Bob Bolin, West Newton, MA

Thank you so much for answering my letter and for the information you were so kind to find for me.

Enclosed is my membership application and \$10.00 for membership to your organization. I am enclosing additional money to purchase the three volumes of *The Journal* that contain information on Blaney and Jesse Harper...

Thank you again for your help. I am looking forward to membership with the Fort Smith Historical Society and receiving *The Journal*.

Nancy Kennedy, Russellville, AR

The purpose of this letter is to correct the statement on page 20 of the current *Journal*, that "Mr. Chris Corbin resigned as superintendent of schools."

Mr. Corbin was superintendent for seventeen years with an outstanding record but was fired in the first year of a three-year contract by an over-zealous school board. He sued for the balance of his contract and was successful. The district had to pay the remaining time on his contract as the board did not have reasonable cause for dismissal. He later became the athletic director at Westark Community College, and at that time the school board paid only the difference between his salary and his contract salary from the Fort Smith system.

It is not fair to Mr. Corbin to gloss over his unfair dismissal with a statement that he resigned.

Bill Bardrick, Fort Smith, AR

I've been called lots of names, but never "Leon." GREAT ARTICLE.

Don Bowers

(Don was student body president at Northside High School in 1945. His name is listed as Leon Bowers on page 17 of September issue. "Printers grimplins" must have done that, but we apologize. Thanks for the note, Don.)

A copy of *The Journal* (Vol. 10, No. 2) was brought to my attention; of course I was fascinated with its contents. However, you may have an error on page 6, regarding the years 1936-37. "Grizzly Field was christened by John P. Woods, school board member." This surely was John Rudolph Woods. Mr. Woods signed my 1936 FSHS diploma as "J.R. Woods." My family named me "Rudolph" after Mr. Woods' middle name. He was president of Woods Mfg. Co., manufacturer of men's work and dress clothing, located at the foot of Garrison Avenue, south side corner of the bridge. I worked in that factory two summers while in high school there. Further along in the article you note that the five new stadium classrooms were occupied by FS Junior College. I had my beginning freshman classes there in the college before going on up to the University in Fayetteville. Mr. J.J. Haralson, architect for the

stadium, was my Sunday School teacher at First Methodist Church. Your wonderful publication allowed me to return in memory to those "great old days!"

Thank you!

James Rudolph Woodruff, Ch, Col, USAF, Ret.
7295 Shoup Road, Black Forest
Colorado Springs, CO 80908

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am a member of the class of 1965 at Northside High School, and was very upset by the inaccuracies in the article about that fine school. Also, at the selection of information presented about each year. I was very active in all school activities and could not remember any of the trivia listed for historical purposes.

You omitted the name of George McAlister, who until he resigned and moved to Westark Community College was sponsor of the best Student Council in the state. He was sponsor for a number of years until he resigned in the summer of 1965.

You said Mrs. Morton was sponsor of the senior class for ten years. How did you overlook our

sponsor, Betty Ruth Morris? She was our sponsor when we were juniors, and because we loved her so much, we convinced "Skipper" Farnsworth we should be able to keep her as our senior sponsor. This set a new pattern — the sponsors worked with the same class for two years — junior and senior years. This means Mavis Morton could only have been senior sponsor every other year at most — and doesn't account for the fact that Dr. Morris was our sponsor, and that Robert Daniels was senior sponsor one year.

These three people deserve more than you have given them. They were all three outstanding sponsors. Also, when Mr. McAlister resigned, Dr. Morris was asked at the last moment to come in as Student Council sponsor.

Perhaps you can't do anything about it, but I just had to say my piece.

I am not signing my name because you would know me and I don't want to get on your bad side. I am just speaking for many Northside graduates who loved Mr. McAlister, Mrs. Morris and Mr. Daniels.

Member of '65

"The Greatest Class Alive"

Arkansas 1836 - 1986

May Gray

I

We have always known that long before
Men stood by the river's edge, or tilled the sod,
When only the sea-birds circled the air and shore,
This land belonged to God.

"I see His face in every flower"

The thunder and the singing of the birds
Are but His voice — and craven by His power
Rocks are His written words."

They revered His voice in flower and stone,
Our Pioneers who live in memory.
Some pages are dim but they recorded their own
Illustrious history.

II

Standing on this ancient peak
I listen from high above the stars it seems;
The deep past stirs, the restless rivers speak —
And the sparkling, singing streams.
As wanderers who bravely faced
The wilderness, these Pioneers found
The friendly tribe of Quapaws who erased
The dark and bloody ground.
So did they find a garden-place,
Another home, an earth to build a fire on,
Meadows and fields that interlace,
Loveliness and song.

III

With equal statutes, equal rights,
Arkansas became a Territory.**
We see, from valleys and majestic heights
Her wonder and her glory.
Fostered alike by the commonwealth
And the vision of things to come, old and new,

Statehood was hers, her star the twenty-fifth —***
Bright against the blue.

IV

America's wars were her wars;
The broken homes, the spilled blood, the cold.
We were the ones who reached up for the stars;
The slaves bought and sold.

"I see His blood upon the rose"
And in the stars the glory of His eyes.
His body gleams against eternal snows,
His stars fall from the skies."

V

Faith beyond the sight regains
A sense of right, and I heard a man say:
"As always the people rule" and this remains
Our Motto to this day.
The apple blossom is our flower,
Our tree the fragrant pine; the mocking bird
Our own, magnetic as the shining hour
Its newest song is heard.
Not any dream is quite forgotten,
Nor is remembrance suddenly removed.
Our history contains what time has taken
And those we have loved.

VI

A chapel bell chimes the hours
Of what we were and are. On ribbons of stone
And steel, and progress with its hopes and fears,
We are back in the present zone.
Tempered by thoughts beyond mere things
The bright reach of the spirit lingers on.
History widens in a sweep of wings,
A bough in bloom, a song.

* J.M. Plunkett

** 1817

*** 1836

News and Opportunities

1987 ANNUAL MEETING

FORT SMITH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tuesday, April 21, 7:00 p.m.

Student Union Building

Westark Community College

Parking at 50th Street or Kinkead Avenue

Entertainment, Refreshments, Business

**FORT SMITH HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS
CELEBRATING ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY!**

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ANNUAL MEETING

ARKANSAS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

April 16-18

Pine Bluff, Arkansas

The theme of the program is "The Arkansas Family: Tradition and Change." Papers will address this broad category through topics such as work, religious values, leisure, farm life, folklore, biography, black history, and women, to name a few.

For more information, write: Walter Brown, History Department, 12 Ozark Hall, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701.

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ANNUAL PRESENTATION OF FORT SMITH SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATORS' PIONEER ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Thursday, April 23, 1987

Old Fort Museum

320 Rogers Avenue, Fort Smith, Arkansas

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The Fort Smith Historical Society is constantly searching for Fort Smith historical diaries, letters, ledgers, photographs, etc. If you have this type of information you can share, please contact the Fort Smith Historical Society by mail at 65 South 8th Street, or call:

Amelia Martin 501-783-1237

Sarah Fitzjarrald McCullough 501-646-9542

When cleaning closets and attics, don't throw away your "junk" papers — bring them to us for evaluation; they may provide valuable bits of Fort Smith historical information.

Copies will be made and original items returned to you if you wish to keep them.

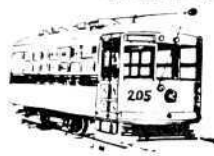
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OLD FORT MUSEUM, NEW DIRECTOR

Danny Sessums assumed duties as Director of the Old Fort Museum in Fort Smith on December 1, 1986. He comes to Fort Smith from the Old Arsenal Museum SCA in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where he was curator.

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FORT SMITH TROLLEY MUSEUM



*Fort Smith Historical Society
Restoration Association Incorporated*

The restoration of streetcar #224 is progressing at a more rapid and interesting pace. The electrical and air controls are being installed. This requires much study and time since there are no models or blueprints to illustrate the proper connections. Track connecting the Frisco track and the car barn is also being built.

You have an open invitation to visit and work any Tuesday evening, 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., and Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The project also continues to need finances and materials to complete. All financing has been voluntary. Donations are tax deductible.

