

# The JOURNAL

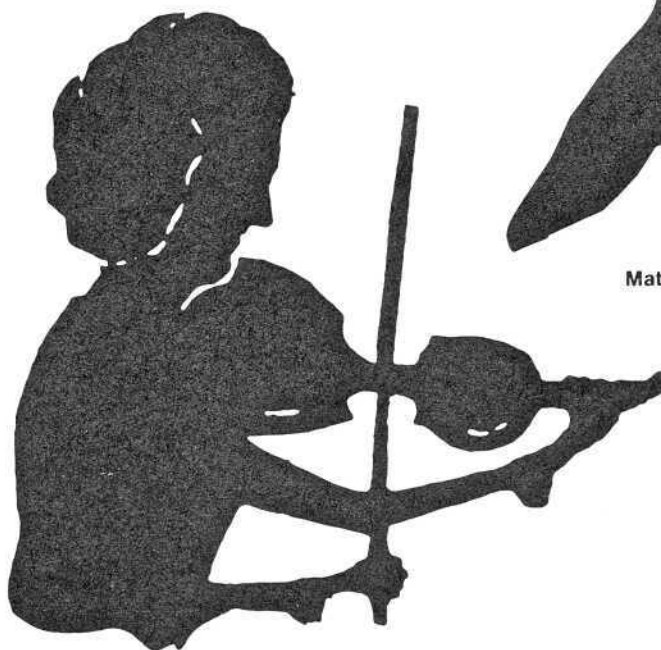
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Self by Betty Calvert, 1940



Matalie Clayton



Mary Alice Nantz



Edith Ayers Allen



George Obinger

Vol. 13, No. 1, April, 1989

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# The JOURNAL

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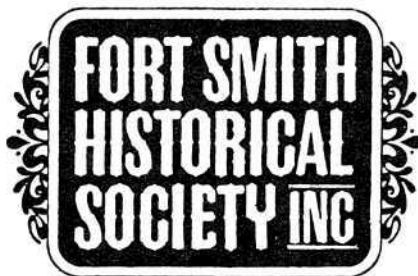
COVER: Silhouettes by Opal Elizabeth "Betty" Calvert.

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Dear Readers:

THERE ARE **TWO** FORT SMITH HISTORICAL SOCIETY SPECIAL EVENTS IN APRIL AND MAY. BRING ALL OF YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS — EVERYONE IS INVITED.

The first event is the ANNUAL MEETING on Thursday, April 27, 1989, 7:00 P.M. in the Fort Smith Public Library Community Room.

The second event is an OPEN HOUSE AND RECEPTION FOR NEW MEMBERS on May 25, 1989, 6:30 P.M. in the Cafeteria at Westark Community College. The public is invited to both events. Invite a friend and come — we will look for you there.

The city of Fort Smith was the leader in urban reform in Arkansas and the history of this reform is shared with you in this issue of *The Journal* through the research and writing of Phillip Wayne Russell, a native of Fort Smith and a member of the faculty of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.

Compilation of biographies and photographs of mayors of Fort Smith for the city archives continues. Beginning with this issue, a mayor will be featured in each issue, but because material is not yet available on all mayors, they will not be presented in the order of their tenure. We are again printing the list of mayors which was in the September, 1988 issue of *The Journal* and ask your help with this project. If you do not have a photograph or biographical information on a mayor, can you give us the name and address of someone else who may be able to help?

Other features in this issue deal with the origin and changes of names of Fort Smith city streets and the Fort Smith Public Library. Related to the library story is the history of the Fortnightly Study Club which was responsible for the establishment of the library, and a biography of Dr. Buchanan Hatchett who in 1931 bequeathed to the library about \$45,000, almost twice the amount of the much publicized gift from Andrew Carnegie to the library.

Also featured is the biography, silhouettes and poetry of Betty Calvert, a talented Fort Smith artist and poet who died in October, 1988.

It is with feelings of deep sorrow and loss that we record the deaths of many educators who taught in Fort Smith schools and others who have contributed so much to Fort Smith.

Your Editor,

*Amelia Martin*

Amelia Martin

# Fort Smith City Government and the Progressive Era in Urban Reform

Phillip Wayne Russell

(Editor's Note: Phillip Wayne Russell, son of Clayton R. and Jewell Floyd Russell, is a native of Fort Smith. He graduated from Southside High School, received a Bachelor of Arts degree in history at Arkansas Tech in Russellville, Master of Arts degree in history at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, and is now working toward his doctorate in secondary education at the University of Arkansas where he is also a member of the faculty, teaching a class in secondary education. He is a member of Phi Delta Kappa and National Council for Social Studies.)

We are pleased to bring to you, with Mr. Russell's permission, the second part of his Master's thesis dealing with early government in the city of Fort Smith which was the leader in urban reform in the state of Arkansas. We regret space limitation prevents our printing here the first part of this thesis in which Russell sets forth the necessity, nationwide, for urban reform, documenting the fact that between 1880 and 1910 the population of cities grew from 15 to 45 million.

Copies of the complete thesis are on file at the University of Arkansas Library, the Westark Community College Library, the Fort Smith Public Library and the Fort Smith Historic Site.)

## II. COPING WITH URBAN PROBLEMS: THE FORT SMITH EXPERIENCE

Fort Smith stood in the vanguard of Arkansas towns and cities in the implementation of structural reforms in its municipal government during the Progressive Era. Unlike other areas of the country, there was little agitation for such reforms in Arkansas in this period, in part because the state was overwhelmingly rural. One exception was Mayor Charles E. Taylor's administration in Little Rock between 1911 and 1919. This progressive mayor was a proponent of the application of business principles to the operation of city government as well as an advocate of the commission form of government. Although he did not succeed in obtaining adoption of the commission form for Little Rock, his administration did improve streets, fire protection, sewers, and street lighting.<sup>1</sup> There was also in Arkansas some desire for greater "home rule," that is to allow local governments more control over their own affairs. An act passed by the General Assembly in 1891 gave county courts the power to order drainage and reclamation of swamp and overflowed lands.<sup>2</sup> Despite these exceptions, Fort Smith was the first city in Arkansas to adopt any of the major municipal reform ideas of the time. Only after Fort Smith had acted did other cities begin to adopt municipal reform.

Like many other cities by the turn of the century, Fort Smith was experiencing growth and change. Improved transportation facilities such as the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad, completed in 1876, accounted for much of this growth. The St. Louis and San Francisco Railway soon followed, giving further stimulus to Fort Smith trade. The result was that from 1880 to 1884 the population of the city more than doubled.<sup>3</sup> In addition, the Federal Government donated the federal fort and reservation, a total of 360 acres, to the city to be sold for school funds. The sale of this donated land caused people to come to settle in Fort Smith. By 1891, the population of the city totaled about 15,000.<sup>4</sup> The building of a railroad from Paris, Texas to Coffeyville, Kansas via Fort Smith and one to Mansfield,

Arkansas stimulated further growth. The Kansas City, Fort Smith, and Southern Railroad placed Fort Smith within ten hours travel of Kansas City and its market for fruits, berries, and early vegetables grown in the area around the Arkansas city.<sup>5</sup> The discovery of natural gas on Massard Prairie east of town in 1904 attracted industry to Fort Smith by providing cheap fuel for operating plants.<sup>6</sup> By 1905, 126 wells had been drilled in the Massard field. In addition, the opening of mammoth semianthracite coal fields of which Fort Smith was the center provided a great impetus for settlement and trade. Besides bringing resources to Fort Smith from a wider area, the railroads transported this coal to where it was needed. These added resources, as well as increased population, helped bring on industrial growth. In the first part of the twentieth century, Fort Smith became a manufacturing center with the population increasing from 11,587 in 1900 to 28,975 in 1910.<sup>7</sup> By 1901, manufacturing enterprises in the city included five machine shops, one feed mill, one roller flour mill, two cottonseed oil mills, two ice factories, six lumber companies, two box factories, three brick and tile factories, one book bindery, one soap factory, two cotton gins, three bakeries, two foundries, one spring and bedding factory, and one structural iron works.<sup>8</sup>

The development of coal mining in Sebastian county, while assisting in the growth of the Fort Smith area, brought problems and instability as well. The growth of a large population of discontented miners organized under the United Mine Workers made the prospect of violence in the area eminent. In fact, in 1914, a crowd of south Sebastian county miners and residents led by Pete Stewart, United Mine Workers, District 21 president, attacked a Bache-Denman Company open shop mine and routed the scab employees. Shortly after this incident, a fierce riot erupted in Hartford Valley when miners enraged by company guards who fired on their tent camp attacked several open shop mines and gained control of Bache-Denman coal properties.<sup>9</sup>



The Socialist Party enjoyed widespread support in the mining areas. For example, Pete Stewart was elected mayor of Hartford, Arkansas in southern Sebastian county in 1912 on a Socialist Party ticket.<sup>10</sup> After the panic of 1907, many small farmers in the area suffered hard times. From small mining towns such as Hartford, the Socialist Party attempted to recruit discontented farmers from the countryside.

Another example of the area's interest in socialism was the popularity of Eugene V. Debs in Sebastian county. In the presidential election of 1908 Debs received 5,842 votes in Arkansas, and Sebastian county gave him more votes than any other county.<sup>11</sup> When Debs came to Fort Smith to speak on July 7, 1908, a crowd of more than 1200 people came to hear him.<sup>12</sup> In May, 1910, he spoke to 2000 in Fort Smith. On this occasion Debs said that 22 million men toiled on farms, in mines, mills, quarries, and factories for a wage amounting to about one sixth of the wealth they produced.<sup>13</sup>

At any rate, industrial growth posed many problems similar to those confronted by municipal governments in other cities. For example, in 1893 the city council passed an ordinance fixing a penalty on city committee members or councilmen who refused or neglected to make their reports on time.<sup>14</sup> According to the *Fort Smith Elevator*, the cumbersome and inefficient method utilized by the mayor-council system of sending resolutions to committees for consideration instead of being dealt with by the council itself further slowed the prompt and effective functioning of the city government at a time when city services were needed badly to cope with urban growth.

Another problem Fort Smith shared with other cities was the presence of many destitute inhabitants, for whom no public aid was available. That Dr. J.M. Kelleam, a local physician, treated some of them to Thanksgiving dinner indicated the reliance on private aid.<sup>15</sup> Still another of Fort Smith's problems dealt with the fire department. In 1894, the firemen petitioned the city council for a pay increase.<sup>16</sup> The petition was referred to a committee for consideration, causing a long delay in action on the request. When the answer came it was not satisfactory to the firemen; their wage demands were not met.

In 1894, the committee on Fire, Water, and Lights investigated a report that the water company was pumping water directly from the Poteau River to the city, rather than to the reservoir for purification, in violation of its contract.<sup>17</sup> Residents blamed the ineptness of the city government for entering into a contract with such a company and for the delay in correcting the situation. Some favored city ownership of an electric light plant for lighting the streets cheaply and satisfactorily. Such an arrangement, it was claimed, would eliminate corruption originating in the granting of contracts to certain companies.

Corruption flourished in the Police Department where the Chief of Police, Henry Surratt, admitted to

misappropriating city funds to purchase stoves, wall paper, and paint for a "bauwdy" house on First Street.<sup>18</sup> The city council, despite the Chief's admission of guilt and resignation from office, rejected the police committee's recommendation that Surratt's resignation be accepted and reinstated him as Police Chief by a vote of six to four.<sup>19</sup> Thus, Fort Smith had some of the same problems that many other cities had, though perhaps on a smaller scale.

By 1908, many of the existing problems had become more acute and some new ones had emerged. For example, in January, 1908, the entire business district of the city was threatened by fire. Inadequate equipment and water pressure caused the fire fighting to be slow and inefficient. The general level of efficiency throughout the city government was low. The city government's action in attempting to buy property, part of which it already owned, for a new fire station demonstrated its inefficiency and ineptitude. Problems also continued with contracts with utility companies. The W.J. Gawne Company filed suit in Federal Court on April 18, 1908, against the board of improvement of Sewer District No. 2 because the board failed to fulfill its part of the Fort Smith sewerage contract.<sup>20</sup> The company alleged that it did part of the work of laying the sewerage system and that this work was accepted but never paid for by the board. In another matter, the Federal Court declared the council's investigation of gas rates inadequate. The city, according to the Court, was not complying with the statute on investigation.<sup>21</sup>

By 1912, the city government was in the midst of financial troubles. The payment of the September bills of that year eliminated the city's general fund with half of a \$17,000 balance still due the Garrison Avenue paving contractors.<sup>22</sup> In 1912, it cost the city \$39,422.72 to finance the operations of the police department. The monthly average was \$3,285.25 with wide variations from month to month. This \$3,285.25 allowed \$400 per month for feeding prisoners, \$200 per month for incidental expenses, and \$75 per month for the wages of each of thirty-six men.<sup>23</sup> In response to these financial problems, the council authorized the Finance committee to employ an accountant to audit all the books of the improvement districts, the water department, and the expenditures of all officials who handled city funds.<sup>24</sup>

Another problem was the impregnable position of city officials. No method was available for getting unsatisfactory, indifferent, or dishonest officials out of office between elections. According to the *Southwest American*, public opinion was ignored in the passage of ordinances by these officials. The granting of franchises to a chosen few with special privileges brought about relationships leading to graft and corruption. The various improvement boards could also operate with little restraint from the council.

Under the mayor-council form elective offices included the mayor, treasurer, police judge, and four aldermen or councilmen. These aldermen, who made up the city council, were elected by wards. Petitions or ordinances before the council were often sent to standing committees for consideration. Three or four councilmen made up these committees which included finance, ordinance, streets and alleys, police, cemetery, and gas and electric light.<sup>25</sup> These committees studied legislation and returned it to the council with a resolution of approval or disapproval. The council then made its decision partly on the basis of the committee's recommendation.

The city government also included various departments which executed the ordinances passed by the council. An example was the water department, headed by a water commissioner and a five member commission including the mayor. Other departments included finance, fire, and health. Another part of the city government was the improvement district boards which implemented improvements in the city's streets, sidewalks, curbs, and guttering. The city council formed these boards when ten owners of real property within the city petitioned the city to take steps toward local improvements such as improvement of streets and alleys, constructing sewers or making any local improvement of a public nature. The council laid off the portion mentioned in the petition into one or more improvement districts. If a majority of the real property owners in the district presented a petition to the council for the improvements mentioned in the first petition the city council appointed three owners of real property in the district as a board of improvement for the district. The board planned the improvements, procured estimates of their cost, and employed engineers and other agents needed for the improvements.

Each district had a treasurer to handle its financial matters. Thus, the boards of improvements had control of the planning and construction of improvements in their respective districts. Although improvement boards had the power to construct waterworks or gas or electric light works the city council had the authority to operate and maintain them.<sup>26</sup> According to the *Elevator*, the separation of the executive power, the departments and improvement district boards, from the legislative power, the council, and the diffusion of city authority in so many departments, committees, and improvement boards made for inefficient government.

Many citizens, especially business and professional leaders such as Attorneys Harry Warner and Ira D. Oglesby, and W.J. Johnston, Secretary of Ballman Cummings Furniture Company and a former mayor from 1909-1911, began to criticize the city government and offer solutions to the city's problems.<sup>27</sup> Some asked why the public received no report regarding the annual statement of the various boards of improvement since it was the citizen's right to know the financial status and activities of

these boards. Criticism also focused on the government's handling of finances. In 1912, the city issued \$1,300 for four inch water pipe that was of no value to the city because it was the wrong size.<sup>28</sup> This waste of money was revolting to many taxpayers.

Another focus of public criticism regarding the city government was the preferential treatment shown certain citizens. For example, the city government stopped the collection of rent from some occupants of city property while it continued to charge others.<sup>29</sup>

Business leaders such as George Sengel, President of Sengel Hardware Company, an active member of the First Presbyterian Church, active in the movement for road building, and a resident of Fort Smith at least since 1894, W.J. Johnston, a resident of Fort Smith at least since 1900, and C.A. Darland, assistant manager of the Fort Smith Wagon Company were in the forefront of those critical of the mayor-council system.<sup>30</sup> Many of these business leaders believed that Fort Smith needed a substantial commercial organization dominated by leading bankers and manufacturers to ensure important progress for the city. In their opinion, "a few master business minds must form the nucleus around which we must operate if we are to get anywhere in city building. This," the business leaders concluded, "is true of every organization that accomplishes anything, including city governments."<sup>31</sup> Businessmen should be the leaders of city government since they could operate it efficiently. Those accepting this business-leadership philosophy criticized the structure of the existing city government. Citizens believed that the quarter of a million dollars required by the government for expenses in 1912 went for the expenses of improvement district boards plagued by decentralization of authority.<sup>32</sup> The necessity of tax assessments was not questioned; they were essential to city improvement and growth. However, in the existing government, individuals and cliques tried to deny the people the right to an active voice in determining how tax money should be spent. In a letter to the editor dated February 19, 1913, a citizen said, "The city needs an economical business administration of city affairs to lift the city to a high plane of administrative economy and efficiency such as mark all successful business enterprises."<sup>33</sup>

The Fort Smith Commercial Club, an organization of business and professional people whose major goal was to attract new businesses to the city, provided a forum for critics of the city government. During a 1908 banquet, Scott Robertson, the president of the club, identified adequate fire protection, a water works system capable of meeting the expansion requirements of the city, and a change in the form of municipal government as needed improvements.<sup>34</sup> According to Robertson, the existing form of municipal government was a hindrance to progress because of its connection with special interests.<sup>35</sup>



These critics, predominantly business and professional people such as attorneys C.E. Warner and A.A. McDonald, C.A. Darland, and Dr. Jefferson D. Southard, a physician active in the Sebastian County Medical Society and a longtime Fort Smith resident, were proponents of the city commission form of city government. The commission advocates argued, as did reformers in other cities, that the commission form would focus responsibility and give the people a direct voice in city government.

Fort Smith's mayor-council system with mayor, aldermen, and heads of departments made it very difficult to pinpoint the responsibility for an act to a single official. An example of this difficulty was the city government's illegal disbursement of city finances. In many cases, no one official was charged with the responsibility for the expenditure of certain funds. All levels of the government were often implicated in these illegal expenditures. Thus the old system was neither economical nor efficient. The appeal was directly to the taxpayers regarding city finances. Proponents of the commission stressed that there was a lack of realization among the citizens that they had to pay the cost of running the city. With commission, the voters could narrow responsibility for an extravagant expenditure to one official since fewer officials would be on the ballot and each would be responsible for all the actions of their particular department of the city government. The proponents of commission government pointed to the success the commission form had had in Houston, Texas. In that Texas city tax reductions and payment of debts resulted from adoption of the commission form. Overall, it was a great improvement over the old system. According to the *Southwest American*, in thirty-three states, 205 cities adopted the commission form while none of them had ever voted to return to their old form of government.<sup>36</sup> Commission supporters maintained that the economical business administration of city affairs that had lifted other commission cities to great administrative economy and efficiency was exactly what Fort Smith could look forward to under the commission plan.

The proponents also appealed to the pride of the citizens in their city as a reason for adopting the commission form. In the past, Fort Smith had led the state in the good-roads movement and the solution of the constitutional problem of the public credit embargo.<sup>37</sup> Again, according to the commission advocates, Fort Smith would lead the state in substituting efficient and businesslike municipal government in the commission for a clumsy, inefficient, and expensive system.

With arguments such as these circulating, a mass meeting was held on February 21, 1913 at which merchants, as well as business and professional people, contributed money to finance a city wide campaign for the commission form of government. Also, an organization was established to promote the new form of government. Attorney C.E. Warner was elected president and Roy Johnston, secretary

of the Fort Smith and Van Buren Bridge District, was elected secretary. Other people participating in the meeting included attorneys Ira D. Oglesby, A.A. McDonald, and L.F. Fishback, a justice of the peace, along with C.A. Darland, C.H. Miller, a foreman with Darby and Bly printers, W.J. Johnston, and Dr. Jefferson D. Southard.<sup>38</sup> On February 26, 1913, another organization with George Sengel as chairman opened its headquarters. F.J. Weiman was secretary with attorney A.A. McDonald as first ward chairman, D. Newton as second ward chairman, attorney John B. Hiner third, and H.F. Rogers fourth.<sup>39</sup>

All the while, criticism of the mayor-council government continued. It was contended that most of the work of city government was performed by committee. Actually, a single committee member usually did most of the work with the others only signing the piece of legislation on his recommendation. The council rarely overturned a report after the committee approved it. Thus, the power which a single committee member exerted upon a committee report was enormous.

To eliminate the connection between the municipal government and special interests, the idea of allowing the duties of the improvement board members, such as planning and implementation of street improvements, to be imposed on commissioners was introduced. With the imposition of these duties on the commissioners, decision-making would become more centralized, ending conflicts of authority between the council and improvement boards. It was alleged that much of the delay in street paving was due to cross purposes between the mayor and council on the one hand and the contractor and improvement board on the other. According to advocates of the commission government, the placing of all authority in the hands of one set of officials, such as were found in the city commission form of government, was preferable to the mayor-council system.