A recent donation of two cabooses to the museum, one from the Union Pacific Railroad and one from the Burlington Northern Railroad, adds to the museum's collection of railroad history. The goal is to set these two cabooses on the museum property, and after restoration, display Fort Smith railroad memorabilia that cannot be displayed in the Old Fort Museum transportation area.

Fifty years from now, a caboose will be as rare as a trolley is today.

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ARKANSAS NEWSPAPER PROJECT

The National Endowment for the Humanities has announced an award of \$6,072 to the University of Arkansas Libraries for a newspaper planning grant called the Arkansas Newspaper Project. The grant will support the development of a plan to identify and to catalog into the O.C.L.C. database newspapers held by Arkansas libraries, archives, historical societies, and other agencies. O.C.L.C. is a national computer-based library network to which most of the large public and academic, as well as a good number of special and school libraries, belong. The planning grant will also support the development of a proposal for microfilming Arkansas newspapers in need of such preservation measures.

An advisory committee has been selected to provide input into the development of plans for the bibliographic control and preservation microfilming phases, and to assist in communicating project objectives and requirements to the community of newspaper producers, collectors, and users. Committee members include: Dr. Walter L. Brown, professor of history at the University of Arkansas; Dr. John L. Ferguson, Director, Arkansas History Commission; Pat Murphy, Director, Arkansas State Library; C. Dennis Schick, Executive Director,

Arkansas Press Association; Margaret Ross, former librarian for the *Arkansas Gazette*; Tom Dillard, Director, Archives and Special Collections, University of Central Arkansas; Lucy Robinson, Director, Old State House Museum; Mary Medearis, Director, Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives; Bob Razer, Head, Technical Services, Central Arkansas Library System; Amanda Saar, Head, Circulation, University of Arkansas Medical Sciences Center Library; Larry Larson, Director, Fort Smith Public Library; Shirley Coleman, Head, Cataloging, Arkansas State University Library; Wendy Richter, Archivist, Garland County Historical Society; Patrick Callahan, Head, Cataloging, U. of A. Libraries; Shirley Brendel, Head, Collection Development, U. of A. Libraries; and Michael Dabrishus, Head, Special Collections, U. of A. Libraries.

WM. O. DARBY MEMORIAL SIDEWALK

A Ranger Memorial Sidewalk has recently been constructed in front of the boyhood home of General William O. Darby, 311 North Eighth Street (recently renamed General Wm. O. Darby Street), Fort Smith. The sidewalk was dedicated on Sunday, February 8, with military and civilian ceremony, to the Ranger Battalion Association of World War II, but honors all members of the six Ranger battalions past and present.

Inset in the sidewalk directly in front of the Darby home is a granite block bearing the Ranger shoulder design, flanked by granite blocks engraved with wreaths commemorating honor and glory. Directly under the shoulder design and wreaths are four separate granite blocks on which the World War II Ranger campaigns, invasions, battles and raids are carved. Separate blocks denoting each of the six battalions lie three on either side of the central portion of the memorial.

WATER THEME PARK

Plans have been approved for construction of a water theme park at Ben Geren Regional Park. The water park, to open some time this summer, will be built on ten acres in the northwestern section of the county park. As planned, it will include a wave pool, four water slides, a concession stand, a gift shop, and parking. It will encompass the existing Olympic-size and children's pools.

FORT SMITH STUDENT 1986 PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR

Jonathan Robinson, 18, a student at Southside High School, has been named a 1986 Presidential Scholar. The honor is the nation's highest distinction bestowed upon exceptional high school students.

Robinson, the son of H. Clay and Mary Ann Robinson of Fort Smith, is among 141 graduating high school seniors who in June will receive the Presidential Scholar medallion in a White House ceremony. Each scholar also will receive \$1,000 from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, a private philanthropic organization.

BARBERSHOP QUARTET SOCIETY CITIZEN AWARD

Beula Kozel was selected by Fort Smith's Barber-shop Quartet Society as their citizen of the year and was presented the Award of Harmony in a ceremony

held on January 10 at the Holiday Inn Civic Center. She was given the award for her love, sympathy and compassion in her service to the community.

Three Fort Smith small business people were named to attend the 1986 White House Conference on Small Business. The Fort Smith residents included in the 20-member Arkansas delegation were: Patricia Boyd, president of Travel Services; Donald Flanders, chairman of the board of Flanders Industries, Inc.; and William McGehee, Jr., owner of Mundo Sales Co.

FORT SMITH EDUCATORS WIN AWARDS

Educators in the Fort Smith Public Schools continue to lead the nation in the number of winners in the National Competition in economic education which determines outstanding projects in the field of economic education. Five winning projects announced this year, involving eight local educators, brings the total number of projects by Fort Smith teachers and administrators to win national acclaim to 120. The total number of educators to be recognized now totals 155. This figure represents 87 individuals, with 67 being repeat winners.

Local winners this year are: Stanley Wells and Blanche Hill, Euper Lane Elementary School; June Haley, Trusty Elementary School; Nancy Braden, Barling; and Patrick Wheeler, Bill Spicer, Donna Ries and Mae Ruth Cohea, Cook Elementary School.

CHANCERY JUDGES KIZER AND PARTAIN RETIRE

Plaques commemorating service were presented December 8, 1986, to retiring chancery judges Bernice Kizer and David Partain at a reception at the Holiday Inn Civic Center. December 31, 1986, was retirement date for both.

Judge Partain spent his first eight years serving the 15th Judicial District, which included Crawford, Logan and Franklin counties. After redistricting took place, he became chancery judge for the 12th Judicial District, which consists of Crawford and Sebastian counties.

Judge Kizer became the district's first female judge 12 years ago. Before that, she served 14 years (seven terms) in the state legislature, representing Sebastian County.

In her third term on the legislature, Kizer became the first woman to serve on the Legislative Council. She also was the first woman to chair a legislative committee, as head of its budget committee.

In reflecting on her years in office, Kizer said, "It's been such a joy to work in this field. I enjoy the legal profession and serving people. We're here to make peoples' lives a little better."

SEBASTIAN COUNTY AND FORT SMITH OFFICIALS

Current Sebastian County and Fort Smith officials were sworn into office in a New Year's Day ceremony in the chancery courtroom of the Sebastian County Courthouse in Fort Smith.

History was made when Sheriff Bill Cauthron became the first person sworn in for eight terms in the history of Sebastian County.

The names and titles of those taking the oath of office are as follows:

JUDGES: Circuit Judge John Holland, Circuit-Chancery Judge Don Langston, Circuit Judge Floyd "Pete" Rogers, Chancery Judge Harry Foltz, and Court of Appeals Judge John Jennings.

STATE AND DISTRICT OFFICIALS: Senators Travis Miles and Bill Walters; State Representatives B.G. Hendrix, Carolyn Pollan, Ralph "Buddy" Blair, Jr., Jerry King and W.R. "Bud" Rice; and Prosecuting Attorney Ron Fields and staff.

SEBASTIAN COUNTY: Judge W.R. "Bud" Harper; and Sebastian County Justices of the Peace Loyd Farrar, Theral Henry, Lynn Johnson, Sr., Larry Puckett, Nelson Scott, Gaylon Patterson, Al Udouj, Don Carter, Harold Cole, John Mailer, Jr., Jean Carter, Paul Locke and Leo Faulkner.

Sheriff and Collector Bill Cauthron and staff, County Clerk Betty Jaber, Circuit Clerk Peggy Watson, Treasurer Marcy Porter, Assessor Ronnie Raible and Coroner Lyle Johnston.

MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS: Fort Smith Municipal Judge John Settle; South Sebastian Municipal Judge David Rogers; and County Constables James Flemming, upper township; Dean Allison, Midland township; Dean Bray, Diamond township; Glenn Jeffords, Dayton township; John Vardo, Hartford township; Dale Qualls, Center township; Tommie Roberts, Bloomer township; Dayton Manes, Big Creek township; Ray Matlock, Cole township; Gary Clark, Mississippi township; and Don Cagle, Washburn township.

FORT SMITH MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS: City Directors at-large Ray Baker, Allan Langdon and Ray Stewart; Directors David Beckman, Edward Gross, H.M. "Buck" Shell and Bill Maddox; Fort Smith Mayor William Vines; and Westark Community College Board of Trustees members Sam Sicard, Conaly Bedell and Carl Corley.

DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE: Mabel Sanderson.