Another argument for the commission plan which found a receptive audience among the rank and file was its promise to save money. The commission form eliminated many salaried officers. The money saved by the elimination of these officers would be more than the salaries of the five commissioners set up by the new system. The city under the mayor-council system paid each individual on the board of aldermen \$1,400 per year, city and improvement district engineers and assistant engineers over \$6,000, the police judge \$1,500, and each improvement district secretary over \$3,000.<sup>40</sup> The commission form wiped out all such positions except those related to the city engineering force. The commissioners acted as heads of their departments, thus ending the need for highly paid department heads. These commissioners had to administer their departments economically or face the loss of their jobs by the people in a recall election. Commission proponents maintained that in the mayor-council system the people had no voice in the selection or

control of officials in charge of the making and administration of health regulations, expenditures of city money, in contracting for construction, and in the handling of securities.<sup>41</sup>

Still another argument for the commission dealt with its speed in the transaction of business. Under the mayor-council form, according to the *Southwest American*, in order to obtain a permit to repair a roof or make a building change one had to wait two weeks for a council meeting and then wait two more weeks for the committee assigned by the council to consider it. On the other hand, the commissioners, as full time employees, would meet every day. It would be the sole business of the commissioner in charge of the department under which a particular petition came to be informed so that he could deal with the petition intelligently and immediately.

The opposition to the commission movement in Fort Smith stressed several things in its argument for the mayor-council system of city government. One dealt with the unrepresentative nature of the proposed commission form. Aldermen represented each ward while commissioners would be elected at large; therefore, all commissioners could conceivably come from the same ward and could represent a single clique. The mayor-council system, though having corruption, was more representative. At any rate, it was argued, the mere title of commissioner would not make an officer immune to corruption. These opponents of the commission form maintained that five people were too few to run the city government and that this would be a monarchy. Safety, they maintained, was to be found in numbers.<sup>42</sup>

Despite this opposition, the movement to obtain a vote on the commission question continued to gain strength. Many pressing problems, such as a maturing debt amounting to nearly three quarters of a million dollars, added to the urgency of the situation.<sup>43</sup> The unpaid general and street fund bills were enough to completely deplete the total applicable receipts from taxes. The rising cost of the city government needed to be brought under control. Proponents of the commission drew a parallel between operation of the city government and the operation of a private business. According to the *Southwest American*, more than half of the \$323,688.08 needed to run and improve the corporation of Fort Smith in 1912 was upkeep expense.<sup>44</sup> Commission advocates asked if other large commercial enterprises would view such a business management as satisfactory. The commission form would cut upkeep expenses through its business administration of city affairs. According to these advocates, the immediate institution of their system of city government was vital for the continued well being of the city.<sup>45</sup>

Supporters of the commission attempted to portray the opponents of the commission as motivated only by self interest. For example, C.E. Warner declared that the people who said that the

commission would not do away with the improvement boards were lying. According to Warner, these commission opponents would do anything to protect their own favorable positions in the present city government.<sup>46</sup> The editor and owner of the *Southwest American*, W.E. Decker, asked why the opponents of the commission form did not warn the people of the dangers of the new system of government at a commission meeting if their arguments were sound and truthful. These people had no legitimate concerns about the commission form, maintained the editor, they just opposed the narrowing of responsibility and the provision for a direct voice of the people in government because this would endanger their favored position in relation to the city government.<sup>47</sup>

Before any change could be made in the form of the city's government an act of the state legislature had to be obtained, according to the Arkansas Constitution of 1874.<sup>48</sup> On February 5, 1913, Act 13 of the Arkansas General Assembly became law, authorizing any first class city having from 18,000 to 40,000 inhabitants to adopt the commission plan.<sup>49</sup> Under this act, a petition was circulated and signed by the needed number of citizens establishing March 5 as the date for an election to decide the commission question. As this date neared, campaigning became much fiercer. Noonday meetings at factories, as well as ward or street corner meetings at night, served as forums for getting pro-commission ideas to the people. The pro-commission campaign culminated in a large meeting held on March 2 in the court house. Presided over by George Sengel, the speakers were attorneys C.E. Warner and A.A. McDonald, and State Senator C.C. Calvert.<sup>50</sup> Senator Calvert maintained that the charter gave the city authority to take over administration of the improvement district boards. McDonald said that under the new form city expenses for salaries would be \$10,500 per year compared with \$13,000 under the mayor-council system.<sup>51</sup> He assured people that no one would lose his job if the commission form passed. The diligent efforts of the commission advocates paid off as the commission form won 1,679 to 461, a majority of nearly four to one.<sup>52</sup>

In the election of the first commission held on April 1, 1913, none of the members of the previous mayor-council government gained re-election. Only three members ran for re-election suggesting that perhaps many former councilmen did not approve of the new commission form. The primary election eliminated aldermen R.G. Moore and Tom B. Garrett, while Mayor Fagan Bourland went down to defeat at the hands of Henry C. Read in the general election. There was no indication of any pattern of class differences between the mayor-council and commission personnel. For example, Fagan Bourland was a wholesale grocer, while his successor under the new commission Henry Read was president of Thrash-Lick Printing Company and a pioneer in the grocery brokerage business. This



"stalwart Democrat" was born in Kentucky and moved to Fort Smith in 1888.<sup>53</sup> Other members of the last mayor-council government included John Harrington, a cattleman; Jim Krone, a salesman for Krone Brothers Cigars; Jim D. Johnson, a road commissioner; R.G. Moore, vice-president of Fort Smith Merchants Transfer and Storage Company; and J.W. Howell, manager of Union Seed and Fertilizer Company. Members of the first commission included Henry Kuper, Jr., a merchant tailor, Wallace H. Bruce of Bruce Brothers Plumbing; D.F. Singleton, a railroad conductor; and Tom Hayes, an engineer and contractor. Members of the commission movement and the first commission government were generally business and professional people or middle-to-upper class men but the same could be said for the last city council. Comparison of personnel did not point to a struggle between middle and lower class elements.

It is not possible to detect any evidence of partisan struggle surrounding the adoption of the commission. In the mayor-council election in 1911 almost all of the candidates were Democrats with only insignificant opposition from Socialists. In the election for commission membership candidates ran on a nonpartisan basis. In this respect the Fort Smith experience was typical of municipal reform elsewhere in that party affiliations were consciously de-emphasized.

The commission form had at least some support from former members of the mayor-council government. For example, Mayor Fagan Bourland, in his farewell address to the city council on April 7, 1913, admitted that he had had no control over the improvement board members since they were arbitrary powers to themselves. He said that in this situation he as mayor could not help people get their streets paved, sidewalks repaired, etc.. However, Bourland maintained that this situation had changed since the new city commissioners would have direct control over city improvements. Bourland was later elected mayor two times under the commission form, in 1921 and 1929.<sup>54</sup> In 1923, he was recalled from the Mayor's office by a group led by the Ku Klux Klan which accused him of misappropriation of funds and softness toward bootleggers and prostitutes.

The newspaper was instrumental in bringing about the commission victory. Editor W.E. Decker of the *Southwest American*, a commission supporter himself, used his newspaper to promote commission government. For example, a column repeatedly appeared on the editorial page entitled "Plain Answers on Commission Form of Government Questions" which attempted to put to rest any doubts regarding the wisdom of adopting the commission form.

The *Southwest American* also published articles other than editorials supporting the adoption of the commission form along with some critical of the mayor-council form. An article by former Mayor Johnston typified the pro-commission bias of the

*Southwest American*. Johnston portrayed the commission as the answer to most of Fort Smith's problems; its concentration of authority would lift municipal affairs out of politics and the arrangement of affairs along "business lines" would assure placement of responsibility specifically for a failure.<sup>55</sup>

Just before the election, an article appeared on the front page of the *Southwest American* entitled "11th Hour Circular Opposes Commission Form of Government." It charged that this circular contained no honest reasons for opposition to the commission plan.<sup>56</sup> On the day of the election, March 5, 1913, the *Southwest American* implored the people to vote for the commission with its headline: "Mr. Citizen--Your Opportunity for Making a Change for the Better in Fort Smith Government is Upon You."<sup>57</sup> When the headlines of the March 6, 1913 issue proclaimed "Commission Government Charter was Adopted by Majority of 1,118 Votes," the *Southwest American* was proclaiming not only the victory of the commission form but its own victory as well.

The commission government set up in accordance with the outcome of this election was similar to other commission governments across the nation. The mayor and four commissioners, the only elected officials, formed the governing body. Each individual commissioner acted as the chief executive of a certain department of the city government while collectively they acted as the legislature for the city. These commissioners were elected for four year terms; the mayor and two commissioners at one election and the other two at the alternate election. Also, under the commission charter, the voters could recall incumbent officials between elections by petitioning for a recall election.

Before Fort Smith's adoption of the commission plan there was little movement in Arkansas for adoption of the plan. In fact, according to Tso-Shuen Chang, Arkansas's commission law was made primarily for the benefit of Fort Smith.<sup>58</sup> According to the *Arkansas Gazette*, Fort Smith had wanted the commission form for quite some time. Two years before adoption of the commission bill, Fort Smith's efforts were blocked by opposition from Little Rock citizens. In 1911 an enabling bill allowing Arkansas cities to adopt commission government if their citizens approved was debated in the General Assembly. Some senators and representatives believed that the abolition of party primaries under the commission form meant that undeclared Republicans or Socialists could be elected as commissioners. In response, the enabling bill was amended to include only first class cities in Sebastian County. Also, the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce requested the legislature to approve another local bill, this one for Little Rock. Many legislators believed that the commission placed too much power in too few hands. Some contended that the commission was a Republican party measure which would allow Negroes to have the controlling voice in city affairs. Others complained that the commission could use its absolute control over the

conduct of elections to designate a voting place in one of its strongholds and thereby control the election.<sup>59</sup> These arguments caused the General Assembly to vote down both commission bills.

The *Gazette* covered Fort Smith during its campaign for the commission form giving it statewide publicity. The March 5, 1913 issue announced that Fort Smith would vote on the commission question.<sup>60</sup> The article characterized Fort Smith as a pioneer in advocating commission government. On the next day the *Gazette* proclaimed the victory of the commission, describing the election as the first of its kind in Arkansas. Knowledge of Fort Smith's

experiment, spread by publicity, may have influenced other areas such as Eureka Springs which adopted the commission plan under Act 305 of 1915.<sup>61</sup> At about the same time that Fort Smith's bill passed the legislature, a bill providing for the commission government for Pine Bluff passed the House. It differed from the Fort Smith bill only in that the question of adopting the commission form was not to be submitted to the voters but became effective at once.<sup>62</sup> Although the influence of Fort Smith's commission experiment did not seem widespread, perhaps it had some effect on at least a few areas in Arkansas.

### III. FORT SMITH'S FURTHER EXPERIMENTATION IN CITY GOVERNMENT

Fort Smith's experimentation in city government did not end with its adoption of the commission form. Not long after institution of the commission government the performance of certain aspects of city government became the subject of criticism. For example, many people viewed as wasteful the expenditure of more than 90 cents of each tax dollar for salaries.<sup>1</sup> According to the *Southwest American*, since the city commission took over the old system of district taxation, low income delinquent taxpayers suffered from unfair enforced collections with no provision for delayed payments in times of acute financial distress for the taxpayer. In addition the city improvement district machinery had shown no improvement since the commission assumed authority. The commission had not adopted a plan for applying the city government's administrative machinery to the administration of the improvement districts. The expenditure of \$23,000 for maintenance of the administrative machinery of the improvement districts appeared all the more absurd since the districts had no offices.<sup>2</sup> Payment of city appointive officials accounted for most of the \$23,000.

Another instance of mismanagement of funds was the taking of expense money out of the water plant income to pay office rent and salaries of an illegal clerical department handling only the water department accounting. The city charter declared the city clerk to be the district secretary and commissioner of finance, along with treasurer of the several improvement districts.<sup>3</sup> Thus, there was to be only one accounting office for the city government. Additions to the staff were to be made only in case the city clerk became overburdened with work. Yet Commissioner Wallace H. Bruce, part owner of Bruce Brothers Plumbing, spent over \$20,000 of water plant income to maintain a separate clerical force for the water department.<sup>4</sup> In addition to this legally dubious expenditure, \$6,000 was taken out of water plant income to pay the salary of one of the commissioners.

As a solution to the financial problems of the city government, Commissioner Henry Kuper, a merchant tailor, came up with the idea of annual budgets. An annual budget would allow each department to limit itself in directing its yearly financial transactions and assist in determining what tax money was spent for.

Dissatisfaction with the commission became so great by 1915 that many believed it would be defeated if an election were held. The fundamental principle of commission government — efficient personal service — had not been achieved by the commission because the commissioners hired others at high salaries to do work they could and were obligated to do themselves. The sole responsibility for the efficient and economical administration of a department supposedly rested on each commissioner, yet in Fort Smith the quality of improvement district administration was poor, largely because of the appointment of unneeded people at high salaries.

By October, 1915, there was no cash in the treasury with at least a \$36,000 deficit predicted before the income from a general tax would become available.<sup>5</sup> The only alternative consisted of a substantial reduction of expenses by cutting excessive salaries for which the city received no adequate return. The cost per capita of city government in Fort Smith was \$11.81, a figure higher than that of Little Rock, Muskogee, Oklahoma City, Guthrie, Ardmore, Wichita, Fort Worth, San Antonio, and Nashville according to an unnamed federal bureau dealing in municipal affairs.<sup>6</sup> Administrative incompetence such as the failure of city employees to deliver sufficient services for their salaries contributed to Fort Smith's higher costs.

Another criticism of the city government concerned utility rates. Some believed that the city administration should protect Fort Smith from oppressive light and power rates. Yet the editor of the *Southwest American*, W.E. Decker, doubted that any action would be taken against the power company, saying that three jellyfish and two friends of the power company (referring to the commissioners) would not do anything.<sup>7</sup> A city government that would apply the state law for controlling public service rates on the basis of fair profits on investment and operation was needed.

Although the commission encountered criticism for its handling of the city's finances and utility contracts, few people seemed to abandon support of the concept of commission government. The prevailing view seemed to be that the complexion or personnel of the commission was the problem,



rather than the commission form itself. At one point, disillusionment with the city government reached such a level that a movement was initiated to recall Mayor Henry C. Read, president of Thrash and Lick Printing Company. According to the *Southwest American*, under Read's leadership, civil service was treated as a joke. One commissioner who possessed accounting skills refused to use them for the city, and another commissioner with engineering ability did little engineering for the city. In addition, water district funds were raided along with other district funds in defiance of the law.<sup>8</sup> A formula described in the February 27, 1916 *Southwest American* outlined the methods which were said to be needed in order to obtain better city government. These methods included the application of practical business principles, organization, and conduct of the government as a private business, removal of the government from private exploitation, the keeping of expenses lower than income, insistence on the fidelity of employees to their tasks, making employment dependent on merit only, open and frank reporting of every detail of business to the people, and finally, strict impartiality, in enforcement of the rules and restrictions of the government.<sup>9</sup> These improvements included several of the same ones that the *Southwest American* had said adoption of the commission would bring. Huge expenses in running the government, decentralization of authority in the city government, and partiality to a favored few in the enforcement of city ordinances were among the things that were to be eradicated under the commission. The commission had seemingly failed to produce the results it was supposed to.

With the problems of the city seemingly worsening, discussion began regarding the structure of the commission. At the time of the drafting of the original commission act in 1913, many people, such as attorney Ira D. Oglesby, the author of the original commission bill, believed that the commission should consist of three members, not five. Others argued against the dangerous centralization of authority in three members; therefore, there were five members. Before the meeting of the legislature

in 1915 friends of commission government, essentially the same people who originally supported the commission form, pushed an amendment of the original commission act providing for a three-member commission. The original opponents of commission government joined the commission government itself in opposing this reduction in the membership of the commission, with the result that the bill failed to pass. According to the *Southwest American*, the failure of the bill cost the city \$18,000 in needless commissioner salaries and inefficiency in the running of municipal affairs partially caused by the decentralization of official responsibility.<sup>10</sup> In response to the pleas of many citizens of Fort Smith, including many of the commission advocates of 1913, a bill passed the House in January, 1917 reducing the number of commissioners to three and dividing city functions between them.<sup>11</sup> It was later passed by the Senate and enacted into law.

Except for the alteration in the number of commissioners through all of the criticism of the city government few people proposed changes in the structure of the city government. Editor Decker of the *Southwest American* said that Commission Government was the Fort Smith Bible.<sup>12</sup> The differentiation was almost always made between the real commission government intended by the charter and the interpretation of it by the existing commissioners. Thus, most of the reform effort focused on the issue of personnel rather than on the structure of the government. An editorial printed after reduction of the membership of the commission demonstrated the emphasis on personnel. The article stated that if commissioners Kuper and Bruce were reelected, a new mayor enthusiastic for city building would be helpless to prevent the Traction Company from putting ordinances into effect with the support of their two friendly commissioners. Thus, the city would have to continue to be burdened with unfair rates for electric service because of Kuper and Bruce, not necessarily because of the form of the city government. The election of April 3, 1917 saw the defeat of both Kuper and Bruce as the people voted for a "new deal" in city government.<sup>13</sup>

#### IV. CONCLUSION

The reform movement in Fort Smith brought the adoption of the commission form of city government, as it did in many cities during the Progressive Era. The movement in Fort Smith was similar to that found in other areas. Fort Smith possessed some of the same problems that larger cities had, although they were of smaller dimensions. For example, problems with city services such as fire, police, sewer, and water were found in Fort Smith and other cities experiencing rapid growth in population. Also, Fort Smith's burgeoning costs for operating the city government and problems regarding contracts with companies providing city services pointed up the inefficiency of city administration shared by many cities during this time. The leaders of the reform

movement in Fort Smith were commercial elites and the newspapers, just as in Galveston and other cities. Leading business and professional leaders such as attorneys Charles Warner and Ira D. Oglesby, Roy Johnston, secretary of the Fort Smith and Van Buren Bridge District, W.J. Johnston, secretary of Ballman-Cummings Furniture Company, Dr. Jefferson D. Southard, a physician, and George Sengel, president of Sengel Hardware Company, were leaders in advocating the commission form and in the successful campaign for its adoption. The *Fort Smith Elevator* and the *Southwest American* played an instrumental role in the commission campaign through their pro-commission editorials and stories publicizing commission

government and criticizing the mayor-council system. Organization was utilized in Fort Smith, as in other cities, to promote the commission form. Business and professional people organized in Fort Smith as they did in Galveston with the Good Government Club and Deep Water Committee, in order to get pro-commission ideas to the people. Both Galveston and Fort Smith pro-commission groups utilized mass meetings, noon-day factory meetings, and street corner meetings in the campaign.

In addition to the problems of the mayor-council government, the organization of the commission advocates, and the role of the newspapers, perhaps, in a general sense, the intermixture of different cultures in the citizenry of Fort Smith occurring throughout the city's history also contributed to the success of the commission by providing a favorable attitude regarding progressive reform. Also, the military background of many of Fort Smith's citizens may have influenced them since many progressives regarded themselves as an army engaged in reform.

In addition, a fear of socialism may have partially motivated the proponents of the commission to work for a reform of the city government. The widespread popularity of the Socialist party in Sebastian County, especially in the mining areas, was undoubtedly disconcerting to the business-oriented commission proponents. They may have feared that with the development of industry in the area, socialism might spread from the mining areas to the city factory workers. In the last election under the mayor-council system in 1911, Socialist J.D. Lighter received 56 votes for Councilman in Ward Three. Ward Three also cast the largest number of

votes of any ward against the commission bill in 1913. Also in the 1911 election, another Socialist, Harry Justice, received 47 votes for Police Judge, while his opponent, John Harrington, polled 747. Although the support for these Socialist candidates was small, perhaps the commission proponents saw this support as a symptom of a growing impatience and radicalism among certain classes of the city's population. To thwart a radical solution to the city's problems, they may have proposed the commission system to alleviate these problems and thereby insure business and professional control of the city government.

Whatever the reasons for its adoption, the system adopted in Fort Smith was similar to commission forms across the nation in that it decreased the number of elected officials of the city government to a few commissioners and a mayor. The later reduction of the number of commissioners from five to three made Fort Smith even more similar to other cities in this regard. The concentration of legislative and executive functions of the government in the commissioners in order to fix responsibility in one individual, reduced inefficiency, and the duplication of effort. It made fewer choices for the voter and thus avoided blind voting. Also, Fort Smith's commission charter included a provision for recall of incumbent officials, a provision many other progressive cities had.

Fort Smith's adoption of the commission form of city government was influenced by, patterned after, and similar to the nationwide urban reform movement during the progressive era. Indisputably, Fort Smith shared in the urban reform ferment of the early twentieth century.

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## APPENDIX I

### VOTE BY PRECINCT IN THE COMMISSION ELECTION OF MARCH 5, 1913

FIRST WARD:	Precinct 1 — For Commission 209 to 33 Against. Precinct 2 — For Commission 261 to 53 Against.
SECOND WARD:	Precinct 1 — For Commission 185 to 52 Against. Precinct 2 — For Commission 226 to 31 Against.
THIRD WARD:	Precinct 1 — For Commission 275 to 105 Against. Precinct 2 — For Commission 162 to 79 Against.
FOURTH WARD:	Precinct 1 — For Commission 224 to 44 Against. Precinct 2 — For Commission 137 to 64 Against.

"Commission Government Charter Was Adopted By Majority of 1,118 Votes," *Southeast American* (March 6, 1913), 1.

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## APPENDIX II

### WARD BOUNDARIES

FIRST WARD: Precinct 1 — Commencing at the center of the intersection of alley between N 12th and N 13th sts and Catholic av, thence north along the center of said alley to the center of the intersection of said alley and North O st, thence east along center of North O st, if extended to city limits, thence south along city limits to Catholic or Grand av, thence along center of Catholic or Grand to place of beginning.

Precinct 2 — Commencing at the center of the intersection of N 10th st and Catholic av, thence east along the center of Catholic av to center of the intersection of alley between N 12th and N 13th sts and Catholic av, thence north along the center of said alley to North O st, thence east along center of North O st, if extended to city limits, thence north end west along city limits to Midland Blvd, thence along center of Midland Blvd and N 11th st to place of beginning.



SECOND WARD: Precinct 1 — Commencing at the center of Garrison av at the east bank of the Arkansas River, thence east along the center of Garrison av to the intersection of Garrison av to the intersection of Garrison av and N 6th st, thence north easterly along center of North 6th st and Van Buren rd to city limits, thence following city limits back west and south to the place of beginning.

Precinct 2 — Commencing at the center of the intersection of Garrison av and N 6th st, thence east along the center of Garrison av to the intersection of Garrison av and N 10th st, thence north along the center of N 10th st to the intersection of N 10th st and North L st, thence southeast along the center of North L st to the intersection of North L and N 11th sts, thence northeast along the center of N 11th st and Midland Blvd to city limits, thence following city limits westerly to Van Buren rd, thence along center of Van Buren rd and N 6th st to place of beginning.

THIRD WARD: Precinct 1 — Commencing at the intersection of Catholic av and N 10th st, thence southwesterly along the center of N 10th st to the center of Towson av, thence south along center of Towson av to the intersection of Towson av and South H st, thence east along center of South H st to the center of the intersection of South H st and S 19th st to the center of the intersection of S 19th st and Little Rock av, thence northeasterly along center of N 19th st to the center of the intersection of N 18th st and Catholic av, thence west along the center of Catholic av to the place of beginning.

Precinct 2 — Commencing at the center of Garrison av on the east bank of the Arkansas River, thence east along the center of Garrison av to the intersection of Garrison av and N 10th st, thence north along the center of N 10th st to the intersection of N 10th st and Towson av, thence south along the center of Towson av to the center of the intersection of Towson av and South H St, thence east along the center of South H st to the intersection of South H st and South 19th st, thence south on South 19th st to the center of the intersection of South 19th st and Dodson av, thence west on Dodson thence south along the center of Bluff av to the city limits, thence following the city limits west and north to the place of beginning.

FOURTH WARD: Precinct 1 — Beginning at the intersection of Catholic av and N 19th st, thence east along the center of Catholic av or Grand av to the city limits, thence following the city limits south and west to the intersection of the city limits at the center of Free Ferry rd, thence west along the center of Free ferry rd to Little Rock av, thence northwesterly along the center of Little Rock av to the center of the intersection of Little Rock av and S 19th st, thence northeasterly along the center of N 19th st to place of beginning.

Precinct 2 — Beginning at the intersection of N 19th st and Little Rock av, thence southeasterly along center of Little Rock av to Free ferry rd, thence east along the center of Free Ferry rd to the city limits, thence following city limits south and west to Bluff av, thence north along the center of Bluff av to the intersection of Bluff av and Dodson av, thence east along center of Dodson av to the intersection of Dodson av and S 19th st, thence north along the center of S 19th st to the place of beginning. The fifth said division shall be known as Upper Precinct, and described as all that part of Upper Township outside the city limits of Fort Smith.

#### VOTING PLACES

FIRST WARD: Precinct 1 — Voting place, Lutheran school house on North D st bet N 11th and N 12th sts.  
Precinct 2 — Voting place at store building on ne Catholic av, bet N 12th and N 13th sts.

SECOND WARD: Precinct 1 — Voting place, Fire Dept, bldg 113 N 6th st.  
Precinct 2 — Voting place, store bldg se cor N 6th and A sts.

THIRD WARD: Precinct 1 — Catholic Hall, cor S 13th and B sts.  
Precinct 2 — Council Chamber, City Hall.

FOURTH WARD: Precinct 1 — Barry store, 2323 North B st.  
Precinct 2 — Store bldg se cor Little Rock av and S 20th st.

UPPER PRECINCT: Police Judge's Office, City Hall

*Fort Smith City Directory, 1914*

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#### APPENDIX III

##### ACT 13

An act to provide for a Commission Form of Government for cities of the first class:

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas: Section 1 — That any city of the first class having a population of over 18,000 and less than 40,000 according to the United States census in pursuance of this Act, may become organized at a city under the provisions of this Act by proceeding as hereinafter provided...

Section 9: The Board of Commissioners shall have, possess and exercise all executive, legislative, and judicial powers and duties now had, possessed and exercised by the mayor, city council, board of public affairs and all other officers and offices in authority and duties in such persons shall be distributed among five departments as follows:

Mayor — Department of Public Affairs

Comm. No. 1 Department of Accounts and Finance

Comm. No. 2 Department of Health and Public Safety

Comm. No. 3 Department of Streets and Public Improvements

Comm. No. 4 Department of Parks and Public Property

Section 10: The mayor as such shall be the chief executive officer of the city, he shall see that the laws are enforced... He shall be Commissioner of Public Affairs, shall perform the duties of police judge...

Commissioner of Public Safety shall be superintendent and have charge of the Department of Public Safety which shall include the Fire Department..., Health Department, City Hospitals, Building, Lighting, and Heating Departments, including Gas, Electrical, Plumbing and Building Inspectors and inspector of gas and electric meters, collections and disposition of garbage, sanitation and sewerage regulations.

The Commissioner of Public Works shall be superintendent of and have charge of the Department of Public Works, which shall include opening, grading, paving, lighting, cleaning, repairing, and sprinkling streets, sewer, viaduct, and bridge construction, sidewalks, and crossings and the city Engineering Department.

The Commissioner of Public Property shall be superintendent of and have charge of the Department of Public Property, which shall include water works, parks, libraries, civic beauty and other public property not delegated to other departments.

The Commissioner of Accounting and Finance shall be superintendent of and have charge of the accounting and finance, which shall include accounting, city clerks office, taxes, licenses, rents, printing, city hall, and city fiscal affairs generally; and shall be city treasurer unless the Board of Commissioners shall otherwise provide.

The commissioners superintending each of said departments shall fully and in writing report monthly to the board the condition of his department...

Section 11: The Board of Commissioners shall at the first regular meeting after the election of its members, or as soon as practicable thereafter, appoint by a majority vote a city clerk and attorney, a city engineer, chief of police, city physician, chief of fire department and such other offices and assistants as shall be provided for by ordinance and necessary to the proper and efficient conduct of the affairs of the city...

Section 16: Any proposed ordinance may be submitted to the Board of Commissioners by a petition signed by electors of the city equal in number to twenty-five per cent of the entire vote cast for all candidates for mayor at the last preceding general election...contains a request that said ordinance be submitted forthwith to a vote of the people at a special election, the Board of Commissioners shall either:

(a) Pass said ordinance without alteration...

(b) ...proceed to call a special election, at which said ordinance without alteration, shall be submitted to a vote of the people.

Section 17: The holder of any elective office is subject to removal by the electors qualified to vote for a successor of such incumbent...

Section 22: The mayor and commissioners elected under the provisions of this act shall constitute the respective boards of improvement for any and all improvement districts now existing or that may hereafter be created...

*Acts of Arkansas, 1913, 48-88.*

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# H.R. "Happy" Hestand

## Mayor of Fort Smith 1953 to 1957

By his daughter, Suzy Hestand Laird

(Editor's Note: This is the first of the series of biographies of mayors of Fort Smith. One biography will be published each issue. Because of the lack of information on some of the mayors at this time, the series will not be in the chronological order of their tenure.)

H.R. "Happy" Hestand was born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, on February 18, 1910, of a well-known pioneer Arkansas family. His father was George Hestand, an artesian well driller. His mother was Josephine Condray Hestand. He was the youngest of thirteen children. His father died when he was three years old, leaving his mother to raise this large family alone. Happy came to Fort Smith in 1929, where he married Helen Stoner. They had four daughters who are June Reagan of Little Rock, Judy Steward of Van Buren, Kay Benn of Austin, Texas and Suzy Laird of Waldron, Arkansas. Happy went into business for himself at the age of 19, operating the "U-Drive-Um" car rental agency. Shortly after that, he opened the Hestand Motor Company, a Studebaker-Packard dealership, which he owned and operated until his death in 1958. He was a man who inspired the trust and friendship of every one who knew him. He had a great love for and a vast faith in his fellow man. This love manifested itself in his many charitable and civic endeavors.

Happy Hestand was mayor of Fort Smith from 1953 to 1957. He was known for his progressive programs. During his term of office, Lake Shepherd Springs was completed, modern sewer lines were installed in over half the city, acquisition of the Air National Guard squadron was accomplished, completion and re-routing of North 10th and 11th streets for one-way traffic, construction of a new control tower at the airport, lengthening of runways and acquisition of a new airline service. Fort Chaffee was designated as a permanent installation. Projects in progress or in the planning stage at the end of his term were widening and re-surfacing of Rogers Avenue, re-surfacing of Garrison Avenue, lighting of the Arkansas River Bridge, building of a new airport terminal, and restoration of the old gallows. During his term as mayor, Happy served as President of the Arkansas Municipal League.

Happy's affiliations were many and varied. He was a member of the First Methodist Church, and the Rogers Men's Bible class, President of the Sebastian County Heart Association, President of United Cerebral Palsy Association of Arkansas, President of the Shrine Club, Monarch of Amrita Grotto, President of the Southwest Grotto Association, Chapter Dad of DeMolay, member of Belle Point lodge, thirty-second degree Mason in Scottish Rite



H.R. "Happy" Hestand

bodies, Knight Templar of York Rite bodies, member of Noon Civics Club, member of Kiwanis Club, honorary member of the Optimist Club, member of the Chamber of Commerce, member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, member of UTC, member of BPOE, honorary member of Subiaco Alumni Association, chairman of Joseph M. Hill School, founder of Amrita Cauldron, Masonic Home Association board member, member of the Amrita Grotto Widows and Orphans association board, Salvation Army board member, Westark Council Boy Scouts of America board member, and honorary Eagle Scout, and was named an honorary graduate of Subiaco Academy. He was a Fort Smith Travelers Aid Society board member, USO board member, Federated Welfare Association board member, and member of the board of Historical Restoration, Inc.

In October of 1958, a committee of twenty-two men from around the state approached Happy to run for governor. Happy died at home of a heart attack on November 27, 1958, without having announced his decision.

# Mayors of Fort Smith, Arkansas

The search for biographies and photographs of mayors of Fort Smith for the City archives continues. If you have information about any of these men or are willing to help research on this project, please contact:

C. Ray Baker, Jr., 4410 Victoria Drive, Fort Smith, Arkansas 72904

or

Amelia Martin, Fort Smith Historical Society, c/o Fort Smith Public Library  
61 South 8th Street, Fort Smith, Arkansas 72901

Fort Smith organized in 1840, Nathaniel Gookin appointed Mayor.

First Municipal election held January 14, 1841. Charles A. Birnie elected Mayor and sworn in on January 16. He served 3 months and was succeeded by:

C.M. Hudspeth .....	April, 1841	J.R. Kannady .....	November, 1873-1874
Joseph H. Heard .....	1843-1845	E.J. Brooks .....	1874
Smith Elkins .....	1845	R.M. Johnson .....	1875
George S. Birnie .....	1846-1848	Mont H. Sandels .....	1876-1877
(W.J. Weaver, Recorder) .....	1849	James Brizzolara .....	1878-1882
Dr. Nicholas Spring .....	1850	J. Henry Carnall .....	1883-1885
Marshall Grimes .....	1851	Mat Gray .....	1886
Mitchell Sparks .....	1852	S.A. Williams .....	1887-1888
R.P. Pulliam .....	May 2, 1853	Daniel Baker .....	1889-1890
John F. Wheeler .....	April 15, 1854	C.M. Cooke .....	1891-1892
W.H. Rogers .....	January to May 27, 1855	J.A. Hoffman .....	1893-1896
R.M. Johnson .....	May 27, 1855-1856	Tom Ben Garrett .....	1897-1902
John Beckel .....	1857	Henry Kuper, Jr. ....	1903-1906
Joseph J. Walton .....	1858	Fagan Bourland .....	1907-1908
Francis S./H. Wolf .....	1859	W.J. Johnston .....	1909-1911
R.M. Johnson .....	1860	Fagan Bourland .....	1911-1913
J.K. McKenzie .....	1861	Henry C. Read .....	1913-1917
(Resigned November 4, succeeded by John King — pro tem — who was succeeded November 8 by Joseph Bennett.)		J.H. Wright .....	1917
Joseph Bennett .....	1862-1863	Arch Monro .....	1917-1921
(Resigned in May, succeeded by R.M. Johnson.)		Fagan Bourland .....	1921-1923
R.M. Johnson .....	1864	D.L. Ford .....	1923-1925
Francis S./H. Wolf .....	1865	J.H. Parker .....	1925-1929
(Succeeded October 20 by W.K. Spangler who served until May, 1866.)		Fagan Bourland .....	1929-1933
John Stryker .....	January, 1866-1868	J.K. Jordon .....	1933-1941
E.J. Brooks .....	February, 1869-1872	Chester Holland .....	1941-1945
I.W. Fuller .....	November, 1872-1873	Jack Pace .....	1945-1952
		H.R. Hestand .....	1952-1957
		Jack Pace .....	1957-1961
		Bob Brooksher .....	1961-July, 1964
		James Yarbrough .....	August, 1964-1967
		Jack Freeze .....	1967-1983
		William D. Vines .....	1984 to present



# A Street By Any Other Name

Sarah Fitzjarrald

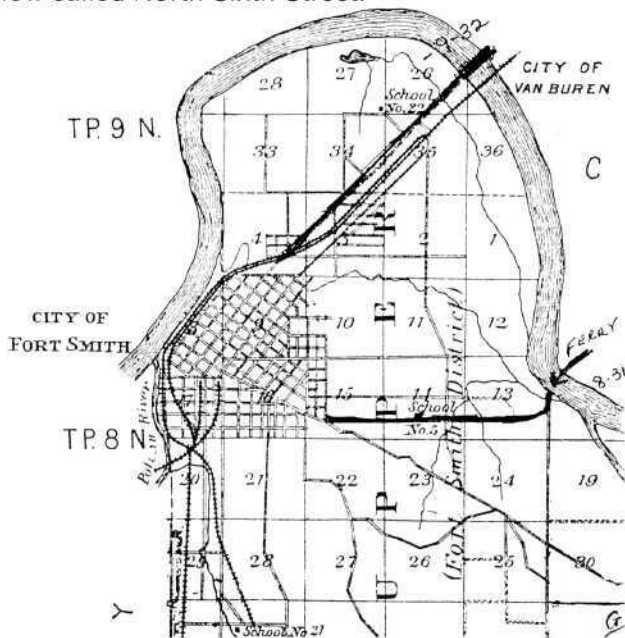
Have you ever wondered why Free Ferry Road is called Free Ferry Road? Did you think perhaps that if it led to a ferry on the Arkansas River, and that if that ferry was a *free* ferry there was probably a toll ferry somewhere?

Free Ferry Road is interesting. It does indeed lead toward the Arkansas River but it went only so far in a straight line and then turned northward toward the river. (See accompanying map.)

Legend has it<sup>1</sup> that years ago a lot of cotton was raised in the area, especially on the other side of the river near Van Buren. In order to entice the cotton trade to this side of the river for ginning and compressing, rather than losing it to towns east of Van Buren, some civic minded merchants and businessmen of Fort Smith got together and subsidized a toll-free ferry for the benefit of the cotton growers.

Guy Nichols, Park Ranger at the National Park Site, recalls reading a letter written by a man in 1862 who told of disembarking from a steamboat but that the ferry was a toll ferry. He wrote that he had walked about five miles to arrive at the Fort.

The distance shown on a modern map shows that from the place where the free ferry was probably located is just about five miles. But the distance from the toll ferry (shown on the aforementioned accompanying map) at the end of Van Buren Road is also about five miles to the Fort. Note that the ferry was just west of the old bridge, so our early friend could have walked from either ferry. Van Buren Road is now called North Sixth Street.



Map showing ferries, 1903 Atlas.  
Courtesy Guaranty Abstract & Title Company.

Van Buren Road and the other Roads — Jenny Lind, Free Ferry, Little Rock (now Rogers Avenue), Old Greenwood, Texas and Waldron — all tell us that one of the criteria for naming streets or roads was the point of destination. Zero Street in the South part of the city was formerly called the Smelter Road.

Midland Boulevard led to Midland Heights, an addition which was developed by the Midland Company.<sup>2</sup>

The one puzzle among the Roads is Waldron Road. If it leads to the small town south of Fort Smith it certainly winds around in a not-too-direct route.

Originally, Texas Road began in 1827 when Captain B.L.E. Bonneville had a military road surveyed which led through the Indian Territory south to Fort Towson. A marker commemorating the event which was placed at the southeast corner of "Texas Corner," the intersection of Garrison and Towson Avenues, by the Daughters of the American Revolution was broken in an accident and has not yet been replaced. It was first called the Fort Towson Trail and then became better known as Texas Road because of its destination.<sup>3</sup>

At the present time Towson Avenue goes all the way south through the city until it reaches Zero Street where it becomes Highway 271 South.

About half a mile south of Zero Street there is a "Y" where Texas Road picks up again, bearing to the right off the highway.

Texas Road leads through Cavanaugh, formerly called Eureka, past the city limits to the end of the road. It stops only because of farms and a large highway a little farther south. Texas Road was the main highway in the early days for travelers going north and south into and from the city of Fort Smith.

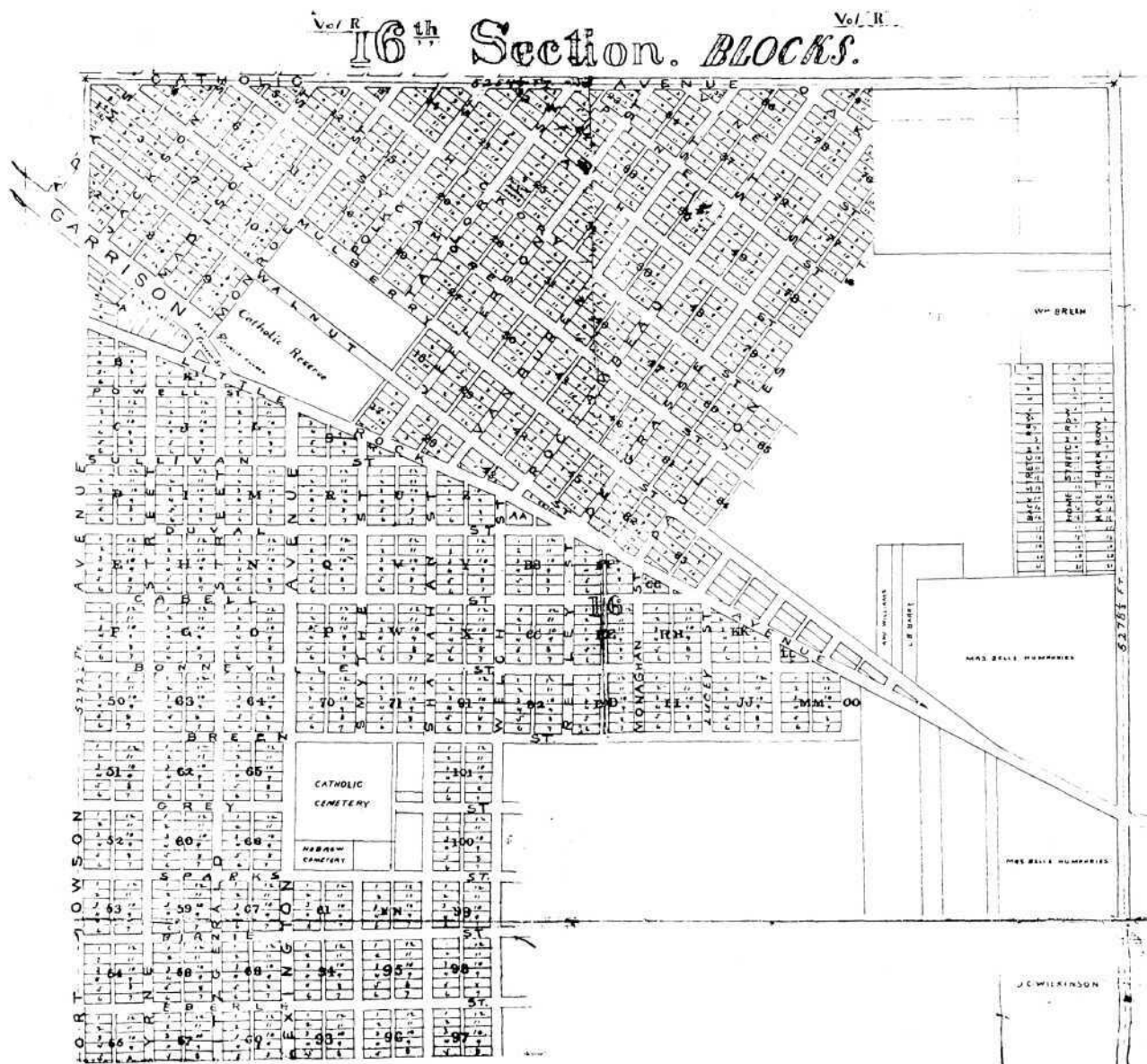
According to the 1887 city directory, Towson Avenue extended only to Dodson Avenue (city limits) then became Texas Road. An 1881 directory lists addresses on "Tousan" and "Tonson" streets. Even now many people call it "Townsend" Avenue.

## THE CATHOLIC MILE

In June, 1836, the Congress of the United States enacted a law granting the sixteenth section of land in every township in the State of Arkansas for use by the inhabitants for public schools, the land to be sold or otherwise disposed of.