Municipal officers of other Sebastian County municipalities were also sworn in.

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FORT SMITH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

The Fort Smith National Historic Site celebrated its 25th anniversary as an area of the National Park Service on September 13, 1986, with a number of special events.

Southside Rotary Club of Fort Smith has donated a model exhibit of the second Fort Smith to the Historic Site. This exhibit, which will be viewed by about 150,000 park visitors each year, shows the immensity of the fort which is frequently overlooked because of modern features which were built after the fort and judicial periods. Presentation of the exhibit was made by James Reddick, president of the Southside Rotary Club.

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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Richard Sugg has been named president of the Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce to fill the vacancy created by the death of Paul Latture.

Janie Glover has been promoted to special projects manager. She will act as the Chamber's staff liaison for on-going activities such as the Old Fort Days Rodeo, the Old Fort Days Futurity/Derby Barrel Races, the Arkansas-Oklahoma State Fair and the spring stock show, Old Fort Wellness Classic, Contact Club and ribbon-cutting ceremonies for new members, air show, agricultural tour, annual membership banquet, education banquet, film commission and preparation of the local cost of living index, and will organize a new series of seminars for small businesses.

As projects manager, Glover will meet with the rodeo-fair board and other Chamber committees involved with these projects and assist them in carrying out their activities.

Glover has been employed by the Chamber for six years. She is the recipient of two of Fort Smith's top honors for community service, the Downtown Sertoma's "Service to Mankind Award" in 1986 and the Exchange Club's "Golden Deeds" award in 1984.

She and her husband, George Glover, have one daughter, Sara.

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CHORAL DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

Bill Cromer, choral director of Northside High School, has been named Arkansas High School Director of the Year. He has been with the Fort Smith Public Schools 12 years and has been Northside choral director 10 years. He also directs the Fort Smith Chorale.

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SPELLING BEE WINNER

Leah Weaver, a student from Harvest Time Junior High School, won the Sebastian County Spelling Bee Saturday, February 21. Leah will join the winners from all other counties in Arkansas to vie for the state championship in the Arkansas State Spelling Bee in Little Rock.

First runner-up was Amy Curry from Spradling School, and second runner-up was Chris Lee, representing Lavaca Junior High School.

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POLICE OFFICERS OF THE YEAR

David Overton and Wendell Carruth were named officers of the year of their respective law enforcement organizations by the Noon Exchange Club of Fort Smith.

Carruth is a Sebastian County Sheriff's deputy and Overton is a patrolman/warrant officer in the Fort Smith Police Department.

Carruth, 48, of Lavaca, began his law enforcement career 22 years ago with the Fort Smith Police Department. He joined the Sebastian County Sheriff's Department in 1973.

Since completing basic law enforcement training in 1965, Carruth has attended numerous classes and seminars pertaining to his profession, including a state and local court security seminar conducted by the U.S. Marshal's Office.

Overton, 28, is a Mansfield native and now lives in Fort Smith. He has an associate degree from Westark Community College and a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Arkansas. Both degrees are in criminal justice. He joined the Fort Smith Police Department in 1983.

Book Notes

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

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SEBASTIAN COUNTY, ARKANSAS, DEED AND MORTGAGE BOOK A, 1861-1866

Published by Fort Smith Chapter, DAR. 112 pages, indexed, soft bound. Price \$10.00 postpaid. Order from:

Fort Smith Chapter DAR
Jo Tillery, Treasurer
8901 South 28th Street
Fort Smith, AR 72903



Copying and publishing these records was an Arkansas Sesquicentennial Celebration project of the Fort Smith Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. Sanctioned by the Arkansas Sesquicentennial Commission.

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FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS, DEATH RECORDS INDEX, BOOKS I AND II, NOVEMBER 1881-JUNE 1909

Indexed by Wanda Joy Karrant and Wilma Jean Hoyle of the Fort Smith Public Library. Library hard cover binding. Price \$22.50 postpaid. Order from Fort Smith Public Library, 61 South 8th Street, Fort Smith, AR 72901. Libraries may be billed if preferred.

The Fort Smith City Birth and Death Record Books were transferred from the City Clerk's office to the Genealogy and Arkansas Department of the Fort Smith Public Library in 1985. The full set of records begin in 1881 and go through July, 1965, for births and through 1963 for deaths. These records contain valuable information such as age, names of parents, place of birth, place of burial, cause of death, etc. At the present time, only books I and II have been indexed, but indexing of the other four books in the set will be completed as soon as possible.

Records in the books are recorded chronologically, making it difficult to find a death unless death date is known. The alphabetical index makes it possible to locate a specific death by name. A certified copy of the entire record may then be obtained from the library for \$2.00 and a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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ARKANSAS IN THE GOLD RUSH

By Priscilla McArthur. 256 pages plus index. Price \$19.95 plus \$1.50 postage. Order from The Store, Arkansas Territorial Restoration, 3rd and Scott Streets, Little Rock, AR 72201, or August House Publishers, P.O. Box 3223, Little Rock, AR 72203.

When we study history, we are so busy following the current of events that we forget history is people like us. When we remember and look for people amid the landmarks of history, we find depth in the current.



In *ARKANSAS IN THE GOLD RUSH*, Priscilla McArthur provides much needed information about "Forty-Niners" from Arkansas who left for the gold fields from Fort Smith, Van Buren, and other towns in Arkansas. Also, she tells something about those they left behind.

Necessary preparations for treks west were made as carefully as possible, but were most often based on inadequate information. This improved as letters came back from California, but unforeseen contingencies continued to arise. Too much baggage, the wrong kinds of food and clothing, too-heavy wagons, Indian attacks, disease, poor or no roads, uncertain weather... These were just a few of the difficulties encountered regardless of the emigrants' route. And once California was reached, many wished to come home but lacked funds.

The actual mining was more arduous and uncertain than most had anticipated, and quite a few of the men found other work.

Back home, families often had trouble keeping their heads above water. The men had expected to send money soon, and lots of it, but the expectations failed to materialize. Some men died; some disappeared. Some families learned this; some didn't. Farms failed or had to be sold for other reasons. Usually those left behind suffered as much as the emigrants, though in different ways.

Letters, diaries and newspaper accounts tell the story from beginning to end in *ARKANSAS IN THE GOLD RUSH*. Every bit of it is fascinating, reminding us again how resilient our forebears were. It reminds us, too, that greed for gold may have been the primary impetus but curiosity and a sense of adventure played a part.

ARKANSAS IN THE GOLD RUSH is a gold mine in itself. And you can read it easily, without the hardships and hard work it recounts.

This book, a sanctioned Arkansas Sesquicentennial publication, is printed on archival-quality paper and is the first book-length effort to come out of the Arkansas Territorial Restoration's research program. Other books will follow.

Reviewed by Ann M. Sims, Fort Smith Public Library

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CULP AND RELATED FAMILIES

By Mary Frances Beasley. 194 pages, soft bound, indexed. Price \$25.00 postpaid. Order from Mary Frances Beasley, 613 Clifton Court, Fort Smith, AR 72903.



This well researched, well written book is the history of the Kolb/Kulp/Culp family in Germany, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas and other states to which the family migrated.

Dielman Kolb, Sr., was born ca 1648 in Germany and died there in 1712. His wife was a daughter of Peter Schumacher, who came to Germantown, PA, in 1685. Kolb sons came to America in the early 1700s. Several members of the Kolb family were Mennonite ministers.

Hans Kasper Kolb (anglicized to Casper Culp) arrived in America September 15, 1729.

Contains immigration records, Bible records, church records, family charts, letters of administration, cemetery records, etc. Approximately 70 photographs and illustrations.

This publication is sanctioned by the Arkansas Sesquicentennial Commission. The first printing is sold out and a second printing is being made.

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SURNAME INDEX TO THE HISTORY OF CRAWFORD COUNTY, ARKANSAS

Compiled by Clovis E. Miller. Paperback. Price \$6.00 plus \$1.00 postage.

Miss Clara B. Eno spent the better part of seventy years collecting information for her book entitled *HISTORY OF CRAWFORD COUNTY, ARKANSAS*. Her 499 page, uncopyrighted and unindexed work has had two printings. It was first published in 1950 by the *Press-Argus* of Van Buren, Arkansas. Miss Eno died in August, 1951, at the age of 97. Without a doubt, her work will remain "the standard" by which all subsequent histories of the county and area must be compared. She was one of Arkansas' foremost historians and very active in the Arkansas History Commission, as well as numerous other organizations of historical import.