Andrew Byrne, Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Little Rock, bought the section of land allotted to Fort Smith and was granted a Commissioners' Deed from John Rogers, Joseph Bennett and George S. Birnie on January 4, 1848.<sup>4</sup>

"When Bishop Byrne bought the sixteenth section of land there was an influx of Catholics into Fort Smith. The following names were listed: Francis Donahoe and family; James Donahoe and family;



Map showing the Sixteenth Section, "Catholic Mile." Courtesy Guaranty Abstract & Title Company.

Michael and Peter McNamee; James Breen and family; John Hendrix; John Harrington and family; and Michael Harrington. A little later there was Mrs. Lannigan and family; Michael Scully and family; Farrell Daley and family; James Doyle; Anthony Gallagher and family; Michael Gallagher and family; and Granny Carroll and her son, Pat. All of these lived for a time in the soldiers' quarters.<sup>5</sup>

"Other Catholic families arrived from different places about the same time: John Lucey and family from Rocky Comfort; Francis McCahey and family; and Thomas McCarron from Providence, Rhode Island; John Dodson; Michael Lynch; and after a time Joseph and James Dodson, with their old mother came from Ireland. A few Catholics had been in Fort Smith before these immigrants arrived. There was Francis McKernan, known as the squire; and Michael Manning, who died in November, 1891, and always claimed to be the first Catholic in Fort Smith."<sup>6</sup>

"Mr. Manning was an oculist by profession, but in those times a man combined the various branches of mercantile life more or less with any profession. He married Mrs. Jones, a widow with two children, John and Fannie. The latter was the wife of the late R.C. Kerens of St. Louis."<sup>7</sup>

"When the plans of Bishop Byrne for Fort Smith began to develop in 1851, several Protestants endeavored to invalidate the sale of the so-called 'Sixteenth Section of School Land.' The purchase price of \$5,250.00 which the Bishop had borrowed from his brother-in-law, Mr. O'Callaghan of New York, who later canceled the note in favor of the diocese when Bishop Fitzgerald was ready to redeem it, was paid to John Carnall in the way provided by law. Commissioner Carnall settled with the trustees to their satisfaction and the State Legislature ratified the sale. A.G. Mayers succeeded Carnall and at the insistence of a few citizens, who

harbored a prejudice towards the Catholic Church, he brought suit in the court to recover the 640 acres on the plea of unauthorized sale."<sup>8</sup>

However, when the trial was held, "Judge Hempstead spoke for seven hours and the plaintiffs' lawyers felt obliged to spend a portion of their time in explaining their personal position in appearing in such a case." The case was decided against them and on appeal to the Supreme Court the decision was affirmed.<sup>9</sup>

Bishop Byrne died on June 10, 1862, and was succeeded by Bishop Edward Fitzgerald.<sup>10</sup>

Unless one has been in flat farming or ranching country and driven around the roads encircling a section of land, it is hard to imagine the scope of one square mile. It is even more difficult to visualize a square mile within a city's limits.

We have long been accustomed to the familiar old landmarks of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, the Mercy Convent, the former site of St. Anne's Academy, the former St. Edward Mercy Hospital (now Midtown Apartments) and the rectory across the street. Of course, we have known that the Catholics owned the property, but these structures are so near to the downtown area that it comes as a surprise to learn that when Bishop Byrne bought the land it was outside the city limits, and that he bought a whole square mile.

The Catholic Mile is measured roughly as being bordered on the west by Towson Avenue (extended north three blocks), on the north by Grand Avenue (formerly Catholic Avenue), on the east by Greenwood Avenue (not to be confused by Old Greenwood Road) and on the south by Dodson Avenue. Actually, the boundary line is one-half block south of Dodson. (See accompanying map.)

When Bishop Byrne bought the property he wished to establish a college for boys. His "ardent desire" was realized in 1851 when he established St. Andrew's College on the site approximately where St. Anne's Academy was later built.<sup>11</sup>

"Prominent among the early students were Dr. E.R. Duval, Judge Rutherford, Capt. Eugene Smith and Gen. B.M. Armistead. In 1855 there were Edward, Charles and Will Fleming, Henry and Conrad Treish, Carl and John Single, Henry Mayer, William Breen, Edward Lanigan and J.M. Lucey (the Monsignor Lucey who was the first historian of the Church in Arkansas)."<sup>12</sup>

J.M. Lucey was also one of the early teachers in Fort Smith's oldest school, Belle Grove.<sup>13</sup>

On July 15, 1867, Bishop Fitzgerald conveyed his Power of Attorney to John Dodson "to have a survey made of all that portion of the Sixteenth Section to and adjoining the City of Fort Smith, to have the same laid off in lots and blocks, with streets and alleys, and to sell the same upon such terms as he may deem best, giving such deeds, conveyances, assurances, etc. in the premises..."<sup>14</sup> This became Fitzgerald Addition.

The biography of John Dodson<sup>15</sup> says that he was a retired merchant and land agent. A native of

Belfast, Ireland, he came to America and finally made his way to Little Rock, then upriver to Van Buren and Fort Smith. During the war he supported the South because he thought its cause was on the side of justice. He never owned a slave, however. He lost two young sons and a brother, his home and other possessions. And there were times when he did not get enough to eat. But "luck turned with him as soon as he became a land agent. In 1886 he was worth \$20,000 or \$30,000, and in 1887 came a boom, and he made about as much more..."

His feeling about Fort Smith was that it would gradually enlarge and that because there were several railroads, and distances being far to Little Rock, Kansas City and St. Louis, that it was a superior location.<sup>16</sup>

This is the John Dodson who was previously mentioned as an early arrival in Fort Smith, and for whom Dodson Avenue was named.

Obviously, the point of destination was not the only criterion for naming streets. The early city officials used places, and even trees, as well as prominent citizens. The 1881 city directory lists addresses on Cemetery Avenue which is probably what we now know as Lexington Avenue since the Catholic/Jewish Cemetery is located there. And Park Avenue is only two blocks south of Tilles Park.

Albert Pike Avenue honors one of the earliest poets of Arkansas. He was later a Confederate general and a close friend of Elias Rector, another of Fort Smith's outstanding citizens.<sup>17</sup> Pike was also a giant in the Masonic Order.

Albert Pike Avenue, although only about ten or twelve blocks long, is a well traveled street. Pike lived in Fort Smith and owned some property here, but it was Elias Rector who was here from about 1835 until 1861 and who had a great impact on the community. Ironically, Rector Street, named in his honor, is now only about one block long.

Parker Avenue, named for Judge Isaac C. Parker, one of the city's most famous citizens, is only three blocks long.

Such are the vagaries of the evolving progress of a city.

Another prominent person in the early days of the town was Dr. J.H.T. Main who bought property rather far north in, or near, Midland Heights. Dr. and Mrs. Main had only one daughter, Lillie. It seemed only natural to name a street for him and one for Lillie.<sup>18</sup> The streets' names were eventually changed and that was just as well since our "main" street is Garrison Avenue (named, of course, for the Fort).

Having a Main Street in the north part of town would probably not be any more confusing than having Greenwood Avenue running parallel to Old Greenwood Road only a short distance west. Why that happened has never been quite clear, and visitors to Fort Smith have reason to be perplexed in finding an address. Fortunately, the Chamber of Commerce on Garrison Avenue is helpful in furnishing city maps on request.



There have been ordinances passed concerning not only the naming of streets but also in changing their names since the town was incorporated in 1842. One of the biggest changes came in an ordinance passed in 1891 when the city officials seemed to give up on names and adopted numbers and the letters of the alphabet. The following is the list, showing the new names on the left and the old ones on the right:<sup>19</sup>

North First St.	Ozark
North Second St.	Washington
North Third St.	Wayne
North Fourth St.	Green
North Fifth St.	Howard
North Sixth St.	Knox
North Seventh St.	LaFayette
North Eighth St.	Franklin
North Ninth St.	Hancock
North Tenth St.	Adams
North Eleventh St.	Jackson
North Twelfth St.	Madison
North Thirteenth St.	Monroe
North Fourteenth St.	Polk
North Fifteenth St.	Taylor
North Sixteenth St.	Jefferson
North Seventeenth St.	Van Buren
North A	Walnut
North B	Mulberry
North C	Sycamore
North D	Hickory
North E	Ash
North F	Pine
North G	Vine
North H	Oak
North I	Maple
North J	Chestnut
North K	Poplar
North L	Cherry
North M	Plum
North N	Grape
North O	Pear
North P	Mary
North Q	William
North R	Meade
North S	Fishback
North T	Lucy
South First	First
South Second	Second
South Third	Third
South Fourth	Stryker
South Fifth	Beckel
South Sixth	Atkinson
South Seventh	Mayers
South Eighth terminated at its junction with Wheeler, Garland and Carnall Avenues.	
South Ninth	Parker
South Tenth	Bennet
South Eleventh	Kannady
South Twelfth	Byrne
South Thirteenth	Fitzgerald
There was no Fourteenth or Fifteenth	
South Sixteenth	Smythe
South Seventeenth	Shanahan

South Eighteenth	Welch
South Nineteenth	Reilly
South Twentieth	Monaghan
South Twenty-first	Lucy
(which was the city limit)	

South A	Powell
South B	Sullivan

Under this ordinance, all other street names remained the same.

It might be fun sometime when you are traveling across town and waiting on a light to change to consider that the street where you find yourself might have been Ozark, Washington, Jefferson or even Wayne. Some of the street names dropped on the 1891 ordinance have been restored and are again in use. All of which indicates that street names, which we take for granted, presented a real problem to early officials.

But they were a congenial lot and willing to give credit where it was due. It was that kind of town.

An interesting sidelight found in the local newspaper, the *Fort Smith Weekly New Era*, published in 1878, notes that John Dodson's new stone building was nearing completion on the Avenue and would be a "handsome addition to our flourishing little city."<sup>20</sup>

A week later the same newspaper carried an item relating that General Albert Pike, of Washington, D.C., was spending some time with his old friends here and had delivered a "very entertaining and instructive lecture, on Saturday evening last, to the members of Belle Point Lodge No. 20, A.F. & A.M. The Lodge room was full and all were well paid for attending."<sup>21</sup>

Despite the constant challenge of naming more and more new streets as additional property was taken into the city limits of the rapidly growing community, and the sometimes resultant confusion, the city fathers deserve our respect.

To say the least, our pioneers during those early formative years, most assuredly knew where they were going.

United States	ACT OF CONGRESS
to	June 23, 1836
State of Arkansas	
for School Purposes	Sandels & Hill Digest 1894

BE IT ENACTED BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED

First: That the Section numbered Sixteen in Every Township and when such section has been sold or otherwise disposed of, other lands equivalent thereto and as contiguous as may be, shall be granted to the State for the use of the inhabitants of such Township for the use of Schools.

Copy courtesy of Guaranty Abstract & Title Company

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Special appreciation to Bradley Martin for copies of early Fort Smith Street Ordinances.

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# Fortnightly Study Club

## 1880 - 1989

Mrs. William H. Wood, Historian

Among the pages of early Fort Smith history are the recorded efforts of a small group of civic minded, dedicated and concerned ladies who were mindful that the local school pupils were in need of reading material other than their basic text books.

From this concern came the realization and determination to provide the necessary books to the schools for supplemental use by the children. This idea soon became the topic of conversation among these ladies as they eagerly shared their plan city-wide, always including a request that a search be made of the homes for books suitable for use in the local schools. Response was favorable and soon these ladies were walking the muddy streets to collect and deliver donated books to the schools.

This movement created an awareness and public interest which in time resulted in the formation of a literary study club which was formed September 13, 1888, with a limit of twenty-five charter members. Mrs. Isaac C. Parker was elected president of the organization which was named the Fortnightly Club,

with meetings to be held each fortnight from October through May. The aims and objects were to be encouragement and mutual improvement through the study of Literature and the Arts, in their various forms.

On September 18, 1891, the members resolved to create, establish and maintain a public library for Fort Smith. For this purpose, the Fort Smith Library Association was organized July 29, 1892, with 135 members buying shares at \$5.00 each.

A public plea for encouragement, support, and donations was made. A library for Fort Smith was the topic of conversation city-wide, approved or otherwise. The Association members lost no time in making this dream come true. It became a reality later in 1892 when the Fortnightly Public Library was established in the Belle Grove school building. Later that summer a room of the County Courthouse became the home for Fort Smith's first library.

By the year 1895, a library catalogue was issued with a listing of over 1100 volumes of approved reading material for all school children and the

reading public. A committee had been appointed to examine each book for its value and acceptance prior to being placed on the library shelves. A number of books were rejected and discarded by the committee.

In files of early Fort Smith history of the Library Association can be found a news item from the local newspaper which reveals the importance and value of a public library for Fort Smith as stressed by guest speakers attending the annual banquet of the Association in 1898. Judge Edgar E. Bryant presided at the meeting in which reports of the work of the Association and the Fortnightly Club were presented by the president, Mrs. George H. Lyman. Reports revealed the ambition and plans to establish a public library for Fort Smith such as other larger (if not more aggressive) cities had supplied for their reading public. Attention was called to the urgent need of support for the plans by the entire citizenship of Fort Smith.

The Honorable Joseph M. Hill extended his appreciation to the group for the valuable and lasting influence their work would have on the future of Fort Smith.

A quote from the Honorable T.W.M. Boone in his address reminded the members, "The work of the Fortnightly Library Association should be better understood by the public, and when it is, its scope will be greatly enlarged."

The Honorable J.B. McDonough in his address spoke of the Congressional Library in Washington, D.C. and its value in placing America among the cultural nations of the world, and "the building of a public library will bring the same results in placing Fort Smith where it deserves to be — among the cultural cities of our country."

With interest spreading rapidly city-wide, a grant was secured in 1906 from Andrew Carnegie for the establishment of a city library for Fort Smith. The Library Association raised \$4,750.00, the required quota, together with documentary regulations concerning the establishment and management of a Carnegie library. The residence of Judge Isaac Parker on the corner of North 13th and D Streets was purchased for the building site. The cornerstone containing the names of the charter members of the Fortnightly Club was laid in 1907. The library remained at that site until the present Fort Smith Public Library was completed in September, 1970, at 61 South 8th Street.

The bronze plaque in the foyer of the library which reads "Library founded October 10, 1891 by

Fortnightly Club" was a gift from the Fortnightly Club, and the club has been a friend to the libraries over the years. It has made regular donations of approved books and/or cash contributions. Among the records of study material for Fortnightly members over the years can be found such subjects as herein listed.

1. Studies of the Ancient World
2. German Literature
3. Archaeology and Sculpture
4. The Foreshadow of Christ
5. The Italian Renaissance
6. A Survey of the World
7. Political Policies of American and Foreign Countries
8. Our American Heritage
9. Americans Discussing America

From the minutes of early 1920, Fortnightly ladies were not just library conscious, they were civic minded to the extent they went on record to deplore the manner in which the daily newspaper featured crimes with such disgusting detail it rendered the news unfit for family reading.

Another strong objection was voiced over the *Fatty Arbuckle* film, and an added resolution was recorded objecting with force to the book *Three Weeks* which was being displayed so boldly by the book store. Another strong vote was cast to make known their objection to having a public laundry built on North 8th Street.

Yes, the past had its day, history had been made. Today, 101 years later, the Fortnightly Club meets each fortnight on Wednesdays at the home of the members. The current membership remains at twenty-five with a waiting list on record.

The Fortnightly Club has survived the ravages of several wars, a national depression, along with various history-making events (such as walking the muddy streets of early Fort Smith to deliver books to the schools) and then on with the fruits of modern science and technology where Man walks on the moon. Surely there will always be a Fortnightly Club, just as there will always be a Fort Smith Public Library. The library, a place for school pupils and the reading public to use with *pride, appreciation, and added enrichment* of life as history continues in the making for Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Fortnightly officers for 1988-89 are: Mrs. Earle Cox, president; Mrs. Ben Lincoln, first vice president; Mrs. James Llewellyn, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Robert Laser, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. William H. Wood, historian.



# Fort Smith Public Library

Thelma Wray

Director of the Library 1972 to September 1985



Fort Smith Public Library, 61 South 8th Street

The Fort Smith public library system today consists of a main library located in a two-story with basement, 35,000 square foot building at 61 South 8th Street, a northside branch library at 3606 North Albert Pike, bookmobile and other services. It has a 1989 budget of \$543,000, a collection of more than 100,000 books, periodicals, microfilm, videos, etc. and equipment which includes the latest micro-computer technology. It has a staff of 24.

This was the first Carnegie library in the state of Arkansas and will soon be the first public library in Arkansas to have automated circulation and online catalog.

It is one of the finest public libraries in Arkansas because of the dedicated work of many people.

The group of prominent ladies of Fort Smith who organized the Fortnightly Club in the fall of 1888 were responsible for the idea of creating a library. Through their leadership and work, the library came into being.

This club had as its objective "the furthering of literary attainments and the starting of a library where books could be accumulated and used for the good of its members."

Records kept by the Fortnightly Club, largely instrumental in securing the library for Fort Smith, trace the inception of the library to 1891, when the Fortnightly Library Association was organized. Before this, sporadic attempts had been made to keep a public reading room open. One had been maintained in the Fishback building at Fourth and Garrison, where a few hundred books and late editions of the newspapers were available. This lasted but a short time; the books were scattered and the reading room closed.

All the time the need for a public library was growing and the women who had been instrumental in keeping the reading room open were busy with plans for a permanent institution. In September, 1891, a committee was appointed to interview leading citizens on the possibility of getting funds for a library. This committee, composed of Mrs. C.R. Cummings, Mrs. R.E. Jackson, Miss Lizzie Meyer and Miss Ida Ayres, met with such success that on September 28, 1891, the Fortnightly Library Association was formed, with a permanent public library as its goal. A Committee on constitution and bylaws was named including Mrs. T.H. Barnes, Mrs. R.E. Jackson and Miss Lizzie Meyer. Mrs. C.M. Cook and Mrs. J.M. Tenney were selected as a membership committee, to push the sale of library stock at \$5.00 a share.

On October 7, 1891, a constitution was adopted and a book committee, Mrs. C.R. Cummings, Mrs. J.K. Kimmons and Mrs. T.H. Barnes, was appointed.

The association was incorporated on October 10, 1891, and the library was formally opened July 27, 1892, in the Belle Grove school building. There were 1,100 books on the shelves and the first issue of books was made on July 30, 1892.

Later in the summer they obtained a room in the courthouse free of charge. Books were rented to different people in the city who could secure cards and pay rental for the books. This income was used for keeping up the books and purchase of new books. By 1902, the library had grown to be the largest public library in the State of Arkansas.

The library remained in the courthouse room until its removal to the Carnegie building December 31, 1907.

By 1904, the original group of women who had worked so long to obtain the library in the court room, was hard at work on a "bigger and better" library scheme.

About this time the Fort Smith Reading Room Association was organized with the aim "of securing a free public library." They collected donations both in money and books, renting a room over one of the stores and maintained a library free.

The two associations, Fort Smith Reading Room Association and the Fortnightly Library Association, formed a permanent organization named Fort Smith Public Library Association. The purpose of this organization was to raise money for the new library building. The officers of the Fort Smith Public Library Association were Mrs. G.H. Lyman, President; Mrs. Alf Williams, First Vice President; Mrs. W.J. Echols, Second Vice President; Mrs. A.L. Peacher,

Recording Secretary; Miss Lula Myhan, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. W.S. Beall, Treasurer; and Mrs. George Sengel, Auditor.

In 1903 the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas voted that cities of the first and second class could expend 10% of Andrew Carnegie grants for public libraries. These grants were specifically for building construction. Through the untiring efforts of Mrs. G.H. Lyman, Mrs. Thomas Boles and Miss Kate Sandels and through the timely help of Ben Morton, by 1906 a gift from Mr. Carnegie had been obtained. Not without a struggle, however, which extended even into the Arkansas legislature. There were no provisions for obtaining library funds through taxation, and it was necessary to have state law passed before the maintenance fee required by Mr. Carnegie could be pledged. The Fort Smith women, with a few male supporters, framed this legislation, and with the help of Sebastian County's senators and representatives, the law was passed. This amendment to the constitution, to allow cities of the first and second class to levy a tax for library purposes, was passed in 1904.

In 1906 Ordinance #709 for a public library for the City of Fort Smith was passed and a Board of Regents for its administration was created — consisting of five men and four women. The first board was appointed by the Mayor and City Council. The members of this first board were: Mr. B.D. Crane, President; Mrs. G.H. Lyman, Vice President; Mrs. T.W. Boone, Secretary; Mr. Rudolph Ney, Treasurer; Mrs. J.M. Sparks, Mrs. Thomas Boles, Mr. August Harder and Mr. W.R. Martin.

At the first board meeting on April 6, 1906 several sites on which to build the new library were considered and on May 7, 1906 the board voted to "purchase three Parker lots, Nos. 4, 5 and 6 for the sum of \$4,750." On these lots, 318 North 13th Street, had stood the house in which Judge I.C. Parker was living at the time of his death in 1895. In 1898 the cyclone of that year demolished the Parker house.

Carnegie Foundation agreed with the city over financing the new building and construction began. The Carnegie grant was \$25,000 with the city agreeing to pay no less than 10% of that amount each year for operation. The only requirements Mr. Carnegie asked was that the city must guarantee an income of from 10 to 15 percent of the amount invested in the library. He did not require his name to be attached to it, and he had nothing further to do with the erection of the building or its maintenance after the donation was made and the proposal guarantee given.

On March 23, 1907, the cornerstone was laid. That was a gala day in Fort Smith history. Inside the cornerstone was placed a copper box. The following is a partial list of things placed in the copper box. A Fort Smith directory; last editions of all newspapers of this section; the year book of the women's Christian Temperance union and of the Fortnightly Reading Room association; list of subscribers to the Library Association; year books of the Century and Fortnightly Clubs; charter of the Fortnightly Library



Laying of cornerstone for Carnegie Library. An undated letter in the file of the Fort Smith Public Library signed by a Nell R., identifies some of the people in the picture as: "my mother, Mr. Henry Kuper, Mrs. George Lyman, Mr. B.D. Crane and Dr. McKay."

Association; the ordinance passed by the city council allotting the \$2,500 fund; a \$1,000 Confederate bill; a history of Sequoyah, a copy of Miles' oration; arrowheads, silver coins, names of the architect and builder, badges and several dozen other articles.

The Carnegie City Library opened its doors for business January 1, 1908. All Fort Smith was present on January 30, 1908, when the new library was dedicated. The erection of the building cost \$27,381; heating and plumbing, \$2,881; lights and fixtures, \$500; wiring, \$675; architects' fees, \$665; hardware, \$248.70 and furniture, \$831.50, making the total cost of the building \$37,933.20 including the \$4,750 paid for the site.

Fort Smith has the distinction of having the first Carnegie Library in the State of Arkansas.

Miss Starr Weaver was appointed the librarian of the Free Public Library at a salary of \$500 per year with assistant librarian Miss Eleanor Reynolds.

Miss Weaver served as librarian until February, 1910, when she resigned and was replaced by Caroline Langworthy.

An article from the *Fort Smith Times Record* dated April 5, 1908 reads CARNEGIE LIBRARY FULFILLS THE MISSION OF ITS CREATION. "The Carnegie Free Public Library has been open to the public about three months but during this short time the institution has grown rapidly in popularity and usefulness so that it is now about as busy a place as can be found anywhere in Fort Smith." The article goes on to say, "The Carnegie Free Institution is being patronized by a large number of people eager to obtain knowledge along all lines. Those that are being supplied with good literature are the rich and



Exterior of Carnegie Library, 318 North 13th.



Interior of Carnegie Library, 318 North 13th.

the poor, the businessmen and the laborer, the old and young and the educated student and those that have only a faint knowledge, but who are seeking a higher plan of life."

It was estimated that 5,425 books were read during the previous 31 days which was the month of March, 1908.

"The Club room in the building is just about as lively a meeting place as can be found in the state, outside of the State Capitol building."

The annual report of 1913 shows that 40,505 books were checked out of which 11,870 volumes were childrens books. The number of volumes in the library at this time was 7,013. The books were being used so much they were wearing out and there was no money to replace them.

The only income the library had for many years was the \$2,500 a year appropriated from the city, contributions from the Community Chest and private gifts; therefore, lack of finances was a major problem. In the 1930's hours had to be cut and services decreased due to lack of funds.

In 1943 the citizens of Fort Smith approved a one half mill tax on real and personal property to support the library. The annual budget jumped to \$14,500 in 1944 compared with \$8,500 before the passage of the tax. A campaign in 1955 for the second one half mill tax was defeated — 2,758 for to 4,405 against.

A campaign was begun once again in 1957 for the second one half mill tax. One mill is the legal limit for library tax in the state of Arkansas. Cecil Cleavenger was the chairman of the Citizens for the Library executive committee. This group was supported by the Junior Chamber of Commerce with its "Operation Library" project. Dan Dobbs was the chairman of the Junior Chamber Operation Library Committee. Also assisting in the campaign were the Jay-C-Ettes. After a lot of hard work by many people, on April 3, 1957, the tax measure carried by a 6,724 to 3,719 margin.

Mrs. Katie L. Pardew was librarian from 1924 until 1949. During this period the Arkansas Collection

(materials about Arkansas and books written by Arkansans) was begun. Even though funds were limited, Mrs. Pardew managed to put together one of the finest Arkansas Collections in the state. Since that time books and materials have been added continuously, and it is still one of the best collections in the state. The collection is named The Katie Lake Pardew Arkansas Collection in memory of Mrs. Pardew.

In 1947 a branch library was established at Lincoln School. Hazel K. Miller was librarian and kept the library open from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM each weekday. The branch library moved to 2121 Midland Boulevard in 1967 and became known as Midland Boulevard Branch. In 1981 the branch was relocated to its present location, 3606 North Albert Pike, and is called the Northside Branch Library. Located in Northside Community Center, it is open 25 hours a week.

In 1956 library service to Fort Smith Schools was the project of the Fort Smith Junior League then known as the Fort Smith Service League. A bookmobile was purchased by the Junior League and operated by League volunteers. The bookmobile, a 1956 Ford Vanette, was taken to elementary schools within the city where the children could check out books. The library board assumed full control and operation in 1960 when the Junior League gave the bookmobile to the library.

In July, 1957 the Jay-C-Ettes inaugurated the delivery service to the home-bound. Books are taken to the home of persons unable to go to the library due to illness or handicap. Today this project is handled by the Friends of the Library.

The Friends of the Library group was organized in 1950, and has supported the library in many ways since that time. Money making projects include annual used books sales, membership drives, sale of note paper and sale of reprint of Goodspeed's *History of Sebastian County*.



Through the years gifts to the library have included Microfilm readers, movie projectors, money for books as well as many other projects. Book depositories were purchased in 1983, and have been placed at various fire stations around the city — thus making it possible for books to be returned to these particular locations.

In the early 1950's the board of regents began talking about remodeling the forty plus year old Carnegie building (which was in need of repair) to make room for more books and materials or build a new building.

The old building did not provide enough room for the books a city the size of Fort Smith should have under accepted library standards.

An earnest effort to build a new building was started in 1953. That was the first time that actual "new plans" had been put on paper. Each time building plans were discussed the same old problem cropped up — a lack of funds. The same furnishings which came with the original building were still being used. The gas lighting fixtures were in the ceilings until 1943. The last one was disposed of in 1958.

In 1961, a team of experts surveyed the situation and recommended that "The best solution of the needs of the Carnegie City Library is to affect the acquisition of a new site and construction of a new building."

In 1965 the library board acquired slightly more than two acres of land, just across the street from Creekmore Park swimming pool — South 31st and Pelly Streets — to build a new building.

The property at 318 North 13th Street was then sold to American Television studios with the stipulation it be vacated within three years.

It was decided by the board to try for a Bond issue of \$500,000 to construct and equip the building, to be voted on June 7, 1966. The final returns were 2,275 for, 2,509 against. The defeat was by 234 votes.

However, just one year later in June, 1967 a grant for \$625,000 from the Economic Development Administration through the United States Department of Commerce was approved to construct a library. Funds were to be matched for a total cost of \$1,250,000 with the stipulation the library had to be located in the downtown area.

In 1931, Dr. Buchanan Hatchett had bequeathed the library about \$45,000, and in 1947 Louise N.L. Bond willed her furniture, property at 813 Garrison, rear 9-11 North 9th Street and 9-11 North 9th and her home on North 13th Street to the library. Some of the income from the investments and rental property had been used for operation of the library through the years, but from this income the boards had managed to accumulate monies for a building fund. (These buildings were later sold). With these funds and the appraisal value of the site at 61 South 8th Street, the matching fund obligation was met.

The site, 61 South 8th Street, which was selected for the new library, is across the street from the

Municipal Auditorium (now Civic Center) where a Parking Authority Parking Lot was located.

The parking lot was moved to the north side of the block bounded by Carnall, South 8th Street and Parker and the library was built on the south side of the block. This trade was approved by the library board and Parking Authority officials on November 10, 1967 and by the City Directors on December 18, 1967. (The city owned both parcels of land.)

Ground was broken for the new \$1,250,000, 34,000 square foot building on April 10, 1969.

In the meantime the Carnegie building had to be vacated for the new owners, and on August 19, 1968, some 50,000 books along with library equipment was moved to a temporary location at 1415 North 9th Street (the vacant Lincoln High School building). This was the home of the public library for two years. KFSM TV Station occupies the Carnegie building at 318 North 13th at this time.

Library employees and volunteers along with Johnston Storage Company, professional movers, once again began moving the library collection on August 17, 1970. This time from the temporary location to the new two story with basement structure at 61 South 8th Street.

Completion of the library meant a dream come true and the end of frustration for many persons.

On September 8, 1970 the new library opened for business and on Friday morning, November 13, at 11 o'clock the dedication ceremonies were held.

Several hundred persons crowded into the main floor of the library as Senators John L. McClellan and J.W. Fulbright lauded the efforts of civic leaders.

McClellan said, "It is gratifying that the people of Fort Smith are conscious of the values of the cultural and spiritual things of life. It is a great pleasure to come to a community where you have the vision and public spirit to take advantage of opportunities that are presented to you by federal legislation and funds to help the community make progress, to build the institutions they need and provide the services and accommodation for the people that are essential to happy, pleasant and prosperous living."

Senator Fulbright pointed out that the country and world have been in turmoil for some time, but the library is the symbol of effort by those who have respect for accumulated knowledge of the ages.

Dan Roebuck, president of the library board, was master of ceremonies. Mr. Roebuck, who served as president of the board from 1967 through 1970, spent countless hours working with funding, architects and contractor during planning and construction. Other board members during this time of planning and construction were: B.C. Cobb, George Carney, Mrs. Myles Friedman, Fadjo Cravens, Jr., Lawson Cloninger, Sam Tressler, Mrs. Ralph Mott, Mrs. Francis Dyke, Mrs. L.E. Beland, Henry Loewy, Myron Rappeport, J.C. Alexander, Jr., Mrs. Joe Jamell, Mrs. S.W. Jackson, Jr., Mrs. J.F. Kelsey,

Douglas Rogers, Jr., Cecil Cleavenger, Mrs. Carnall Gardner, Curtis Goldtrap, Charles Beasley, Mrs. Selby Hauptert, Mrs. Edgar E. Bethell, Mrs. Robert Vick, Lewis Phillips, Jr., Mrs. Heartsill Ragon, Henry E. Walker, Thomas B. Pryor, Leslie Greathouse, Jeryl Q. Looper, Mrs. Tim Mabon, Mrs. J.W. Llewellyn, Jr., Mrs. Roy C. Roberts, Jim L. Hanna, Dr. T. Wayne Lanier, Mrs. Prentiss Ware, Mrs. Roscoe Thompson and Gerald DeLung.

The architects for the building were Mott, Mobley, Hartsman and Staton and the general contractor was C & B Construction Company of Hot Springs.

Gladys L. Krone was the librarian. The completion of the new library was certainly a dream come true for Miss Krone. She spent many, many hours planning and dreaming of the day the move into the new building would become a reality. Miss Krone replaced James Hillard as librarian in 1951, and served in that position until her retirement December 31, 1971.

When the library moved to its present location, the name was changed to Fort Smith Public Library.

Although the move to the new building required additional staff and maintaining a building three times the size of the Carnegie Building was more costly, the main source of income was still revenue collected from a one mill tax on real and personal property. It was not until 1983 when Arkansas Act 177 passed making it possible for City Libraries to receive State Aid that Fort Smith Public Library got State funds.

Grants and gifts throughout the years have provided much needed funds for additional books and projects. The book collection has doubled in size and many new services have been added since moving into the new building.

In 1973 the Talking Book Department for the Blind and Handicapped was established. These books, on cassettes and records, and the players are furnished by the Library of Congress Blind and Handicapped Department and are available to Sebastian County residents who are unable to read a printed book due to illness or handicap.

A grant for \$30,000 was received in 1975 from Library Services and Construction Act funds for a bookmobile. A 22 foot vehicle was purchased and book delivery was begun to shopping centers, nursing homes, playgrounds, etc. The bookmobile carries between 1,500 and 2,000 adult and children's books to 18 stops bi-monthly.

The Daughters of the American Revolution organization has provided many of the books for the Genealogy Department which was set up in 1976. A grant was also received from the Bicentennial Commission for genealogy books and for several years members of the DAR organization staffed this department. The Frontier Researchers and many individuals have also contributed books and time. The Genealogy Department now has over 5,000 volumes and has a full time staff member. Also DAR and Frontier Researcher volunteers staff the

Genealogy Room on Tuesday evenings and other times as needed.

People from all over the United States come to Fort Smith Public Library searching for information on their ancestors.

The Large Print Book Collection has been made possible largely due to grants and memorials. It is one of the largest collections in the state. These books are primarily for persons who have problems reading regular size print.

The Children's Department is a popular place and holds a weekly story hour as well as a summer reading program in which about 1,200 children participate each summer.

Automation began in 1984 when OCLC (Online Computer Library Center) System was installed which gave Fort Smith Public Library patrons access to eighteen million books through interlibrary loan from other libraries across the country through computer hook-up. Books which are purchased by the library are cataloged through OCLC making processing time faster and more efficient.

Since that time several more computers have been installed such as a database searching service which enables the librarian to retrieve information from other computer systems — DIALOG and Dow Jones.

The card catalog and the circulation is being automated and will be ready in the summer of 1989. The catalog data base will include more information about the books than a catalog card and will enhance the finding of materials.

Circulation will involve library cards with barcodes and will speed up check out time. (Almost 450,000 books and materials are circulated annually.)

Fort Smith Library will be the first public library in the state to have automated circulation and online catalog. This project is made possible by a grant from LSCA.

The library tax was reduced to one-half mill in 1985 following a statewide tax rollback. The rollback was a result of Amendment 59 to the Arkansas constitution, which limited the amount of taxes that could be collected on real property following court-ordered statewide property reappraisal. Once again the library board went to the citizens for their support — this time to reinstate the one-half mill. It was approved on November 4, 1986.

Since the real estate property was reappraised at a higher value, the one mill tax amounts to more revenue for the library. This will enable the library staff to add more books to the collection, and make more services available. The budget for 1989 is \$543,000 compared to \$111,000 in 1970 — the year the library was moved to the present location.

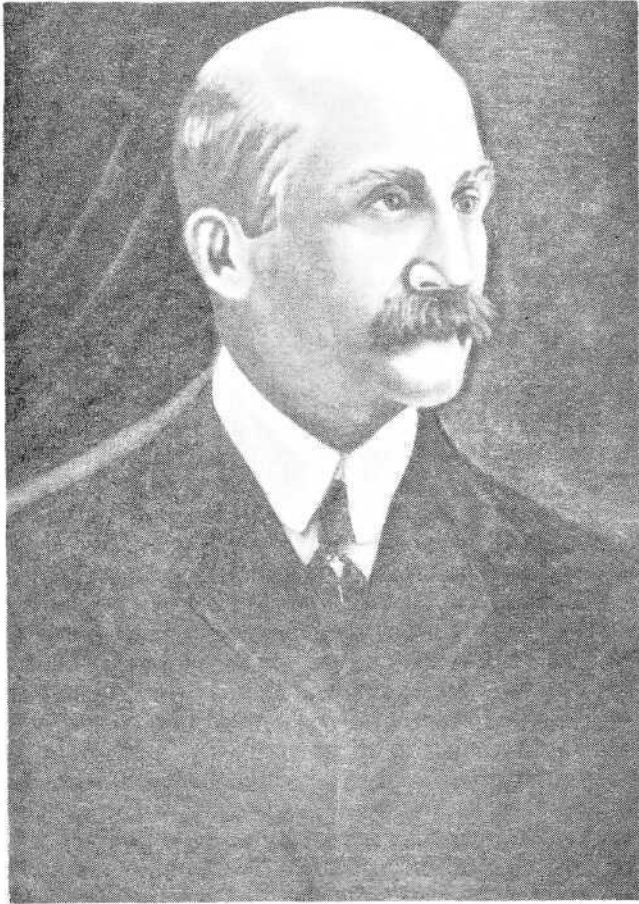
If it were not for the tremendous community support, the grants and generous gifts from individuals and businesses, we could not have the wonderful library that we have today.

Larry Larson, present director of the Fort Smith Public Library, assumed this position in September, 1985 when Thelma Wray, who had been director since 1972, retired.



# Buchanan Hatchett, M.D.

Amelia Martin



Buchanan Hatchett, M.D. Portrait painted by Fort Smith artist Anne Meek (Mrs. Ben B. Johnston, Jr.).

Two portraits hang in the Fort Smith public library — one honors Andrew Carnegie who contributed \$25,000 to make possible the building of the library's first permanent home, located on North Thirteenth street, and the other honoring Dr. Buchanan Hatchett, who bequeathed about \$45,000 to the library when he died in 1930.

The history of Searcy County, Arkansas, records Dr. Hatchett's name as Dr. James Buchanan Hatchett, but his name on his application to practice medicine in Arkansas is simply Buchanan Hatchett and his nieces and nephews called him "Uncle Buck."

Dr. Hatchett was not a native of Fort Smith, but was a native of Searcy County, Arkansas, where he was born November 1, 1856, the son of King and Nancy (Harris) Hatchett, and the grandson of Hubbard Hatchett who fought in the American Revolution and whose family came from England.

A graduate of Vanderbilt University in 1882 and the University of Louisiana in 1885, he also studied at the University of Heidelberg, Vienna. He was a

member of the county, state, district and Indian Territory medical societies, American Medical Association and the Association of Railroad Surgeons. He served as president of the Sebastian County Medical Society in 1891 and again in 1904, and was a medical examiner for the Equitable, Travelers, Prov. Savings and other insurance companies.

When his sweetheart to whom he was betrothed died, the study and practice of medicine and encouraging, inspiring and aiding others to enter the field of medicine and related fields became the love of his life. He never married. In 1903 he said he had devoted 25 years to the study of medicine, and today, 59 years since his death, his legacy lives on in the lives of physicians practicing in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Texas, as well as relatives serving in other professions and through the lives of thousands of people whose education has been enhanced by the use of the Fort Smith public library.

A complete list of relatives whose lives were influenced by Dr. Hatchett is not available, but some of them are: Dr. King Hatchett of Scotland, Arkansas; Dr. Copres Stripling Hatchett and his son and daughter who are practicing in Texas; Dr. John Hatchett, the son of Martin and Oleta Hatchett, surgeon in Oklahoma (his son and daughter are medical technicians); Dr. John Hatchett, son of Garner Hatchett; Drs. Andrew and Cleveland Hollabaugh, both graduates of Vanderbilt Medical School (Andrew remained in Nashville to practice and teach at his alma mater and his son, Andrew, Jr., became an ear and throat specialist while his other son, Fowler, gained the reputation of being one of the best eye surgeons in the south); Dr. Cleveland Hollabaugh served as a World War I doctor in France and returned to Leslie, Arkansas to practice; Dr. Sam Vance Daniel of Daniel Clinic, Conway, Arkansas; and Dr. Charles Daniel of Daniel Clinic, Marshall, Arkansas.

Dr. Hatchett's diploma was registered in both Washington and Sebastian counties, but it is not known if he ever actually practiced in Washington county.

He moved from Fort Smith to California because of poor health, and died there in 1930. His will, probated in July, 1930, provided \$2,000 to each of his 36 living nieces and nephews, and the residue of his estate was divided equally among Sparks Memorial Hospital, St. Edwards Mercy Hospital and the Carnegie Public Library in Fort Smith.

## Sources

1. Family history from Marcus A. Hollabaugh, great-nephew of Dr. Buchanan Hatchett.
2. *Physicians and Medicine, Crawford and Sebastian Counties Arkansas, 1817-1976*, by Amelia Whitaker Martin.



# Opal Elizabeth “Betty” Calvert

Opal Elizabeth “Betty” Calvert, a multi-talented poet and artist, was one of the few silhouette artists left in America, and also worked in oils, pastels and watercolors. Her interests included a doll collection, a collection of elegant Christmas tree ornaments which she made herself and a flower garden.

She developed several varieties of day lillies which she named and registered with the National Hemerocallis Society.

In an autobiography, Calvert said she cut her first silhouette as an assignment when she was in the second grade — a tom turkey. That same year she cut a profile of Woodrow Wilson which pleased the teacher so much she put it on display. After that she cut many silhouettes — one of President Richard Nixon, which she sent to him prompted a letter of appreciation from him which she treasured.



President Richard Nixon

Miss Calvert met David Alexander of California at a Fort Smith craft show. A silhouettist himself, he told her that she was the 25th person he had found practicing the craft during his worldwide travels.

Through the years she won many awards for her art and poetry. Some she was especially proud of were blue ribbons for her illustrated poems for a National Poetry Day Contest and “Best in the Show” on a painting in pastel of Sequoia, a great redwood in Sequoia National Park, California.



Betty Calvert and her doll collection

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 21, 1974

PERSONAL

Dear Mrs. Calvert:

Through the courtesy of Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt, I have received the silhouette that you did of me. I am delighted to have this example of your talent, and want you to know of my deep appreciation for the friendship and support this remembrance represents.

With gratitude and every good wish,

Sincerely,

Mrs. Betty Calvert  
1118 North 36th Street  
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72901

In 1967 Calvert received the first award ever presented by the magazine, *Haiku West*, and in 1968 the American Haiku Association chose one of her haiku poems from thousands of entries to be sent to the annual Black Ship Festival in Yokosuka, Japan. Her biography was included in the 1970-71 *International Who's Who in Poetry*.

She was a member of the First Baptist Church, Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas, Fort Smith branch of PRA, the National League of American Pen Women and the Fort Smith Historical Society.

Calvert was the daughter of the late Frank Esely Calvert and Louisa (Tucker) Calvert. Her father was a Baptist minister.

Betty Calvert died at age 85 on October 7, 1988. Survivors are her life-long friend, Matalie Clayton, and many nieces and nephews, including Carole Crockett and Joan Short, both of Bloomington, Illinois and Richard Crockett of Little Rock, Arkansas.