This index is a long needed tool for expediting research in this valuable history of Crawford County.

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THE FIRST 100 YEARS, FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, BATESVILLE, ARKANSAS, 1836-1956

By Nancy Britton. 181 pages, hard bound, indexed. Price \$15.00 postpaid. Order from:

First United Methodist Church
615 East Main Street
Batesville, Arkansas 72501



This is the story of the First United Methodist Church at Batesville, Arkansas. The book was begun in 1984, the bicentennial year of Methodism in America and the centennial year of women's work at First Church in Batesville. It was completed in 1986, marking the sesquicentennial of the church, the Arkansas Conference (Methodist), and the Arkansas State Sesquicentennial.

Well written and documented, the story is a history buff's pleasure and the researcher's delight. Not only does it have end notes covering each chapter, but it also has an index as well.

Britton has approached her subject with a true love for history and her Methodist faith. Her sense of humor shines throughout with charming anecdotes which bring history alive. It is also reflected in some of her chapter headings; for instance, there is the chapter dedicated to women in the church titled "You Never Can Tell What Women Might Take to Praying if Left Alone."

There are many good photographs of people, places and things which add satisfaction. She furnishes short biographical sketches of many of the men who helped build the church spiritually as well as physically.

Of interest to Fort Smith readers is the biography (and picture) of Oscar Elmo Goddard, who was born at Hartford, Arkansas, and for whom Goddard Memorial Methodist Church in Fort Smith was named. Goddard became a giant in Arkansas Methodism, and preached at Batesville from 1933 to 1936.

Reviewed by Sarah Fitzjarald McCullough

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HISTORY OF THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NEWPORT, ARKANSAS, 1874-1984

By Elliott McDonald McManus. 438 pages, indexed, hard cover, price \$24.95 postpaid. Libraries and historical or genealogical societies will be billed on request. Order from: First United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 489, Newport, AR 72112.

This history spans 110 years of the church's activity and influence in Newport. Of special interest to the members themselves and local citizens of the community, it is also interesting to the casual reader.

It is the story of a church attempting to fulfill its mission, sometimes succeeding beyond the expectations of the pastors and church workers, sometimes failing and sometimes experiencing a mixture of success and failure, but always continuing the struggle. All of which gives it that universal appeal.

Mrs. McManus met the challenge head-on and gives a full and detailed account of her church. There is a table of contents; an index of illustrations; four appendices covering church membership from as far back as members were registered, marriages and infant baptisms (1897-1947), United Methodist Women Life Memberships, and windows.

The book is also fully indexed. With the appendices and index, we believe this history will also be very attractive to genealogists.

Reviewed by Sarah Fitzjarald McCullough

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SAWMILL, THE STORY OF CUTTING THE LAST GREAT VIRGIN FOREST EAST OF THE ROCKIES

By Kenneth L. Smith. 241 pages plus index. Hard bound. Price \$28.00. Available from The University of Arkansas Press, Fayetteville, AR 72701.

SAWMILL is a history of logging in the Arkansas and Oklahoma Ouachita Mountains from 1900 to 1950, a penetrating study of the lumber industry, and a significant view of man's interaction with a major forest resource. It is also a social history, in its account of the lumbermen's quest for the last virgin timber and the effects of its depletion. Kenneth Smith interviewed more than three hundred people to bring us a lively history of the cutting of virgin shortleaf pine forests.

The Caddo River Lumber Company and the mill towns of Rosboro, Glenwood, and Forester provided jobs and homes for many local residents during the brief heyday of the big-sawmill era. Smith takes a close look at several important timber companies, and at the personality of T.W. Rosborough, a man who bought and sold vast tracts of land and had an almost fatherly concern for both white and black sawmill workers.

The recollections included here provide insight into a population who lived through the depression years in isolated mountain communities, where cats were sometimes sold as possum meat, and where men enjoyed weekend "sip and sniff" poker parties.

The book is richly illustrated with photographs from the time of the mills.

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CALL THE ROLL

By Jerry E. Hinshaw. 219 pages plus index. Hard bound. Price \$22.95 plus tax at bookstores or order from Rose Publishing Company, 301 Louisiana Street, Little Rock, AR 72201.

Published by the Department of Arkansas Heritage, **CALL THE ROLL** is ostensibly a history of the Arkansas General Assembly, but in reality it is a history of the state from the perspective of the Legislature. The General Assembly is always such a major actor in the state's turning points that its story is inevitably inseparable from Arkansas' memorable moments.

The author, himself a legislator, devoted years of research on the development of the Arkansas Legislature and its leading personalities. Beginning with the Territorial Legislature of 1819-1836, Hinshaw unravels the saga of the feisty Robert Crittenden, the construction of the Old State House, the slaying of a House member by the Speaker, and the scandal of the Real Estate Bank and the State Bank.

He traces the agonizing over whether to secede from the Union, the flight of the Confederate government to Washington, Arkansas, and the turmoil of Reconstruction climaxed by the Brooks-Baxter War.

The state debt, Jim Crow laws and the development of highways were all pivotal issues determined by the General Assembly, and they were followed by the cutbacks of the depression, the mobilization of World War II, the move to industrialize and the dismantling of segregation.

The most famous members of the Legislature have a biographical sketch, and for the first time, a single list of all the thousands of present and former members of the General Assembly is compiled in alphabetical order. This list is a valuable reference for genealogists.

The color, the drama, the heartaches, the compromises and the breakthroughs of the past 150 years of the General Assembly provide a unique and fascinating view of Arkansas' past.

Recommended reading for students of Arkansas history and every citizen who has an interest in the functioning of our state government.

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PHYSICIANS AND MEDICINE, CRAWFORD AND SEBASTIAN COUNTIES, ARKANSAS, 1817-1976

By Amelia Whitaker Martin. 688 pages illustrated and indexed. Hardback. Price \$21.00 + \$1.50 shipping. Order from: Sebastian Medical Publications, 2121 Wolfe Lane, Fort Smith, AR 72901.

PHYSICIANS AND MEDICINE is a biographical history of the development of medical care in Crawford and Sebastian Counties, Arkansas, written against the background of the history of the area from 1817 and the building of the first frontier Fort Smith to 1976. It tells the story of the men and women of medicine and their influence on the development of the area. It is Crawford and Sebastian County history never previously published and a gold mine of information for genealogists. Contains biographies of more than 1,500 physicians from all over the world who at some time practiced medicine in these two counties —some lineages extend back to the 1600's. Thousands of names included. Proceeds from sale of book used for Medical and Para-medical Student Loan Funds.

* * * * *

THE STRETCARS OF FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS

By Charles E. Winters. 52 pages, softback, indexed. Price \$5.00 + 75¢ postage. Order from: Fort Smith Streetcar Restoration Association, 2121 Wolfe Lane, Fort Smith, AR 72901.

History of the Fort Smith Light & Traction Company and the streetcar system of Fort Smith. Well researched and written. Lavishly illustrated.

Money from sale of book helps restore Fort Smith streetcars and operate Fort Smith Trolley Museum.

Contents of Past Issues

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

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1886 - 1887 Newspapers

FORT SMITH ELEVATOR

November 12, 1886 - April 29, 1887

Abstracted by Dorothy Williams, Pat Birkett and Milton Birkett

This newspaper is on microfilm at the Fort Smith Public Library.

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November 12, 1886

OBITUARY

Martha Ann Meek (nee Harwell) was born in Newton County, Ga., on April 21st, 1826 and died in Fort Smith, Arkansas, October 13, 1886. She was the daughter of Vines and Mary R. Harwell, and granddaughter of Jackson Harwell, who was known by the name of "Old Hundred". She was married to F.M. Meek . . . was the mother of eight children.

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Abaraham Lunsford and Mary A. Johnson were licensed to marry on Wednesday last.