The following are some of Betty's favorite poems from the poetry which she wrote:

#### MOON MAGIC

This old house cannot hold me  
On a night as light as noon.  
Suddenly I am set free  
To follow the magic moon.

Swiftly then, on gypsy feet,  
With the breeze a tease in my hair --  
Away to the place the fairies meet  
And moonbeam lanterns flare.

Bluebells ring a nuptial lay.  
Full of bliss in this pretty place,  
A fairy waits to wed her fay,  
And her gown is Queen-Anne's Lace.

Muted music . . . hearts that thrill,  
Clasping hands wear bands that gleam  
Delightfully a robin's trill  
Awakens me from the dream!

Bickering sparrows --  
feathers flick the silent bell  
rusting in the church.

From *Haiku West*, 1967

Taking many sips  
dragon flies dip and hover  
over the still pool

From *American Haiku* (Black Ship Festival)

#### I SAW HIM STANDING TALL (Remembering Edsel Ford)

I saw him standing tall,  
With sunlight on his head,  
tenderly beholding spring's first bluet  
blossoming near the old stone wall  
that fenced the pasture in.

"Just a scrap of sky," he must have thought,  
"But oh, its blue out-blues the sky!"

And so he made his songs  
of simple things, ingeniously wrought  
to profundity.

He sang of common weeds  
in winter -- frost burned, dun colored --  
holding high their seeds  
and glorified by crowns of snow,  
waiting for the Spirit wind to sow  
to the fallow sod.

And now, until the Spring shall come . . .  
His music sings from the soul of God!

#### PAPA'S COME-UPPANCE

When Papa was single, a preacher and poor,  
He was Baptist by choice. One thing was sure.  
He practised his faith in most every way,  
Called all men "Brother!" Folks said he would pray  
For the sick and sinful on every claim  
In Indian Territory, just the same,  
With any who'd let him. And if they agreed,  
He gladly baptized to the Baptist creed.  
Papa raised his own food as best he could,  
But pickings were slim and, try as he would,  
Yams tasted like yams. He hungered for meat;  
So off he strode across the hills to greet  
Again his good Quaker neighbor, whose soul  
Was saved, just like Papa's. His steaming bowl  
Of cotton-tail stew was savory last time  
When he assured Papa, "What's mine is thine!"  
Papa was welcomed and the Quaker said,  
"Pull up a chair, Brother, thee looks ill fed!"  
"No, thanks," said Papa, but he changed his mind,  
Swallowed his pride saying, "You are so kind,  
But only a bite!" The Quaker's swift reply:  
"No, thee shan't, Brother, thee must not tell a lie!"

Icy fog-spun lace  
hangs in frozen filigree  
on the chain link fence.

From *American Haiku*

Oh -- poor honey bee,  
too long -- too long at your sweets --  
in morning glory.

From *Haiku Highlights*

# In Loving Memory

## RUTH BOONE

Ruth Boone, retired educator, musician and one of the founders of the Fort Smith Symphony Association, died October 27, 1988. A native of Austin, Tennessee, she had also lived in Carlisle and Beebee, Arkansas, and was a graduate of Beebee High School and Hendrix College. One very special day in her life which she treasured was when Hendrix College honored her on the fiftieth anniversary of her graduation from Hendrix.

Instruments she played were the piano, organ, violin and viola. She and her sister, Naomi "Babe" Whaley, both played in the Fort Smith Symphony for many years, Ruth the viola and Babe the violin.

The article on Rogers School in the September 1985 issue of *The Journal* mentioned her setting to music a poem called "A Teacher's Prayer" which was written by Verna Soifer, whose biography was also published in that issue.

Boone taught music at Beebee and at Magazine before coming to Fort Smith in 1945 to teach at Rogers Elementary School. While teaching at Rogers, she commuted to the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville on Saturdays to complete requirements for her Masters degree which she received in 1952.

She considered it a special privilege to have been chosen for the school year 1969-1970 to interrupt her teaching at Rogers school to teach at Howard school to assist in the integration process of the Fort Smith school system. At the same time, Natalie Donaldson, a black teacher from Howard school, was chosen to teach at Rogers school.

After Rogers school was closed in 1979 and her retirement from the public school system, she taught at the Immaculate Conception school.

She was a member of the First Methodist Church, and a recipient of the Golden Apple Award in 1969.

Graveside services and burial were in the Carlisle Cemetery at Carlisle, Arkansas. She is survived by one sister, Naomi "Babe" Whaley, of Fort Smith.

## THELMA E. BROWN

Thelma E. Brown, 89, of Fort Smith, died Friday, February 10, 1989. She was a retired Fort Smith educator and her biography was featured in the September 1985 issue of *The Journal*. She began her teaching career in 1920 at Rogers Elementary School and later began one of the first kindergartens in Fort Smith. In 1948 she returned to Rogers Elementary School, where she taught until her retirement in 1965.

A graduate of the Fort Smith school system, Park College and the University of Arkansas, she also attended William and Mary College and Columbia University. She was the daughter of Ezra and Effie Peninger Brown and was born in Auburn. She was the widow of Orion A. Brown and was a member of Goddard United Methodist Church.

She is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Charles H. Stinnett of Siloam Springs; a son, Dr. James A. Brown of Fort Smith; one sister, Mrs. Anita Bone of Ashdown; four grandchildren and a great-grandson.

## LOIS DORCAS

Lois Dorcas, 87, retired teacher in the elementary department of the Fort Smith Public School system, died October 15, 1988.

She taught at Duval, Peabody and Bonneville schools, was a graduate of the University of Arkansas, and after her retirement from teaching, operated the Bookmobile at the Fort Smith Public Library.

She was a member of Central Presbyterian Church, Retired Teachers Association, Fort Smith Garden Club and Musical Coterie.

Survivors include several cousins in Kansas and California.

## LENA STEWART

Lena Stewart, retired elementary teacher in the Fort Smith Public School system, died December 10, 1988. She also taught at the Arkansas School for the Blind.

She was a member of First United Methodist Church, member of the Retired Teachers Association and past member of the Pilot Club.

She is survived by two sisters, Katherine Bennett of Fort Smith and Lucille Hollar of Scottsdale, Arizona; two brothers, John Ben of Fort Smith and Harlan C. of Greenwood; and several nieces and nephews.

## ELIZABETH DEAN

Elizabeth Ford Dean, 78, retired teacher in the Fort Smith School System, died November 23, 1988.

She taught at Peabody and Belle Grove Elementary Schools, Darby Junior High School and Northside High School.

She was a member of St. Paul United Methodist Church and a member and past president of the American Legion Auxiliary.

She is survived by her husband, Paul; one daughter, Lou Ann Platt of St. Charles, Missouri; one sister, Jane Farris of Fort Smith; one brother, Zachariah Pierce of Overland Park, Kansas; and three grandchildren.

## DORIS COLLINS

Doris Geren Collins, 67, retired teacher in the Fort Smith Public School System, died September 20, 1988.

She was a member of Central Presbyterian Church, Arkansas Education Association, Retired Teachers Association and the University of Arkansas Alumni Association. She was the daughter of the late Myra and Ben Geren.

She is survived by her husband, Tom; one daughter, Betsy Edwards of Fort Smith; one son, Garry Edwards of Grand Junction, Colorado; one sister, Dr. Betty Uzman of Memphis; two grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



#### SISTER REGINA MARIE

Sister Regina Marie, 77, retired teacher who had taught at St. Boniface, St. Joseph's in Fayetteville, and in Amarillo, Texas, died October 30, 1988. She made her home at St. Scholastica Convent.

She is survived by two sisters, Sister Celestine Marie of Fort Smith and Helen Parlett of Kansas City, Missouri.

#### JOHN HOLLEMAN

John T. Holleman, 59, teacher at Kimmons Junior High School, died July 30, 1988.

He was a retired farmer, member of the United Methodist Church and an Air Force veteran of the Korean War.

He is survived by his wife, Evelyn E. Tonia of Van Buren; one daughter, Alice Ann of Little Rock; one son, John T. Holleman IV of Little Rock.

#### LOUISE MCGREW

Louise Smiley McGrew, 73, former elementary teacher in the Fort Smith Special School District, died November 10, 1988.

She was a Girl Scouts council committee leader; member of Alexander Memorial Church, where she was a Sunday School teacher; the PTA; the AEA; the American Legion Auxiliary; Ladies Auxiliary, where she served as State president, national committee chairwoman, and National Legion Press assistant. She was also a charter member and secretary of the Avenue of Flags of the U.S. National Cemetery committee, the Sebastian County Womens Republican Committee president, secretary of the Arkansas Blood Services and involved in Arkansas Girls State.

She is survived by her husband, Bill; two daughters, Patricia L. Taylor of London, Arkansas, and Mary L. Carter of Hackett; two brothers, Lawson Smiley of Leslie and Loyal Smiley of Clinton; and four grandchildren.

#### LINDA FAYE LONG

Linda Faye Long, a mathematics instructor at Westark Community College, died February 13, 1989. She was a native of Van Buren, a member of the American Math Association of Two Year Colleges, Wood Memorial Christian Church where she was a deaconess, a Sunday School teacher and secretary to the church board. She held a bachelor of science degree from Arkansas Tech University and a master's degree from the University of Arkansas. She had taught math in the Guam government schools in 1971-72.

She is survived by her husband, Les; a daughter, Veronica of the home; a son, Warren of the home; her mother, Mrs. Vol (Almedia) Russell of Van Buren; a sister, Mary Ann Morrison of Van Buren; and a niece and nephew, Yvonne and Brock Morrison, both of Van Buren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Linda Long Math Education Scholarship Fund at Westark or to Wood Memorial Christian Church.

#### MARY FRANCES OLIVER

Mary Frances Oliver, 76, retired high school commercial studies teacher, died February 19, 1989.

She was an active member of the First United Methodist Church where she served on the administrative board and was past president of the local and district United Methodist Women; a member of Eastern Star and the Methodist Village Auxiliary. The widow of Charles Oliver, she is survived by her sister, Mrs. Wanda Brian of Weatherford, Texas, and her brother, Reedy M. Busbee of Fort Smith.

#### CLARA REED BARBER

Clara Reed Barber, 85, of Fort Smith, a retired teacher and a fifty-year member of First Presbyterian Church, died February 21, 1989. She was a member of National Retired Teachers Association of Fort Smith. She is survived by a daughter, Mary Barber Williamson of Dallas; and several nieces and nephews. A memorial fund has been established with First Presbyterian Church.

#### MABEL C. McLAUGHLIN

Mabel C. McLaughlin, 96, great niece of Anna Jarvis, the founder of Mother's Day, died January 7, 1989.

She is survived by four daughters, Isabelle Parker, Dixie Scott and Roberta Jordan, all of Fort Smith, and Euleeda Mandenille of Columbus, Georgia; 10 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren and 28 great-great-grandchildren.

#### FRANCIS B. BURNS

Francis B. Burns, owner and operator of the Burns Flower Shop in Fort Smith, died December 26, 1988. He was the grandson of the late Charles and Catherine Burns featured in the April 1988 issue of the *Journal of the Fort Smith Historical Society*, and gave much assistance in the historical background of the family.

A charter member of Arkansas Florists Association, he was also a member of Ozark Florist Association, American Legion Post No. 31, the Blessed Kateri Catholic Church in Roland, Oklahoma, and was an army veteran of World War II.

He is survived by his wife, Sue; two daughters, Debbie Helms of Fort Smith and Carolyn Harper of Alamosa, Colorado; one son, Jim of Fort Smith; one brother, Leo A. Burns, Jr. of Fort Smith; one grandson, Chris Helms, and one granddaughter, Bryanne Harper.

#### TED "BOOB" SCHOEPPEY

Ted "Boob" Schoeppey, 85, who furnished valuable information for the article on baseball in Fort Smith which was printed in the September 1987 issue of *The Journal*, died December 1, 1988. He was the retired owner and operator of Schoeppey's Grocery Store, member of the Bluff Avenue Baptist Church, member of the American Association of Retired Persons and manager for Forever Living Products.

He is survived by his wife, Noreen; three daughters, Billie Adams of Fort Smith; Doris Gadberry of Paonia, Colorado; and Charlsie Boyd of Ashdown; a son, Jack of Fort Worth, Texas; three stepsons, James Rodgers of Concord, California, Robert Rodgers of Upland, California and Gary Rodgers of Jefferson, Oregon; 30 grandchildren and 31 great-grandchildren.

#### LUCIA "MITTY" HAWKINS

Lucia Leigh "Mitty" Hawkins, 66, Fort Smith native and community leader, died September 27, 1988.

She was a 1938 graduate of Fort Smith High School, attended Centre College and was graduated from the University of Arkansas, where she was a member of Chi Omega sorority. She was an active member of First Presbyterian Church, where she was an elder. She was past president of the Fort Smith Junior League, Fort Smith Junior Civic League, Fort Smith Heritage Foundation (Clayton House), Bonneville House Association and the Albert Pike PTA. She was a supporter of the Fort Smith Streetcar Association, Old Fort Museum, Fort Smith Art Center, Fort Smith Little Theater, Fort Smith Girls Club, and a life member of the Fort Smith Historical Society. She also served on the boards of the Art Center and the Fort Smith Girls Club.

She is survived by her husband, James Franklin Hawkins of Fort Smith; her daughter, Lucia Hawkins Laughlin of Tulsa; two sons, John Belden Hawkins and James Franklin Hawkins, Jr., both of Tulsa; her sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Jarmon of Yoakum, Texas; and eight grandchildren.

#### EULA MAE GREGG

Eula Mae Gregg died November 11, 1988. She was a member of First United Methodist Church, past president of Sparks Hospital Guild, past president of Fort Smith Girls Club, past president of Arkansas State Dental Auxiliary, past president of Northwest Arkansas Dental Auxiliary, former member of 21 United Fund, former treasurer of Sparks Hospital Gift Shop, former treasurer and officer of Community Concert Association, member of the Fort Smith Historical Society, the Old Fort Museum, charter member of Fort Smith Day Care Center and former member of the Little Theater Board.

She is survived by her husband, Dr. J. Burton Gregg; a daughter, Kate Gregg Snyder of Sand Springs, Oklahoma; a son, J. Burton, Jr. of Tulsa; two sisters, Mildred Willis of Seminole, Oklahoma; and Melba White of Titusville, Florida; and two grandchildren, Joshua Gregg and Christina Snyder.

#### WILLIAM T. "BILL" AVLOS

William T. "Bill" Avlos, 71, a civic leader and founder of the Fort Smith Christmas Parade, died September 9, 1988. He was former owner of Park Bowling Center, past president of the Fort Smith Junior Chamber of Commerce, recipient of the Jaycee's Man of the Year Award, recipient of the Jaycee's Distinguished Service Award, member of the University of Arkansas Alumni Association, member at large for the Westark Area Boy Scouts of America, Fort Smith Boys Club and American Legion. He served as a pilot for the Air Force.

He is survived by his wife, Cozette Wiggins Avlos; one daughter, Celeste Taylor of Fort Smith; two sons, Douglas and Gregory of Fort Smith; two sisters, Cleo Glidewell and Elizabeth Stiles of Fort Smith; two brothers, Theo and George of Fort Smith; and ten grandchildren.

#### GILBERT FORSGREN

Gilbert "Mr. Gib" Forsgren, 75, business and civic leader, died September 2, 1988. He was well-known for his substantial support of both Fort Smith Boys

Club and Girls Club and served on the Sparks Regional Hospital Advisory Board as well as the boards of Harbor House and the Boys Club. A member of the Noon Exchange Club and the Christian Business Men's Committee, Forsgren also was a Mason, a Shriner and a member of the Royal Order of Jesters.

He founded Forsgren Construction Company "with one dump truck and a crane" during the Depression, beginning as an asphalt contractor. As his business grew he built major highway and bridge projects that included the Wilbur Mills Freeway in Little Rock and award-winning bridges throughout Arkansas. A lifetime national director of the Associated General Contractors, he was past president of the Arkansas AGC and the Arkansas Contractors Licensing Board.

He is survived by his wife, Pauline; a daughter, Pamela Ann Kearby of Mineral Wells, Texas; a son, Larry of Fort Smith; a sister, Lucille Wetzell of Texarkana, Arkansas; and five grandchildren.

#### BILL KENNEDY

Bill Kennedy, 64, former editor of the *Southwest Times Record*, died September 16, 1988. He was editor of the *Times Record* between 1971 and 1975, assuming that position after heading the national news bureau of the Donrey Media Group in Washington, D.C.

Between 1975 and 1977, he served as editor of the Donrey newspaper in Hilo, Hawaii.

Nationally known as a reporter, columnist, editor and author, Kennedy in recent years returned to fiction writing, and a new novel, "Cherokee Justice," based on the history of his native Oklahoma, will be published in England next year. He authored one earlier novel, "The Bad One," in the 1960s and numerous short stories that appeared in national magazines.

He leaves his wife, Elizabeth, of Honolulu; two sons, Ross of Sugar Loaf Lake and Victor of Honolulu; a daughter, Patricia Kennedy of Los Angeles; his mother, Pearl Kennedy of Vian; two sisters, Betty Robinson of Fort Smith and Loraine Strader of Vian; and one brother, Albert of Pocola.

#### PATRICIA SHAD

Patricia Pratt Shad, 59, granddaughter of Ed Ballman and niece of the late Ed Louise Ballman, died September 17, 1988.

Ed Ballman was the founder of Ballman Cummings Furniture Company and her aunt, Ed Louise, was a prominent local philanthropist.

Shad was the valedictorian of the Fort Smith High School class of 1946 and was graduated with honors from Wellesley College, Wellesley, Massachusetts, and New York University law school where she was one of the first women elected to the Law Review. She practiced many years with the Legal Aid Society and served on the board of the New York Planned Parenthood Society and the Big Sisters organization.

She is survived by her husband, John, who is the American Ambassador to the Netherlands; a daughter, Leslie Shad; a son, Reese Shad; a brother, Howard Pratt of Seattle, Washington; and one grandson.

# News and Opportunities

## **FORT SMITH HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING**

Thursday, April 27, 1989, 7:00 P.M.  
Fort Smith Public Library Community Room  
Election New Board Members  
Entertainment and Refreshments  
Members and Guests Welcome  
Come! Bring Family & Friends!

\*\*\*\*\*

## **FORT SMITH HISTORICAL SOCIETY RECEPTION AND OPEN HOUSE HONORING NEW MEMBERS**

Thursday, May 25, 1989, 6:30 P.M.  
Cafeteria, Westark Community College  
Refreshments and Entertainment  
Public Invited

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## **ANNUAL MEETING ARKANSAS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**

April 20-21-22, 1989  
Hope, Arkansas  
For further information, contact:  
Arkansas Historical Association  
12 Ozark Hall  
Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701  
Phone 501-575-5884

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## **NEW CITY DIRECTORS**

The four new members of the Fort Smith City Board of Directors who were elected for four-year terms in the November 8 general election are: Ward 1, Bernice Kizer; Ward 2, Nan Bartlett; Ward 3, Carter Hunt; and Ward 4, Steve Lease. The new members join Mayor Bill Vines and at-large directors Ray Baker, Allan Langdon and Ray Stewart, all of whom have two years left in their term.

\*\*\*\*\*

Legislation has been approved for a University Center at Westark Community College. This will allow four-year and graduate degree programs to be offered at the school by four-year institutions agreeing to teach the courses on the Westark campus and be authorized by the state Higher Education Department.

\*\*\*\*\*

The deaf will now be able to make phone calls to and receive phone calls from the Fort Smith National Historic Site in Fort Smith thanks to a telecommunications device installed at the park.

The device is a keyboard with a digital display and typed readout the park staff will use to give information about the site and other parks in the national park system to deaf people who also have such a device.

The number for TDD is the same as for voice communications: (501) 783-3961. TDD callers will experience a short delay while staff members connect the TDD.

Visitors to the Fort Smith Historic Site are also able to visit the site of the first fort on Belle Point over a new pathway which is safer for all park visitors and will be accessible to wheelchairs when one area is completed in the near future.

The nooses are no more at the Fort Smith National Historic Site. Citing the need for safety and for historical accuracy, park officials have had the nooses removed from the gallows. An historically correct noose would have been about six feet longer than those formerly displayed. The knotted loops were fixed to the gallows only on hanging days and were taken down after executions were completed, according to Jim Tuck, Superintendent of the Historic Site. In the past, visitors ignored warning signs and climbed onto the gallows to see the nooses and take photographs. Fear of a serious accident also prompted the decision to remove the nooses.

\*\*\*\*\*

Guy Nichols, Park Ranger and historian at the Fort Smith Historic Site, and member of the board of the Fort Smith Historical Society, in February celebrated his 25th anniversary of service at the historic site. Nichols, a Johnson County native, was hired as a park guide for the site in February 1964. An avid Arkansas history buff, Nichols was frequently called on to assume the duties of site historian and has acted in that capacity since 1968 — the last year a trained historian was employed at the historic site.

\*\*\*\*\*

Janie Glover has been promoted to assistant manager of the Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce. A chamber employee for eight years, she previously was special projects manager.

Glover has received two of Fort Smith's top honors for community service, the Downtown Sertoma Service to Mankind Award in 1986 and the Exchange Club Golden Deeds Award in 1984.

\*\*\*\*\*

A record 829 horses from 36 states and Canada have been nominated to run in the Old Fort Days Futurity Barrel Race, making the 12th annual Futurity the largest yet. Futurity trials and finals May 25-27 will bring the horses, their riders and owners to Fort Smith to compete for an estimated purse of more than \$220,000, including \$20,000 in added money.

As of December 1, entry deadline, Texas had sent 218 entries and Oklahoma has sent 142. Other nominations came from all parts of the United States, from coast to coast, and 10 had been entered from Canada. Arkansas has 26 nominations.

\*\*\*\*\*

State Rep. B.G. Hendrix of Fort Smith was sworn in as Speaker of the Arkansas House of Representatives on January 9, 1989. Hendrix is the first Speaker of the House from the Fort Smith area since 1941.

\*\*\*\*\*



An interview with William S. Sessions, Fort Smith native and Director of the FBI, was published in the December 18, 1988 issue of the *Parade* magazine. The cover, which featured the photograph of Sessions and the seal of the Department of Justice, described Sessions as "The man who would restore the FBI."

\*\*\*\*\*

During Veteran's Day ceremonies, November 11, 1988, at the Fort Smith National Cemetery, a memorial plaque honoring Pierce McKennon, Arkansas' No. 1 ace fighter pilot of World War II, and all of the Fort Smith citizen soldiers in all American wars was dedicated. The plaque is now permanently placed on the base of a 24-hour lighted flag pole in a special plaza that has been built at the Fort Smith Municipal Airport.

\*\*\*\*\*

Polly Crews, Fort Smith Art Center Director, is the recipient of the Arkansas Art Educators Art Advocacy Award for Distinguished Service. The award is the only one presented by the group to a person outside the profession of education. Past recipients of this prestigious award include the Cranford-Johnson Advertising Agency, Stephens Corporation, and Cissy and Barrett Hamilton.

\*\*\*\*\*

Robert Y. Cohen II of Fort Smith was recently elected president of the Hendrix College Alumni Association.

\*\*\*\*\*

On September 22, 1988, the Antique Radio Collectors Club honored Fort Smith resident Jimmie Barry for his 60 years service to the broadcast industry and related fields.

Barry, 81, began his broadcast career on June 22, 1922 at age 15 when Fort Smith's first radio station, WGAR, signed on the air. His career includes helping establish radio stations, station management at Fort Smith, Siloam Springs, Arkansas, and Muskogee, Oklahoma, advertising, design and manufacture of radios and radio sales.

At age 17 Barry designed and built a radio called the Brown Teletone. About a thousand sets were manufactured and sold. Barry has donated one of these sets to the Old Fort Museum in Fort Smith. Upon graduation from high school he and a friend went into business selling Freshman Masterpiece radios. At 20 he opened Gray and Barry, selling Zenith radios.

In 1957 Barry retired from management of radio station KWHN for his own advertising venture which he remains active in today.

(Editor's note: Future plans for *The Journal* include an issue featuring radio and television in Fort Smith — more about Jimmie Barry then.)

\*\*\*\*\*

Sister Judith Marie Keith, chief executive officer of St. Edward Mercy Medical Center, has been named one of the three 1988 Arkansas Professional Women of Distinction by the Professional Women's Advisory Board of Worthen Bank and Trust Co. of Little Rock.

The award honors women who have outstanding achievements in employment and community service, and who show leadership, professional competence, management skills and a commitment to furthering the good of society.

Sister Judith Marie, a member of the Religious Sisters of Mercy, oversees an operation with an annual operating budget of over \$36 million. The organization she manages employs more than 1,250 Arkansans, making it one of the five top employers in the Fort Smith area and one of the 10 health care employers in the state. She holds a master's degree in hospital administration from Xavier University and a degree in nursing from St. Louis University. She is a member of the board of directors of the Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce, a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives and is listed in Who's Who of American Women.

\*\*\*\*\*

Sebastian County Judge W.R. "Bud" Harper was elected president of the National Council of Elected County Executives during the organization's 53rd annual conference.

\*\*\*\*\*

Massard United Methodist Church celebrated its 100th anniversary in September 1988. Charter members of the church included Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Lyons, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bivins, Mr. and Mrs. John Davis, Mrs. L.M. Lyons and Mrs. Georgia Garret. The church's present membership continues to list some direct descendants of the charter members on its roll.

\*\*\*\*\*

Twenty-five "period" street lamps have been installed on North Sixth and E streets in Fort Smith's Historic District.

\*\*\*\*\*

H.L. Hembree, Fort Smith businessman and former chairman of Arkansas Best Corporation, was honored by the Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce on October 13, 1988 at its 102nd annual banquet. Republican vice presidential candidate Senator Dan Quayle made a surprise appearance at the banquet and read a letter to Hembree from Republican presidential candidate George Bush. Chamber board chairman Carter Hunt presented Hembree with a plaque and a book containing letters of congratulation, including one from President Ronald Reagan.

1988-89 chamber board officers are: Larry Clark, chairman; Joe Powers, vice chairman; and Emon Mahony, treasurer.

\*\*\*\*\*

Henry Oliver, 63, of Fort Smith, a former Fort Smith chief of police, was named by Gov. Bill Clinton to the state Board of Correction. Oliver's resume includes 30 years as an FBI agent, 5 years as Fort Smith chief of police, and four years as director of the State Crime Lab. He has also served as director of the Transportation Safety Agency and as the governor's senior adviser on public safety.

\*\*\*\*\*

Fort Smith is honored to have Lawrence Odom as a new resident. A harp soloist, he has performed for American presidents Kennedy through Carter, the emperor and empress of Japan, England's Queen Elizabeth, the king of Spain and the shah of Iran. He has been soloist for the Kennedy Center Opera House, the New York City Ballet, the Paris Opera House, Royal Ballet and the Stuttgart Ballet. He has played as guest artist with the Baltimore Symphony and New Orleans Philharmonic. He made his New York debut at Lincoln Center as soloist performing Maurice Ravel's "Introduction to Allegro," and appeared with flutist Carl Adams for a duet recital at Carnegie Hall.

His first formal local performance also included Emily Evans, flute; Mary Beth Hayes, cello; Mary McDonald, celeste; David Hayes, tenor; Jan Moore, soprano; and Tim Hess, organ.

\*\*\*\*\*

A celebration of Martin Luther King's birthday was held January 15, 1989 at the Fort Smith Civic Center by the King Solomon Baptist Church to honor Dr. King and others who have worked to make dreams come true. Those honored by being presented the Hidden Hero Award were: Dr. Warren Dodson, Houston, Texas; attorney Velda West, Little Rock, Arkansas; and Judge W.R. "Bud" Harper, Sgt. Lawrence E. Tidwell, Major James Abernathy, Judge Bernice Kizer and Gloria White, all of Fort Smith.

\*\*\*\*\*

Sylvia Young Lassen is the recipient of the 1989 Book of Golden Deeds Award. The award is given each year by the Noon Exchange Club to honor a citizen who has served others in an exemplary way. Even though most of Lassen's acts of charity are unknown except to those to whom she gave assistance, the known list of her community involvements is overwhelming. Included in her activities are: charter board member of Abilities Unlimited, past president of Bost School Board, charter member and past president of the Mental Health Association, Western Arkansas Mental Health Board, vice president and "key person" of Project Compassion.

She helped organize the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and is active on the RSVP Advisory Committee. She is on the board of directors of the Boys Shelter where she has served as past advisory board member. In addition to writing articles for the *Arkansas Baptist Magazine*, she has been active in her work as a lay person for East Side Baptist Church in Fort Smith.

Lassen is a member of the Methodist Nursing Home Woman's Board, 1988-89 president of the Salvation Army Auxiliary, board of directors of the Clearing House, past president and member of Fort Smith Council of Social Workers and helped organize the McGill Community Center.

She was the 1979 recipient of the "Outstanding Volunteer Award" by the Arkansas Community Services Awards, Inc. and Little Rock Television Station KARK-TV. In February, 1988 she was awarded Project Compassion's Oldest Active Volunteer Special Award.

The list of Sylvia Lassen's accomplishments and activities goes on and on, and at age 90 she finds time in her busy schedule to make one-on-one visits to individuals in nursing homes.

\*\*\*\*\*

Fort Smith resident Lynn Coleman was recently honored with the 1988 Earnie Award as outstanding designer of girl's dresses. Winners of this national award are selected for their design excellence by merchandisers in the children's wear market. This is the ninth designing award Coleman has won since 1979. She designs under the label Bryan Industries, a children's clothing company headquartered in Tulsa, but she maintains a design studio in Fort Smith where her award-winning ideas are sketched and developed into patterns.

\*\*\*\*\*

Ralph Taylor, 32, of Fort Smith is the recipient of the 1988 Fort Smith Jaycees' annual Carnall "Tiny" Gardner Distinguished Service Award. The Jaycees also made four other awards to Fort Smith residents for professional and civic excellence. The recipients are: James Gilyard, 40, the Luther Bevel Outstanding Young Firefighters Award; police detective Sgt. Jay Carl Rider, Jr., the Judge Paul Wolfe Outstanding Young Law Enforcement Award; LaRonda Humphrey, 35, an eighth grade math teacher at Kimmons Junior High, the Shelby Breedlove Outstanding Young Educator; and Bev Lambert III, 55, was presented the Richard Burford Boss of the Year Award.

\*\*\*\*\*

Chaffin Junior High seventh-grader Sheila Czech outspelled 40 other contestants to win the 1989 Sebastian County Spelling Bee which was held on the Westark Community College campus February 11. Czech received the traveling trophy which will be displayed at Chaffin until next year's countywide contest, a \$100 savings account from City National Bank, which has sponsored five of the seven annual Sebastian County spelling bees, and her expenses will be paid when she represents Sebastian County in the state spelling bee at Little Rock in April. The winner of the state contest will go to the National Spelling Bee, which begins May 31 in Washington, D.C.

Julie Finn, a seventh-grader at Kimmons Junior High School, placed second in the bee and Immaculate Conception seventh-grader Andie Alvarez placed third.

\*\*\*\*\*

Euba Harris-Winton of Fort Smith is one of two people who received the 1988 Ethel K. Miller Award for Religion and Social Awareness from Hendrix College.

Winton attended Westark Community College and Philander Smith College. She is currently a black community developer and is president of the United Methodist Women of the North Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church. She has earned numerous awards for her work in community activities including the certificate of recognition from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Certificate of Achievement. Among the more than 21 programs she activated as a black community developer are drug abuse counseling, teen counseling and an elderly assistance program.

\*\*\*\*\*

Fort Smith public high schools have been notified by the National Merit Scholarship Corp. that seven students — six from Southside and one from Northside — have been designated as commended students in the 1989 National Merit Scholarship Program. According to principals Wayne Haver and Bill Bardrick, these seniors placed in the top 50,000 of more than one million participants in the 34th annual Merit Program and will receive a Letter of Commendation in recognition of outstanding academic promise.

The students who have been designated as Commended Students are as follows:

#### SOUTHSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

James Daly, son of Ben and Ann Daly

Jeremy Davis, son of Joan Davis

Amy Hansen, daughter of Thomas and Judy Hansen

Kelton Harrison, son of William and Betty Ruth Harrison

Gregory McCourt, son of T. Charles and Julia McCourt

Jennifer Rhemann, daughter of Herb and Rosie Smith

#### NORTHSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

David Crook, son of David and Sharon Crook

\*\*\*\*\*

Rodney Perry, Northside High School graduate and student at Westark Community College, represented Arkansas when he joined 350 outstanding recent high school graduates from across the country at the National Young Leaders Conference at Washington, D.C. in August 1988.

Perry, the son of Donald and Patricia Perry of Fort Smith, was chosen as a Congressional Scholar because of his recognition by *Readers' Digest* as the state's Boys Club "Youth of the Year."

\*\*\*\*\*

Mary O'Sullivan, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John O'Sullivan of Fort Smith, is the first female to hold the position of Junior ROTC Corps Commander in the 25-year history of Southside High School.

Born in Saigon, South Vietnam, she spent two months at Fort Chaffee in 1975 becoming oriented to the American culture and learning English.

She is a member of National Honor Society, Spanish Club and drama club.

\*\*\*\*\*

Doan Vo, a ninth-grade Gifted and Talented Education student at Ramsey Junior High School, has been selected to play the violin in a tour of Europe this summer. The tour consists of traveling to several European countries and playing concerts for local audiences. Students will also attend a concert given by the London Symphony.

Vo's mother, Tam Chu, is selling homemade egg rolls to raise funds for the trip. To place orders call 783-1202.

\*\*\*\*\*

Leighnora Buchanan, band director at Chaffin Junior High School, has been elected vice president of the Arkansas Bandmasters Association for the 1988-89 school year. Buchanan recently completed a term as secretary-treasurer of the association. A native of Texarkana, Arkansas, Buchanan has been band director at Chaffin for the past 19 years and has served in various offices for several professional organizations throughout Arkansas.

\*\*\*\*\*

Ralph Williams, principal at Fairview Elementary School, recipient of the Arkansas Distinguished Principal Award, represented Arkansas when he joined 58 elementary and middle school principals in Washington, D.C., October 18 where they were recognized by the Department of Education as "National Distinguished Principals." Williams was nominated for the honor by members of the Fairview PTA.

Highlighting some of Williams' accomplishments: he helped develop the County Spelling Bee program and Fort Smith students are now going to State and National Spelling Bee; Fairview was the first elementary school in Fort Smith to use a computer, the second school to incorporate outdoor education, and was a pilot school for a health project for fourth-graders.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Arkansas Association for Developmental Education has named Mike Cooper, Westark Community College developmental writing instructor, as outstanding practitioner for developmental education for 1988.

Two other Westark faculty members from the Developmental Education Division were also recognized. Division chair Nancy Vandett and developmental reading instructor Martha Efurd were recognized for founding the Journal of the Arkansas Association of Developmental Education.

Cooper was the recipient of Westark's faculty excellence in teaching award in the spring of 1988. He is a member of the National Council of Teachers of English, the Conference on College Composition and Communication, the Southwest Regional Conference of English in Two-year Colleges, Arkansas Developmental Education Association, and the Arkansas Two-year College Association.

\*\*\*\*\*



Dr. Janet Milford Sanders of Stilwell, Oklahoma has been selected as Westark Community College's new chair for Developmental Education.

Since 1985 Sanders has served as the academic dean for Flaming Rainbow University at Stilwell. She has worked at the university in various capacities since 1977 as a faculty member, library director and upper division curriculum coordinator.

She received her Ph.D. in Higher Education Academic Administration/Developmental Psychology from Union Graduate School in Cincinnati; completed post-graduate work in library science at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, and completed her bachelor's in economics at California State University in Sacramento.

\*\*\*\*\*

Westark Community College has received more than \$60,000 from the estate of the late Dr. Modena Sullivan.

"I am pleased to announce the creation of the Dr. Modena Sullivan Nursing Scholarship Fund," said Joel Stubblefield, president of Westark Community College. "Dr. Sullivan was an outstanding professional and community leader, and we are pleased to honor her in this manner."

Sullivan, a retired optometrist and community leader, bequeathed the \$60,000 to Westark Community College to establish a scholarship fund for nursing students. The gift will provide scholarship assistance each year for six to ten students studying to become registered nurses.

"Dr. Sullivan had the vision to see how a gift today would reap vast rewards in the years to come," said Dr. Charles Hughes, a friend and professional peer. "Modena was an inspiration to other optometrists, particularly those new to the field."

After graduating from Fort Smith High School, Sullivan graduated from the Southern College of Optometry in 1946. She practiced optometry for 30 years in offices located in the First National Bank Building. She was forced to retire in 1976 when she suddenly became blind.

Sullivan was an active member of St. John's Episcopal Church, a life member of Arkansas Optometric Association, a member of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Club, where she was the recipient of the Woman of the Year Award in 1980-81.

\*\*\*\*\*

Gerald Edwards has established a perpetual nursing scholarship fund with a \$6,000 gift in memory of his aunt, Martha Abree Hughes, who died in 1987. He plans to increase the fund with time.

Hughes, a registered nurse, practiced for more than 30 years, including five years as night supervisor for Crawford County Memorial Hospital before retiring in 1962.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Harold H. Hutsons of Fort Smith have established the Rebecca Raney and Harold H. Hutson Scholarship at Westark. The Hutsons, retired business people, wanted "to help some deserving young person attain a college education."

The \$1,000 scholarship for 1988-89 has been awarded to Corey Walker, a recent graduate of Northside High School, who plans to major in physics.

Their gift will be matched with \$1,000 from General Foods, Harold H. Hutson's employer for 43 years.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Jim D. Meek family has honored him with a \$1,200 scholarship gift to Westark. This gift provided fall semester tuition and books for two students studying to become registered nurses.

Jim D. Meek, co-owner of the Fort Smith Coca-Cola Bottling Company, was active in community affairs. He particularly enjoyed his work with the Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce and the Boy Scouts. He died in 1975.

Meek's son and wife, Roger S. Meek and DeWanda Meek, made the arrangements for the gift to Westark.

\*\*\*\*\*

Two Southside High School groups will be representing Arkansas in the National Festival of States in the nation's capital in May. The school's band and choir have been selected by festival organizers from among about six nominees made by Gov. Bill Clinton.

Band directors Stanley Cate and Richard Peer explained this will be the festival's first combined performance of a band and choir from the same school. Both groups are consistent winners of the highest ratings at their annual performance contests, the directors said.

Billed as a "Musical Salute to America," the festival provides a showcase for the finest performing groups from every state in the Union.

May 2 is designated as "Arkansas Day." Musicians of the Rebel band and choir will perform at Western Plaza — The Nation's Patio.

May 3 they will perform at one of the other historic sites such as the President's Park, the Lincoln Memorial, the Old Post Office Pavilion or the National Cathedral.

Fort Smith Mayor Bill Vines has been invited to participate with the group and attend the reception with senators and representatives from Arkansas after the performance.

Members will also participate in the special wreath-laying at Arlington National Cemetery.

\*\*\*\*\*

Fort Smith students ranked above the national and state averages on the American College Test in 1987-88. The national average was 18.6, out of 35 possible points, the state average was 17.9 and Fort Smith's average score was 19.4

The ACT is the predominate college entrance exam in 28 Midwestern and Western states. The test measures academic ability in English, mathematics, social studies and natural sciences. The results are used by more than 3,000 post-secondary institutions and agencies. Nationally, approximately 842,322 students took the test.

# Letters and Genealogy

I am tracing history of McKISICK family in Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas: James McKISICK and Polly Vance GREER had children, Jane Bell, Eliza Ruth, Polly Vance, Sarah Louisa, Letitia, Madeline Wilson and Alexander Hamilton. Alexander Hamilton McKISICK was appointed agent for the Indians ca 1856 or 1857. Sharon M. Hart, P.O. Box 1301, Grove, OK 74344.

\*\*\*\*\*

I am searching for information on W.M. WILSON who ran a ferry on the Arkansas River in 1852, and my mother's grandfather, Joe Jack WILSON, who was reported to be from Fort Smith and part Indian. Edward Marquise, P.O. Box 464, Lebanon, IN 46052.

\*\*\*\*\*

I am needing information on the family of "HUKILL." I know that my ancestor probably was born in Kentucky (2-20-1836) and died (12-16-1920) in Cooke Co., TX. He and his wife are both buried in Turner Cemetery, along with some of their children. I would appreciate any additional information that you might know of concerning the "HUKILL" family name in your area or the family name of "HOUCHENS." J.P. Hukill, 508 North Broadway, Cleveland, Oklahoma 74020.

\*\*\*\*\*

I would like to see a history of the old Peabody school. I started in 1st grade there under Mrs. Tustison — left to go to the "new" Junior High when the "new" High School opened in 1929 or 1930.

Some of the Peabody teachers were Mrs. Tustison, Mrs. Croom, Ms. Bone, Ms. Norfleet, Mrs. Hall and Cleo Blythe. The memories I have of them. Signed, Rosalie Harrison Stocks, 1629 Sheffield Rd., Oklahoma City, OK 73120.

\*\*\*\*\*

I cannot thank you enough for the information concerning the relatives of my grandmother, Maud Lee Phillips. I was so thrilled to hear that they remembered "Aunt Maud." I just thank you so much for the wonderful leads... I am enclosing another check for your historical society. Mrs. Edna Marian Phillips Lomax, 33961 Clark Lane, Yucaipa, CA 92399.

\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you so much for your efforts re Mrs. Bumpers and the Pitman ancestry. I enclose a check for membership in the Fort Smith Historical Society. I receive each year the publication of the South Sebastian County Historical Society... One of my Gilliam ancestors was supposed to be "Uncle Billy" Gilliam, rumored to be a noted, maybe even a notorious, Indian hunter in the Oklahoma Territory, but I have not turned up anything concrete regarding this.

Again, thanks for your help and am looking forward to receiving your journal. Mildred Davis Davidson, 5940 Sarah Court, Carmichael, CA 95608.

\*\*\*\*\*

I am looking for descendents of L.T. LACEY who was born in Gillispie County, Texas, 5 August 1863

and married a Mrs. Millie Boales 23 August 1890. He left Texas and worked in a coal mine in Arkansas and had a crushed leg and foot and received a small pension. He was in Arizona by 1906 or perhaps 1915 where he married again, had two children, died and is buried in Camp Verde, Arizona. His name on his marriage license is L.T. LACEY and on his death certificate THOMAS LACEY. His father was JOHN HARDIN LACEY... Signed, Mrs. Mabel Lacey, 42024 Ringstem, Apt. 67-A, Quartz Hill, CA 93536.

\*\*\*\*\*

I am renewing my 1989 membership with the enclosed check... I do enjoy *The Journal* and just wish it came oftener. Signed, Glynn Reavis.