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November 26, 1886

BANQUET OF THE BAR

Judge R.B. Rutherford - Judge J.S. Little

On Thursday evening of last week, the members of the Fort Smith Bar banqueted the retiring judge of the circuit court, Robt. B. Rutherford, and his recently elected successor, J. Sebastian Little. There was a good attendance and Mivelaz's dining hall at the LeGrande where the large banquet was held was pretty well filled. All went well — plenty to eat and enough wine to brighten their minds. Col. Wm. M. Fishback, who presided, announced the first toast. "The Retiring Judge," response by W.H.H. Clayton, who paid just and good compliments to Judge Rutherford. Judge R. thereupon responded and in a few words, expressing his gratification in knowing that the members of the bar were pleased with his career as judge. "The Incoming Judge" by M.H. Sandles, who spoke of Bass Little's many excellent accomplishments and claimed him to be both a philosopher and poet. Judge Little in response said he knew how the lawyers on the losing side always went for the judge, but hoped all criticisms might be poetic. "T. Bench" response by Hon. I.C. Parker. "The Bar" response by Col. B.T. DuVal. "The Officers of the Law" response by Col. Thomas Marcum. "Early Times in Arkansas" response by Col. E.C. Boudinot. "Our State" by Hon. Thomason of Van Buren. "Our City" by C.M. Cooke. "The Future of Our Profession" by Col. J.H. Clendening. The toasts were closed by a few remarks by Col. Wm. Walker on the suggestion of a toast to the oldest member of the bar. Among the visitors were Hugh F. Thomas, Van Buren; Robt. L. Owen, Indian agent, Muscogee, I.T.; J.B. Forrester, Greenwood.

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Y.M.C.A.

Mr. E.S. Chipley, general secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association of Little Rock, was in our city several days during the past week. He made a good and instructive lecture before the Y.M.C.A. Service of Song at the Presbyterian church Sunday evening last and attended an informal conference at the residence of Gen. Stephen Wheeler on Monday evening last. The result of the meeting was an agreement by all to reorganize or adopt a new constitution, and it is expected that the association will now move on and prosper more than ever.

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TAYLOR-OAKLEY

On Wednesday evening last at the residence of J.C. Tucker, the bride's stepfather, Mr. William Taylor was married to Miss Jody Oakley, all of this city.

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December 3, 1886

The new Christian Church on Lafayette Street is nearing completion and is a handsome little structure — a credit to the city.

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NEW CHURCH

The laying of the cornerstone for the new Methodist church in Fishback's addition will be superintended by the Masonic fraternity on Tuesday next. Those wishing to go out should leave town about 11 o'clock a.m. to be in time. It will be a handsome structure when complete.

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At the recent meeting of the Masonic Grand Lodge, \$250 was appropriated for the erection of a monument to the memory of the late Dr. E.R. DuVal. The same amount was also given toward the erection of a like testimonial of honor to the memory of the late Judge English.

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January 7, 1887

FOR SALE — Ten 40 acre tracts. Eight of the same are partly improved within six miles of the city; all timber land but one 40 and it is part prairie and part timber. You can have your choice of all but one 40 at \$15 per acre, one-third cash, and balance in one and two years at 10 percent.

CARNALL BROTHERS

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OBITUARY NOTICES

All obituary notices or tributes of respect exceeding ten lines in length are charged for at the rate of five cents per line, which is half rate. Notices of ten

lines or less will be published free, if furnished in due time. No deviation from these rules. Notices exceeding ten lines must be accompanied by the cash in order to insure insertion in full.

To ascertain how many lines a notice will make, count the words, seven words to the line.

CARNALL BROTHERS

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The infant child of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Yates died on Tuesday and was buried Wednesday.

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Deputy county clerk J.H. McClure has issued the following marriage licenses since the first: Sidney L. Haynes and Cynthia Ross, of the territory; Fred Schleuter and Bertha Westphal, city; and Daniel Williams and Polly Robinson (colored), city.

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The *Daily Tribune* is publishing, from time to time, descriptive and biographical articles, together with the pictures of public buildings, handsome residences and prominent citizens of our city. This is a new enterprise in Fort Smith and we are glad to see it pushed.

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TO ALL AFFLICTED FEMALES

If you are suffering from any of the diseases peculiar to women, Bradfield's Female Regulator will cure. Try it.

Send for our Treatise on Woman. Mailed free to any address.

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MARRIED

At the residence of Mr. Frank A. McGibben, in Van Buren, on Tuesday last, Mr. Thomas C. Davis of this city, was married to Miss Annie Pape, sister of Mrs. F.A. McGibben, Rev. W.A. Sample officiating.

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A slight change of time has been made in the arrival and the departure of passenger trains on the Frisco, which now leaves at 12:45 and arrives at 9:30 p.m., giving us our St. Louis mail a little earlier than before.

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At a meeting of the fire department Tuesday night J.J. Little was re-elected chief, J. Deiser assistant chief, and Will Stalcup secretary. Pending the election of treasurer, a controversy sprang up which resulted in Hose Company No. 1 withdrawing from the department, with the understanding that they would turn over their hose, reel and uniforms to the chief. This is to be regretted, and we hope the boys will reconsider their action and allow the department to stand as it was.

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January 14, 1887

SUDDEN DEATH

Judge Charles Milor, an old resident of this county, died suddenly on Wednesday at 2 o'clock p.m. of cramp colic at his home near this city. His

funeral will take place today from his residence on the Van Buren road. Judge Milor was about seventy years of age, and very robust for a man so far advanced in life. He leaves a wife and nine children.

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COUNTY BRIDGES

Not long since the county court let contract for the building of several bridges over streams in this county, among them one over Big and Little Vache Grasse. The contractors put the bridges up and we suppose the county paid for them but as they now stand they are no more use to the public than if they never had been built, as there is no approaches to them on either side, the ends of them standing several feet from the ground. It is the duty of someone to look after this matter and it should be attended to at once.

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ANOTHER OLD CITIZEN PASSES AWAY

Mrs. Mary Wilson, wife of the late Thomas E. Wilson, Sr., died on Tuesday last at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. H.I. Falconer, of this city, of pneumonia after an illness of about two weeks.

Mrs. Wilson was among our oldest citizens, having spent most of her life at Fort Smith. She was born near Lynchburg, VA, April 22, 1822, her parents moving to this place when she was an infant of nine months. She leaves three sons and three daughters (Thomas E., J.D., and C.P. Wilson, Mrs. V.T. Baxter of Cincinnati, Ohio, Mrs. Falconer and Miss Macha Wilson).

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January 21, 1887

IN MEMORIUM

On Friday, January 14th, the beautiful daughter of Mrs. G.A. and E.A. Scargall of this city, after an illness of but a few hours, passed from this world of tears and sorrow to that haven of perpetual happiness and peace. Emma Grason was just four years old.

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January 28, 1887

BRIDGE MEETING

STEPS TAKEN TOWARD BRIDGING THE ARKANSAS RIVER AT FORT SMITH

The great necessity of bridging the Arkansas River at this place has for years been apparent to our citizens, all of whom recognize the fact that it would be of incalculable benefit to Fort Smith. The time having arrived for some action to be taken in the matter, a citizens meeting was called for Monday night last at the Board of Trade rooms. In accordance with the call, a number of our leading citizens met at the appointed time and the following proceedings were had: On motion John Carnall was chosen Chairman and Geo. Sengel Secretary. Mr. C.F. Boequin stated that he had made a partial canvass of the city and secured signatures to about 2,000 shares at \$25 each, and at the suggestion of the chair a recess was taken in order that other signatures might be obtained from those present.

The meeting again being called to order proceeded to business:

Wm. A Fishback, W.H.H. Clayton and S.A. Williams were appointed a committee to draw up articles of association and secure signatures to same, and secure waiver to notice for first meeting. Col. Clayton was appointed to draft text of bill to be introduced to congress.

Balloting for nine directors by shares resulted in the election of Wm. M. Fishback, C.F. Boequin, Wm. Breen, W.N. Ayers, W.H.H. Clayton, Geo. Sengel, Geo. T. Sparks, Stephen Wheeler and Frank Parke.

The corporation will be known as the Fort Smith Bridge Company. Adjournment was had subject to the call of the director.

Immediately after the adjournment of the stock holders of the bridge company, a citizens meeting was held with Dr. J.H.T. Main in the chair and S.A. Williams as secretary, and a resolution was adopted asking the state legislature to memorialize congress to grant the charter asked for by the Fort Smith Bridge Company.

At the close of the meeting there were sixty-six holders, and the number of shares taken was considerably over 2,000.

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January 28, 1887

MARRIED

Mr. Will B. Hendrix, of this city, and Miss T.B. Bonham were married last evening at the residence of the bride's father, in Prairie township, about 25 miles from the city, Rev. Alexander, of the Presbyterian church, performing the ceremony.

Mr. Lawson Thrash and Miss Jessie Little, daughter of J.J. Little, repaired to the residence of Rev. J.L. Massey on Tuesday evening and were joined in holy wedlock in the presence of a few friends.

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NEW SALOON!

The undersigned has opened up a first-class saloon in the Elevator buiding, where he will be pleased to receive calls from his friends during the year 1887. Best of LIQUORS will be kept, for sale by the drink, pint, quart or gallon. OSCAR PEPPER AND OLD CROW WHISKEY A SPECIALTY!

PATRICK REILLY

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February 4, 1887

FORT SMITH

Declared a City of the First Class by the Governor

The question is now settled and Fort Smith is today a city of the first class. In accordance with instructions from the city council, Mayor Grey went to Little Rock last week and laid the matter before the Governor, and below we publish the document raising the rank of the Border City:

OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE)

January 29, 1887)

The Board of Municipal Corporations met at the office of the Governor; present, S.P. Hughes, Governor; W.R. Miller, auditor; E.B. Moore, secretary.

The application from the town council of Fort Smith, duly attested by Mat Grey, mayor of said city, and Geo. C. Faucette, recorder, praying that said city of Fort Smith be raised to the rank of a city of the first class under the law provided in such cases, was laid before the state board of commissioners of towns and cities, said application being accompanied by a duly certified copy of a resolution adopted by the city council of the said incorporated town of Fort Smith, asking that said city be declared a city of the first class; and satisfactory evidence being produced before the board that the population of said city of Fort Smith exceeds the number of five thousand. It is by the board, ordered that said city of Fort Smith be declared and raised to a city of the first class and henceforth classed as such.

S.P. Hughes, Governor of Arkansas

W.R. Miller, Auditor of State

E.B. Moore, Secretary of State

Attest: E.B. Moore, Clerk.

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FATALLY SCALDED

On Saturday last, while some hogs were being scalded at the home of J.H. Mershon, his little son, Willie Worth, aged 5 years and 6 months, fell backwards into the scalding barrel, and was burned so badly that he died on Sunday from the effects.

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At the last meeting of the city council, an ordinance was submitted providing for and regulating the numbering of the houses in the city, which will likely be adopted at the next meeting of the council. An ordinance changing the names of all streets running north and south so as to call them by numbers was also presented, and will likely be adopted in the proper time. In accordance with this latter ordinance, Ozark, Washington, Wayne and Green, for example, would become 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th streets and so on. This, we think, is a good idea.

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BRIDGE COMPANY

The Fort Smith Bridge Company completed its organization on Tuesday evening, when the following officers were elected: Judge Wm. H.H. Clayton, president; Col. Wm. M. Fishback, vice-president; S.A. Williams, secretary; and W.N. Ayers, treasurer. The necessary steps have been taken to obtain the charter, our Legislature having memorialized congress to grant it, and the papers asking for the charter having been sent to Washington.

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DIED

On Friday last, Mr. Wolfgang Sieber, an old resident, died at his home about two miles from this city. He was 77 years of age, having spent thirty years of his life in this section. He was the father of Mrs. Joe Limberg and Mrs. John Donhooe.

Mrs. Mary Bailey, wife of Mr. Wiley Bailey, died on Saturday last at her residence, in the Catholic Grove, this city, of cancer of the stomach, and was buried in the city cemetery.

Mrs. Elvira Buchanan, residing about two miles from this city, died here on Saturday last from the effects of getting a piece of meat lodged in her throat while cooking at home on the Thursday preceeding her death.

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February 11, 1887
THOMAS DOYLE DEAD

On Friday last Thomas Doyle, one of our oldest citizens, died at his residence in the suburbs, aged 82 years. Mr. Doyle was a native of Wexford County, Ireland, and came to Fort Smith in 1852, and has resided here continuously since that time, having married the widow of Samuel Booth, mother of Dr. John T. Booth. For many years he did business at the corner of Garrison Avenue and Green Street.

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BORDER CITY BOOM
Real Estate Rapidly
Changing at Good Cash Prices
Town and Suburban Property
Rapidly Advancing in Value Every Day
LET HER BOOM!

The long looked for boom in Fort Smith is now fairly under way, and the future of this point as an important railway center is becoming more and more apparent every day. Capitalists, both local and foreign, are just now scrambling over real estate in and adjacent to the city, in consequence of which property in many instances has advanced from 50 to 300 percent in the past three months and is still going up, with buyers on every hand. Unimproved property is mostly sought after, and brings better prices than improved.

The question may be asked, on what is this boom based? What prospects are in store for Fort Smith that assure capitalists of making money by buying up property at fabulous prices? In reply to these questions, we will give a few pointers:

In the first place the Frisco extension south to Texas is opening up a new country underlaid with rich coal beds and other minerals and covered with immense forests of pine and other valuable timbers, heretofore undeveloped. Coal mines are being opened at Hackett City and other points near here already and scores of new people are coming in every day. With a bridge over the Arkansas River at Van Buren, four miles from here, and a company organized to bridge the river at this place, contemplated railroads projecting this way are encouraged to come, and will come in the near future. A new railroad has just been chartered in Kansas called the Denver and Fort Smith road, which makes seven roads chartered in that state for Fort Smith, and three have been chartered from here to Texas.

Flattering indications of iron have been discovered near here, and new coal beds are being unearthed in every direction. The discovery of iron twenty miles north of here, mentioned in another column, is also beneficial to Fort Smith, and all this invited the building of railroads, and railroads attract capital and build up manufactories. . .

Suburban property is attracting more than ordinary attention and sells well. . .

During the past ten or twelve days deeds have been filed for record at the rate of ten to twenty-five per day.

Circuit Clerk Stalcup has been compelled to employ two or three extra clerks to keep up with his business.

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February 25, 1887
A NAVAL CADET TO BE SELECTED

House of Representatives)
Washington, D.C., Feb. 18, '87)

Notice is hereby given that a competitive examination will be held on the first day of April next at Clarksville, Ark., for the selection of a cadet to the United States Naval Academy, from the Fourth Congressional District.

All candidates must be between the ages of 14 and 18 years, five feet high, physically sound, well formed, of robust constitution and a resident of the district.

The candidates will be examined in reading, writing, spelling, arithmetic, geography, English grammar, history and algebra. The board of examiners will be selected hereafter and from different parts of the district.

Very respectfully,
John H. Rogers

— • —

August Burghart and Miss Annie F. Gabel were married on Tuesday morning last at the Catholic Church.

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The establishment of a canning factory here the coming season is now a certainty, and the *Tribune* informs the farmers that at least 400 acres of tomatoes, 200 acres of sweet corn and 100 acres of beans and peas will be utilized by it besides a large amount of fruit.

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March 4, 1887

Arnold C. Chisholm and Miss Ophella G. Campbell were married at the Christian Church in this city on Wednesday evening by the pastor. We extend congratulations.

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JAMES M. COLLINS DEAD

We are pained to announce the death on Wednesday last of Col. James M. Collins at his home near this city of pneumonia after an illness of some days. Jim Collins has been a resident here and identified with the interest of this place for more than twenty years.

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SALARIES OF OUR NEXT CITY OFFICERS

At the meeting of the city council on Monday night an ordinance fixing the salaries of officers for Fort Smith as a city of the first class passed its second reading, and went over to the next meeting. It gives

the mayor \$1,200; police judge \$1,200; city treasurer \$25; city clerk \$900; city collector \$600; city attorney \$500; city sexton \$480; chief of police \$800; policemen \$600.

Capt. Sam McCloud has returned from St. Louis, where he ordered eight new street cars and two miles of rail. Additional orders will soon follow.

Henry Williams got the neat little sum of \$6,000 for 50 feet front on Towson Avenue.

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March 11, 1887

MAMMOTH REAL ESTATE SALE!

U.S. Military Reservation Lots

Twelve Hundred Lots Donated by Congress for the Use and Benefit of the Free Common Schools of the City of Fort Smith, Arkansas

A Large Number of Lots Yet to be Sold

A grand sale of lots in the Reserve Addition, which adjoins the main business part of this city, on the south side, has been ordered by the city council. Sales will be made at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, and will positively commence on the property at 10 o'clock a.m., on Tuesday, March 22, 1887, and continue from day to day thereafter until the sale shall be closed.

The following lots and blocks have been designated by a joint committee of the city council and school board and will be the first sold.

Lots all fronting on Towson
Lots all fronting on Wheeler Street
Lots on Rogers Avenue
Lots on Kannady Street
Lots on Bennett Street
Lots on Mayers Street
Lots on Atkinson Street
Lots on Beckle Street
Lots on Stryker Street

Terms, cash on day of sale. By order of the city council.

Henry Hinch, John Mathews, C.M. Barnes
Committee

The sale of lots on the reserve will be one of the most gigantic real estate transactions ever had here. Since the first sale in May, 1885, this property has become the most desirable in the city and is now worth four times what it was then. The sale is being extensively advertised, especially in Missouri and Kansas, and numerous speculators besides those already here will be in attendance. Parties who purchased at the sale two years ago have reaped immense profits on their investments. Thomas H. Barnes, for instance, bought at the first sale a lot seventy feet front on Garrison Avenue by 140 on Washington Street, extension, paying \$2,000 for it. Last week he sold an undivided half-interest in it for \$9,625.

Wm. H. Slagle and Fannie Watley procured license to marry on Monday last, and proceeded forthwith to join their fortunes.

Mr. Pryor E. Lee and Miss Mamie E. Hunton, daughter of John B. Hunton, were married on Monday last by Rev. W.A. Sample.

HIGHER AND HIGHER

Buyers More Numerous and Heavy Transactions Frequent Avenue Property Reaches Five Hundred Dollars Per Foot The Number of Deeds Recorded Rapidly Increasing The Boom Goes On

The Fort Smith boom continues unabated, and property of all kinds goes higher and higher every day. The city is full of capitalists and real estate men, and everything else except real estate has apparently been lost sight of. Several \$25,000 and \$30,000 transactions have occurred this week, and some heavy profits have been pocketed by prudent speculators. . . The boom has come to stay and has not yet reached its zenith by a large majority, as capital is coming in every day from the north which is at once invested and its owner joins the busy throng in the scramble for bargains in real estate. Everything indicates that Fort Smith is to be a great city in the future. . .

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March 18, 1887

RAILROAD AND BRIDGE NEWS

Col. Henry Wood, general manager of the Valley Route, which is now a part of the Gould system, has been here several days with a corps of engineers making arrangements to bridge the Arkansas River and to get right of way through the city, and ground, say 20 acres, for depot purposes. The engineers are now engaged in locating a line south in the direction of Greenwood and Waldron with Shreveport, La., probably, as their objective point.

We are enabled to say with a good deal of certainty that we will now get a road south. The company has bought many thousands of acres of coal lands south of here. The route will go out from the east side of the city.

DEMOCRATIC NOMINATION

At the convention held on Tuesday evening last, Judge R.B. Rutherford was nominated for Mayor, Mathew Gray for Police Judge and Tom C. Davis for City Treasurer, all of whom will be elected next month.

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March 25, 1887

During the past week marriage licenses have been issued from the county clerk's office to the following persons: John Krum to Elizabeth Beckell; Robert H. Holt to Alice Wooden, Choctaw Nation; John G. Gunter to Ruth Counts, Cherokee Nation; Wm. B. Yanders to Ellen Varden; Thos. B. Foyle to Ellen Ashberry; Andrew Sullivan to Laura Moore.

Mary Lillian, the three-months-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Grasse, died on Friday night last from the effects of an overdose of morphine administered by a so-called professional nurse.

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April 1, 1887

Mr. Sam Seward died at his home in this city last Sunday morning, after a very brief illness from pneumonia. His age was 38 years.

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CLOSE OF THE SALE OF RESERVE LOTS

**\$131,633 Realized for the Ninety-Eight
Lots Put on the Market**

**The Increased Value of Property as Shown
by a Comparison with the First Sale in 1885**

Below we give the result of the last day's sale of lots on the Reserve Addition. . .

Bidding at the last day's sale was quite spirited, but confined mostly to resident buyers.

The sales of the ninety-eight lots put on the market run up to \$131,633. Two years ago, at the first sale, four hundred lots were sold, some of them the choicest pieces on the addition, and their sales aggregated more than a thousand dollars less than the sale of the lots just completed, showing an increase in the value of property without comparison in the history of the state and with few equals in the west. Nor is this value merely speculative. This is shown to some extent by the fact that most of the purchasers were home buyers who have seen the steady growth of real estate values for the past six or seven years and have confidence in the future of our city.

There are about 500 of these lots yet remaining in possession of the city. From their sale from time to time, as occasion demands, will be built the finest system of public schools in the entire South, and this fact alone is inducing many people to settle here.

To Messrs. C.M. Barnes, H.Hinch and John Mathews cannot be given too much credit for the energy they displayed in conducting the sale. They worked faithfully in putting it before the public, and attended the sale in person each day until the last lot was knocked off. Much of this large attendance was due to their efforts, and the result cannot but be as gratifying to them as it is to the people of our city.

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April 8, 1887

THE MUNICIPAL CONTEST

**The Republicans Capture the Mayoralty and One Alderman
The Remainder of the Democratic Ticket Elected**

The result of Tuesday's election places an out-and-out Republican at the head of our municipal affairs and may really be looked upon as a Republican victory, for it was secured by dissensions in the Democratic party and the usual sharp schemes for which our Republican friends are noted. Mr. Williams' majority is 120. With the

exception of one alderman, the remainder of the Democratic ticket was elected.

The following is a condensed report of the result:
Mayor — Williams, 696; Rutherford, 576
Police Judge — Grey, 767; Griffing, 437
Treasurer — Davis, 707; Reutzel, 537
Aldermen — 1st ward, D.B. Sparks, Pat Keating; 2nd ward, S.W. Murphy, C.M. Barnes; 3rd ward, J.J. Little, J.L. Hendrick; 4th ward, F.T. Reynolds, Jos. Baker.

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NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Sealed proposals will be received until Monday, 10 o'clock p.m., May 2, 1887, at the office of the Secretary of Board of Commissioners for public building, Sebastian County, Ark., for the erection and completion of a county courthouse building at Fort Smith, Ark., according to the plans and specifications which may be seen at the office of Nier, Hogg & Byram, architects in Kansas City, Mo., and at Fort Smith, Ark. . .

Geo. H. Lyman, Secretary Board

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April 15, 1887

Mr. B. Berger died at his home in this city Sunday morning, after a protracted illness from consumption. He was 50 years of age.

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THE LAST CITY COUNCIL AND THE STREET RAILWAYS

The last council signaled its retirement by an utter failure to dispose of one of the most important measures that has ever affected the city's interests, and also by proceedings at the special session on Monday afternoon that were of such a nature as to cause our citizens to hang their heads in shame.

It is known that for some time there has been before the council applications from four different street railway companies for charters to build lines of street railway. . .

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PAT McCARTY

**Is Ushered into Eternity Protesting Innocence
of the Murder of the Mahoney Boys
He Faces His Fate Without Flinching,
Displaying Remarkable Nerve**

(Editor's Note: 19 inch story about the hanging available at the Fort Smith Public Library.)

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MADSTONE

The madstone that was so successfully applied to Sheriff Williams' hand some time ago when it was so badly bitten by a dog belongs to Mrs. Ward, who lives at Frank Ward's place, about 2½ miles east of Lavaca and about 18 miles east of Fort Smith. Mrs. Ward charges \$20 for the use of the stone to those who are able to pay a fee, but to those who are unable to pay she charges nothing.

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April 22, 1887

FORT SMITH

Queen of the New Southwest

The Future Manufacturing Center of the West

**The City that Sits at the Head of the Great Arkansas Valley
and in Her Prosperity and Richness Overshadows
All Others in Magnificence and Splendor**

Headquarters of Railroad, Timber, Coal & Mining Interests

Her Location, Surroundings and Resources

What Fort Smith Is Doing and What She Has Done

As we receive every day letters from abroad asking for information in regard to Fort Smith, and finding it impossible to answer all the inquiries by letter, we give the following facts for the information of all concerned.

Fort Smith is situated on the Arkansas River, one hundred and fifty miles above Little Rock, at the mouth of the Poteau River, immediately on the border of the Indian Territory, the Arkansas River dividing it from the Cherokee Nation, while the Choctaw Nation joins the corporate limits of the city on the east bank of Poteau. Its population is now estimated at 15,000, and is rapidly increasing. Its growth in the past five years has been phenomenal, and the increase in its volume of business astonishing. Surrounded as it is by an excellent farming country, it has grown to be one of the best cotton markets in the state, the staple being brought here from points as far distant as one hundred miles. Between 45,000 and 50,000 bales have been handled here this season. It is connected direct with St. Louis by the St. Louis & San Francisco railway, and with Little Rock by the Little Rock & Fort Smith railway. The route to be traversed is about 80 miles in length, and passes through a belt of the richest country in Arkansas — rich not only in agricultural resources but in the finest of minerals as well. Operation will commence on this line in a short time.

The St. Louis & San Francisco railroad is running a branch line from near Hackett city towards Greenwood, the object being to tap the rich coal fields that lay all along this route. The Gould system, it is said, will also commence operations on a line almost parallel to that of the Frisco. Both these gigantic corporations are struggling for the cream of these coal lands, as well they may, for in the fields and hills of nearly every part of Sebastian County lie untold thousands of tons of the finest coal. Iron, too, lies almost at our doors in inexhaustible quantities.

It is generally conceded that Fort Smith is to become a great railroad center and distributing point for the finest section of country in the land, rich in all kinds of minerals, coal and timber, which is awaiting development, and is a standing invitation to capitalists seeking investment for their idle wealth.

All manner of business is represented here, and during the past year trade in all branches of commerce has been excellent. We have one of the largest cotton seed oil mills and compresses in the world, two foundries, several wagon factories on a small scale, street railways (which are to be immediately extended to double their present length), gas, electric light, ice factory, and one of the

best water works systems in the south, furnishing water for all purposes. The United States Court for the Western District of Arkansas is in session here the year round, disbursing over two hundred thousand dollars per annum. It is the largest criminal court in the world, having jurisdiction over the five civilized tribes of the Indian Territory, besides a large portion of Arkansas. A United States courthouse and jail are to be erected here at once, the former to cost over \$100,000 and the latter \$50,000. Both are in course of construction now.

In addition to these buildings, there is in process of erection a first class opera house. This building will cost \$75,000 and will, in convenience and beauty of finish, be second to none in the South.

Free Schools

Fort Smith has a magnificent school fund, amounting probably to more than half a million dollars in real estate, which was donated to her by congress, the gift being the old military reservation, long since abandoned, and joining the principal part of the city. We have three large and commodious school buildings for the whites, and one for colored children. One of the three first mentioned has just been completed at a cost of over \$40,000, and others will be erected as occasion demands.

Bridge Enterprise

A company has been formed and a charter has been applied for to bridge the Arkansas River at this place, and active steps are being taken to secure the building of the structure, which will no doubt terminate successfully. This is a very important step, and one from which Fort Smith and the country surrounding must derive vast benefit, notwithstanding the river is already bridged at Van Buren, only four miles away.

Banks

The city now has three banks, all of them sound institutions and doing a good business.

Fair Association

We also have a Fair Association that owns valuable grounds adjacent to the city and has been in existence for nearly eight years, giving annual exhibitions, which have done much toward bringing the resources of our country before the outside world, and will continue to give our farmers, fruit growers, stock raisers and all others engaged in the industries of the country a chance to exhibit the products of their respective pursuits.

To Capitalists

seeking investments for their wealth, this place offers flattering inducements by her natural advantages and surroundings. Manufactories are badly needed — all kinds of them. A cotton factory could be supplied with everything necessary to make it a success, fuel being abundant and cheap and cotton culture being one of the chief industries of the surrounding country in every direction. Agricultural implements could be manufactured here very profitable, there being an abundance of the finest timber to be had near at hand and extensive iron beds within twenty-five miles and perhaps much nearer. Coal and water inexhaustible, and all

branches of industry could be made to flourish here and in time enrich those who put their wealth into them. To the emigrant seeking a new home, inducements can also be offered. If you wish to farm, lands are abundant and cheap within five to twenty-five miles, but in the vicinity of town they are now high, some asking as high as \$300 an acre within less than three miles. Farther out, however, good land can be had at from \$15 to \$40 per acre, unimproved, and improved farms are at all times on the market at reasonable figures, and much of it has doubled and trebled in value during the last three months. There is not only a real estate boom here just now, but a building boom, unparalleled in the history of the city, is now in progress, and hundreds of residences will be put up this summer, besides a large number of substantial business houses, and all this invites laborers and mechanics to cast their lot in our thriving city and grow up with it. The present population is composed of people of every nationality and from every state in the Union, a majority of our late accession being from Mississippi and Tennessee. We have a pleasant climate, and are never troubled with epidemics of any kind. Our summers are long but mild, and our winters are never severe, compared with the northern states.

To close we will say, if you want to speculate, if you want to go into commercial business of any kind, if you want to engage in manufacturing enterprises, if you want to invest in lands of any description, if you want to farm, if you want to raise stock, if you are seeking a new home, come to Fort Smith and look around and we are satisfied you will find it to your interest to locate and help us develop our vast resources in which there is wealth for the million.

CITY MATTERS

At the second meeting of the new city council, all the Aldermen were present. Several petitions were heard and laid. John Kennedy and Alex Hoffman were elected as Board of Public Affairs, the former for the long term and the latter for the short term. T.S. Osborn, Esq., was elected to the office of City Attorney and John R. McBride, City Collector.

A resolution was adopted requiring the Mayor, Police Judge, City Clerk, City Collector and several of police to give bond in sum of \$5,000 each. An ordinance was passed appropriating \$500 for the purchase of office furniture.

A resolution was also adopted allowing each member of the Board of Public Affairs a monthly compensation of \$25; the Captain of the Police Force \$70 a month.

Armbruster & Kruehl, manufacturers of carriages, barouches, buggies, trucks, spring wagons, etc., have advertised in this issue. These gentlemen have recently located here and will no doubt do well.

DEATH OF MRS. GEN. CABELL

Mrs. Harriet Amanda Cabell, wife of Gen. W.L. Cabell, died at the Rector homestead near Fort Smith, Arkansas, on the 16th day of April, 1887... She was the daughter and eldest child of the late Major Elias Rector and his wife, Mrs. J.C. Rector, and was born at Bardstown, KY, where her parents were visiting, on the 3rd day of June, 1837. From early childhood she was called "Shingo," a name given her by the Indians... She was married to Gen. W.L. Cabell, then a Lieutenant in the 7th U.S. Infantry, on the 22nd day of July, 1856. Her bridesmaids were Miss Mary Gibson, now the wife of Gen. Thomas Bowen, at that time U.S. Senator from Colorado, and Miss Belle Flemming.

About the year 1872 she removed to Dallas, Texas... Her remains were taken to Dallas, Texas, where she will be laid at rest.

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April 29, 1887

The funeral of Mrs. T.J. Hurley, whose death was mentioned in last week's *Elevator*, took place Sunday afternoon from the Roman Catholic Church of this city of which Mrs. Hurley had long been a member. The funeral was one of the largest ever held in this city, and the presence of hundreds of people at the grave testified to the esteem in which the deceased lady was held.

Frank Berry, a printer who learned his trade in the *Elevator* office but who has been absent some time and had recently returned to the city, died Tuesday morning at the residence of Mrs. Porter after a short illness from typho-malarial fever. Frank was a steady, sober, industrious young man, and his death is a matter of great regret among his friends and acquaintances.

Mr. Eugene Henderson and Miss Della Dickins were married on Wednesday evening at the residence of the bride's mother in this city by Rev. W.A. Sample. The wedding was quiet and unostentatious. Only a few special friends and relatives of the high contracting parties were present. We congratulate Eugene on his desertion of the bachelor brotherhood and trust the future happiness and prosperity of himself and bride will be unimpaired.

The Engineer Corps of the Fort Smith, Paris & Dardanelle Railroad commenced work yesterday morning making the preliminary survey of the route for this road. They are now between Fort Smith and Central and will push on eastward with all possible speed.

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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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