\*\*\*\*\*

Please accept this for your surname card file: DOBBS, Jeremiah F., b. 1821 Georgia, m. ca 1842 Alabama to Susan WRIGHT, d. 1888 Washington Co., Ark. Father: David Dobbs? resident of Jackson Co., Alabama 1840. Virginia Wakefield Hayes, Box 624, Minco, OK 73059. PH: (405) 352-4480.

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## PHOTOGRAPHS NABE DUNN FAMILY

The Fort Smith Historical Society has received from Hagan Vititoe of Illinois pictures made by Fort Smith photographers Cook and Gannaway of NABE DUNN and his children Marshall, Coral and McLoud — also a picture of the Dunn home in Fort Smith. Nabe Dunn was a friend of Mr. Vititoe's grandfather, Thomas Geoghegan Hagan, who was born 27 September 1855 in Hardin County, Kentucky and in his younger years bought and sold timber throughout the southwest (Arkansas, Texas and Oklahoma).

Mr. Vititoe would like for these pictures to be returned to a member of the Dunn family. For more information, please send your name, address and any information you have about this family to Amelia Martin, Fort Smith Historical Society, c/o Fort Smith Public Library, 61 South 8th Street, Fort Smith, AR 72901.

\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you very much for your letter of October 23, 1988 and the research you did for me concerning John T. Echols. I am enclosing a check in the amount of \$15.00 partly in payment for your services and partly for copies of the newspaper articles and death records you named as your source.

I am trying to locate information on JOHN T. ECHOLS' wife and five children who were supposed to have been somewhere in the Chickasaw Nation at the time of his death... I am also looking for newspaper obituary or funeral home record for THOMAS JEFFERSON ECHOLS, born 21 April 1801 in Wilkes County, Georgia, came to Arkansas about 1869, and in 1880 census was living with his son Robert Harper Echols and family between Millstown and Washburn Community in Sebastian County... He was the son of Milner Echols and Susannah Sansom. At the time of his death he had the following children: Robert Harper Echols, Joseph Milner Echols, Susan Echols Chappel, and Mary

Echols Lester... I would like to know exactly when he died and where he is buried.

For your information or any other inquirer: The John T. Echols that was hanged at Ft. Smith on January 14, 1887 was JOHN THOMAS MILNER ECHOLS born March 10, 1852, the son of Robert Harper Echols and his first wife Elizabeth Carolyn Morris. His half brothers and sisters were: Joseph Enoch Echols, William Walter Echols, James Columbus Echols, Samuel Sansom Echols, Lewis Clark Echols, Robert Nathan Echols, Benjamin Franklin Echols, Sarah Louisiana Echols Earnest, Charles Lane Echols, George Washington Echols and Mary Jane Echols Bell... Signed, James R. Rasco, 2000 Alejo del Sur, Harvey, Louisiana 70058.

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Frontier Researchers announce the publication of the 1890 Reconstructed Census, Sebastian County, Arkansas. This softbound, over 200 page book lists the names of all residents of Sebastian County in 1890 that could be located from church records, funeral home records, county records, city directories and other sources. Each entry is indexed to the original. It has been called one of the most complete reconstructed census records in the state. The cost is \$20.00 postpaid from Frontier Researchers, P.O. Box 2123, Fort Smith, AR 72902-2123.

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*A Cumulative Index to the Journal of the Arkansas Medical Society, 1890-1986*, published by the History of Medicine Associates is now available. The 214 page, paperbound index includes subject and author listings. Price \$10.00 plus \$1.50 postage. Order from History of Medicine Associates, UAMS Library, Slot 586, 4301 West Markham, Little Rock, AR 72205.

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The JOHNSON COUNTY, ARK. MARRIAGE RECORDS 1850-1890 are available from Johnson County Historical Society, Inc., P.O. Box 505, Clarksville, AR 72830. Price: \$20.00 plus \$1.50 postage.

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Tommie BRITTAIN, 1105 Pampa Road, Pasadena, TX 77504 would like to contact persons researching the RECTOR family of Arkansas, especially WHARTON RECTOR and his family and ELIAS RECTOR. She has donated to the Fort Smith Historical Society a copy of the history of the Fredrick Rector family. It has been bound and placed in the genealogy room, Fort Smith Public Library.

This contribution is very much appreciated, and we invite others to send the Society a copy of your family history.

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WALLACE E. LEARD, 8753 Del Vista Drive, St. Louis, MO 63126, has contributed a large packet of LEARD family records which also includes HUGGINS family information. We appreciate this valuable addition to our records on this pioneer family of Fort Smith, and it will be available for research at the Fort Smith public library.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### DID YOUR FAMILY LIVE ON LAND THAT IS NOW FORT CHAFFEE?

The 72,000 acres that make up Fort Chaffee was once home to several thriving communities and hundreds of families. A team of archaeologists who have been working for more than two years to compile information on how life was on Fort Chaffee land before the Army took it over in 1941, wants to contact persons who lived or had family members in the area, or has letters, photographs, diaries or other documents about the area. Your help could greatly assist the research.

The team can be reached at the home office, Archaeological Assessments, Inc., P.O. Box 1631, Nashville, AR 71852, (phone number 501-845-4348) or by calling the Public Affairs Office at Fort Chaffee at 484-2905.

\*\*\*\*\*

Orphan Train Heritage Society of America continues to search for information on orphans who rode the New York Children's Aid Society's "Orphan Train." The purpose of the trains was to take orphans from New York to other parts of the United States in the hope of finding homes for them.

If you can supply information, please write to OTHSA, "Information Please," Rt. 4, Box 565, Springdale, AR 72764.

Mary Ellen Johnson, OTHSA, can be reached Monday through Friday at 501-756-2780 (office hours) or evenings and weekends at 501-751-7830. If you reach the answering machine at either number, please leave your name and number.

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MONTGOMERY VANDERPOOL, publisher of *Kin Hunters*, is now also editor of the VANDERPOOL NEWSLETTER, which for the past 14 years has been published by Mrs. Frances R. Nelson. The newsletter is published in January, April, July and October. For more information write to Montgomery Vanderpool, P.O. Box 151, Russellville, KY 42276-0151.

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We have received JARRETT NEWS LETTERS #3 and #4, also known as GRANDPA'S CHILDREN. Each newsletter is twenty pages of JARRETT and related family records. For more information or to share your Jarrett family research, write to the editor, Helen Jarrett Stanford, 63850 Chapel Hill Road, Belmont, Ohio 43718.

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The September 1988 issue of LOST & FOUND, a national Query Newsletter, which prints only Genealogical Queries, contained 32 pages of inquiries. Each inquiry is headed by the family name or names and the state or states in which the family lived. LOST & FOUND is distributed six times a year. Membership subscription is \$12.00 per year and members may place unlimited amount of queries throughout a subscription year (European and Canadian memberships are \$16.00 per year, U.S. funds). Non members may place queries in LOST & FOUND for \$1.50 per query, limited to 50 words each. The issue containing the queries will be mailed to the submitter. Publisher/editor is Glenda Suit, 3060 Blackhills Drive, Boise, Idaho 83709.



# 1888-1889 Newspapers

## FORT SMITH ELEVATOR

December 21, 1888 - March 15, 1889

Excerpted from microfilm at the Fort Smith Public Library by Mary Lou Jacobsen, Anna Greve and Don Marquette. Typed by Anna Greve.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

December 21, 1888

### THE TARIFF OFF

On account of Harrison's election and inauguration of the free whiskey era in the near future, Henry McGreevy is making still further reductions in the price of his choice brands of Old Crow and McBrayer whiskey. Bring your jugs in and get them replenished.

— • —

### WEDDINGS

Mr. George Nathan of this city, and Miss Julia Miller of Talihina, C.N., were married Wednesday night in this city. We extend best wishes to both parties.

Mr. Clark Harwell and Miss Maggie Locke were married yesterday afternoon at the residence of the bride's father at Alma. May their most happy expectations in this be reached.

Mr. Frank A. Handlin and Miss Helen McCarthy were married in this city yesterday morning at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Rev. Laurence Smythe performing the ceremony. After the ceremony a reception was held at the residence of the bride's parents from 10 until 12 o'clock. May the (illegible) of the happy couple be prosperous beyond their most sanguine expectation.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

December 28, 1888

The *Arkansas Democrat* aptly remarks: "Give us good roads in Arkansas, roads over which a span of horses can draw 4000 to 5000 pounds instead of 1000 to 2000 as at present, and we shall accomplish several very desirable results. The roads will then be competing with the railroads and they will also have a potent influence in increasing the value of real estate. Gentlemen of the next general assembly, do not go from Little Rock until you give us an improved road law."

— • —

### THE NEW DEPOT BUILDING

Workmen are busy excavating for the foundation of the Missouri Pacific freight depot at the foot of Garrison Avenue, and the contracts for all the necessary stone have been let. The depots will both be built of brick similar to that used in the Anheuser Busch building. Work will be pushed to completion as early a day as possible.

— • —

### TO BE SUNK DEEPER

The new cable for sinking the gas well deeper arrived Saturday evening, and will be placed in position at once. The machinery for the well on the Foltz Addition has not been received, but timbers for building the derrick are being cut out and will be

placed in position at once. The gas people mean business.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

January 4, 1889

Hundreds of people were seen on the Avenue Tuesday afternoon viewing the eclipse through smoked glasses. A portion of the time the eclipse could be seen with great distinctness, but during the greater portion of the afternoon it was invisible by reason of clouds.

— • —

A jolly crowd gathered at the residence of Mr. F. Bollinger on New Year's Eve to partake of a bounteous feast and enjoy a season of music and dancing. Festivities were kept up until a late hour, and all departed feeling in good humor with themselves and the world at large.

— • —

All the city prisoners were released Monday evening by the order of the Mayor. His Honor is a believer in the theory that a resolution at the beginning of a new year to turn over a new leaf carries with it more than ordinary weight, and he wanted to give the boys a chance.

— • —

Forty-three marriage licenses were issued from the office of County Clerk, for the Fort Smith district, during the month of December, and one or two were issued the 1st inst. We have no remarks on this matter further than to suggest to our furniture dealers that they lay in an extra stock of cradles about next fall.

— • —

### A NEW SCHOOL DIRECTOR

The school board held a meeting Monday afternoon, and after accepting the resignation of Mr. R.T. Kerr, elected Dr. J.H.T. Main to fill the vacancy occasioned by Mr. Kerr's resignation. Dr. Main is one of our most public spirited citizens, and we congratulate the school board on having made such an excellent choice.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

January 11, 1889

Finish the Dardanelle railroad to completion and build more factories in Fort Smith.

— • —

The report of Superintendent Wood E. Thompson shows the scholastic population of Sebastian to be 10,727.

— • —

If there is a city of the size of Fort Smith, in the entire south, which can show a cleaner record for 1888 or a more promising future for the year to come, its name has not yet been disclosed.

— • —

Henry M. Cooper, of Little Rock, Judge J.A. Williams, of Pine Bluff, and Hon. LaFayette Gregg, of Fayetteville, prominent republicans are in Indianapolis. It is said they went at the invitation of President-elect Harrison.

— • —

Mr. & Mrs. R.C. Southard of Bokoshe was a caller at the *Elevator* office building last week.

We are pained to learn of the recent death of Mr. Sam Weldon, Postmaster at Caulksville. He had many friends in the city who regret his demise. He has always borne the reputation of an honest, upright and tactful man.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**January 18, 1889**

The pulpit, the bench, and the bar recommend Cheatham's Chill Tonic as the finest actiperiodic in use, being free from poison and guaranteed. For sale by W.H. Cole, druggist.

We live in progressive times. Electricity is to be now invoked to unfold its wings and waft criminals over the river Styx, in place of pulling him over with the barbarous and slow going of the hangman's rope. New York has led the van in this reform. Other states are agitating the issue. The agitation has touched St. Louis and her judges are expressing their opinions for and against the changes.

#### THE TEACHER VINDICATED

Prof. Kennedy was arrested on Thursday of last week on a charge of assault and battery for chastising one of his pupils, a son of James Marshall, the warrant having been sworn by the boy's father. The case was tried Saturday before Squire Edmondson, and Prof. Kennedy was very properly acquitted. In our opinion the teachers in our public schools are, as a rule, too lenient with many of the boys, and don't give them half the spankings they deserve. Fort Smith, we believe, can muster up more bad, unruly, impudent boys of school age than any city of her size we know of, and if the rules governing the teachers in our schools were amended so as to give them the privilege of using good stout switches instead of their hands it would probably result in much benefit to some of the pupils.

Peach glow cheeks and rosy lips, deep blue eyes and curly auburn hair are possessed by the girl whose face adorns Hood's Sasparilla Calendar for 89. She wears a dainty bonnet, and the head is 'cut-out' so as to look quite realistic. Hood's Calendar is easily the best of its kind, and like the Sasparilla it represents, is a good thing to have in the house. The pad harmonizes with the exquisite array of color above while the dates are easily read. Hood's Calendar may be obtained at your druggist or by sending 6 cents in stamps to C.I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.

#### TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

All persons having claims against the undersigned are hereby notified to present the same within ninety days from Jan. 1, 1889, and they will be settled, and all persons indebted to me are requested to call and settle at their earliest convenience.

Fred Schoeppe, Mill Creek, Chickasaw Nation

#### WANTED

100,000 pounds of tallow. Border City Soap Company, Fort Smith, Ark.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**January 25, 1889**

#### CITY HALL NOTES

At the Council meeting Monday night a petition from P.C. Devasay, asking that a street lamp be located at the corner of Oak and Vine at tenth and eleventh streets was granted after considerable discussion.

The following accounts were allowed:

Mr. A.J. Barry, rock for streets	\$ 2.00
Charles Bankus, build culvert across Towson Avenue	62.55
Ernest Beck, work with team on streets	54.00
Pearl Printing Co., 1000 8th Street, posters	2.00
Martin Bridges, furnishing stepping stones	43.00
John Baur, repair bridges	14.00
Frank Begels, work on street	3.70
Total	\$182.45

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**February 1, 1889**

#### TERRITORIAL CONVENTION

The Indian Territorial Convention was held on the 24th. Several hundred persons were present from Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas, Texas and the Indian country.

The Grand Opera House was packed by 2 o'clock p.m., and at 2:30 the convention was called to order by Col. Ben T. DuVal, of this city, who briefly stated the object of the meeting, which was to adopt measures for the speedy opening of the Indian Territory to settlement. He denounced all "Boomer" movements to rob the Indians of their sacred rights, and pledged the convention beforehand to a policy which was to guard the rights of the Indian as sacredly as that of the whites.

Senator Berry succeeds himself in the United States Senate. He deserves the honor. He is able and faithful, worthy and well-qualified.

Mr. W.D. Huston left Tuesday on a visit to his old home, New Orleans, where he was summoned on business.

When you desire a pleasant physic try St. Patrick's Pills. They can always be depended upon, and do not nauseate the stomach nor gripe the bowels. Sold by J. Schaap, Fort Smith; also by Dr. Papula, Hackett City, Ark.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**February 8, 1889**

At Purcell on Thursday night of last week Deputy Marshal John McAlester, in company with John Swain, were at a house occupied by some women, when Swain barteringly told McAlester he could not shoot the knob off a bureau in the room. The officer had earlier in the evening fired, as he supposed, all the loads out of his pistol, and when Swain made the remark McAlester drew his weapon, took aim at the knob and pulled the trigger. To his surprise the weapon had a load in it and was discharged. He told

the inmates he was unaware that his gun was loaded or he would not have shot. He and Swain then started off when Charles Steen rushed into the room and asked what the racket was about. On being told, he grabbed a winchester and going out began firing at McAlester and Swain, who were walking off, one shot passing through McAlester's lung. Swain being unarmed and McAlester's pistol being empty, both ran about 150 yards, when McAlester fell, saying he was done for... Later... Marshal Carroll received a telegram Wednesday evening saying that McAlester was doing well.

— • —

James W. Hacker has been appointed United States Commissioner at Purcell Indian Territory.

— • —

Robert Bailey was committed to jail on Saturday, charged with introducing, etc.

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It is sad to see family relics sold at auction, but the most painful thing under the hammer is generally your thumbnail.

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**February 15, 1889**

**U.S. COURT PROCEEDINGS**  
Proceedings for the Week  
Ending Thursday Morning

#### The Alleged Murderer of Belle Starr Brought In

On Saturday last, Jim Starr, husband of Belle Starr, arrived here, having in custody a man named E.A. Watson, whom he charged with having murdered Belle, and turned the prisoner over to Jailer Pettigrew. Starr gives the following details of the murder:

"On Saturday morning, February the 2nd, I started for Fort Smith and Belle accompanied me as far as Sans Bois, Choctaw Nation, which is 29 miles this side of our house on the Canadian. At Sans Bois we remained overnight, and on Sunday morning, I started to Fort Smith and Belle started back home. When within two miles of home, about 3 o'clock Sunday afternoon, she stopped at the house of Jack Rose and took dinner. There were several men in the yard, among them E.A. Watson, Dick Hays, Mr. Barnes, Mr. England, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Hare and others. A few minutes after Belle went into the house, Watson left abruptly and went to his house, about one hundred and fifty yards distant. Belle remained about half an hour after he left, and then mounting her horse started on home, the road leading around Watson's field, where it intercepted an old road that had been fenced off near the corner of another field about one hundred and fifty yards from Watson's house. The assassin was inside the fence at the corner of the field and the road led along side the fence. As there was no brush or anything to conceal the assassin, she must have seen him as she passed. Just after passing him, he shot her in the back, four buckshot taking effect, three in the middle of the back between the shoulders and one in the neck. The shot knocked her off the horse, and then her slayer climbed over the fence and shot her a

second time with a heavy charge of turkey shot as she lay in the mud which took effect in the side of her face, neck, shoulder, and arm. A few minutes after she fell, Mike Hoyt came riding up the road, and seeing her lying in the mud approached no nearer, but immediately started to inform her daughter Pearl of what had happened. In the meantime the horse Belle was riding had reached home, and Pearl, knowing something had happened to her mother, started hurriedly up the road to see, and met Hoyt coming after her. They then reached the spot and the girl found her mother in the throes of death. Belle spoke one or two words to her and then expired. The neighbors gathered and took her home. I was telegraphed for Monday afternoon, and left here late Monday evening, intending to cross Poteau at Ainsworth ferry. I could not cross, and had to remain until Tuesday morning, when I got an early start and made it home in about eight hours. We buried Belle on Wednesday and Mr. Watson attended the funeral. Before I got there parties had been investigating and suspicion rested on Watson. He was trailed from his house to the place of the killing, his track being plain on the inside of the fence and on the outside where he jumped over to shoot the second time. From here he was traced in a round-about way back to his house. I arrested him Wednesday evening."

As to what motive Watson had for doing the deed, Starr said:

"I do not know, further than that Watson made Belle mad several months ago by taking one of her letters out of the post office, and they have been on bad terms ever since. Watson came here from Florida about fourteen months ago, and I think I must have told Belle some of his past history that he feared she would repeat, because she was mad at him, and he killed her to get her out of the way. I don't know this, but it is my theory of the case, as Belle has had no trouble with anyone of late and was on good terms with her neighbors."

"In short, I think Watson killed Belle Starr, and I propose to use every effort in my power to prove it on him."

This is Starr's version of the case and is told almost in his own language.

Watson is a white man of good appearance. He says he is entirely innocent of the charge and can prove it, says he was at home with two or three other parties and heard the shots fired that killed Belle, but has no idea who fired them. After the killing, he and some others went down where it occurred.

— • —

#### **CITY POLITICS**

The "kicking" over the recent primaries has about subdued, and we trust there will be no further trouble in the democratic family. Mr. Baker, a worthy and competent Democrat, has been declared the nominee of the party for mayor, and every Democrat who took part in the primaries will support him. Now let our Republicans trot out their man and we'll slaughter him on the 2nd of April in the most approved style.

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**February 22, 1889**

King Otto of Bavaria has been declared hopelessly insane.

— • —  
**THE GEM THEATRE**

Mr. F.R. Barling announces to the public that he has secured an entire new troupe at the above popular place of amusement and in future will have better and more interesting shows having decided to run right along during the summer months.

— • —  
If your digestion is out of whack, if you need a strengthener or an appetizer, try Cheatham's Chill Tonic. It will bring you out of the kinks.

Sold by J.W. Morton, Druggist.

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**March 1, 1889**

**MARRE'S WILL**

The will of the late Angelo Marre of Little Rock was opened in that city on the 21st. He left his personal property, money, large collection of diamonds, etc. to his wife absolute, and without restrictions. His two story brick block, corner of Markham and Spring streets, and his magnificent brick residence on Scott street goes to his wife during her life. The two story brick block opposite the Capitol Hotel, probably the finest gambling rooms, billiard hall, and bar rooms south of St. Louis goes to his nephew John Marre, his son, and his two sisters, Mrs. Wm. Berne and Mrs. Joseph Aratta, divided equally. On the death of his widow the real property left her is to be divided equally between the heirs named above. His son is not to receive his legacy until 25 years of age, unless he is married and is a father sooner.

The widow of Marre is well known in this city having resided here the many years as the wife of James Brizzolara.

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**March 8, 1889**

**GIVEN AWAY**

The beautiful engraving of the celebrated picture "The Horse Fair" by Rosa Bonheur to every new subscriber or renewal for the *Weekly Globe-Democrat* (ten pages). One year. Only \$1.00 per year. Postmasters or news dealers will receive your subscription, or remit direct to: Globe Printing Co., St. Louis.

Send for free copy.

— • —  
Miss Emma, eldest daughter of the late John M. Clayton, will be an applicant for the Pine Bluff Post Office, with flattering prospects of success.

— • —  
**HARRISON'S CABINET**

Secretary of State - James G. Blaine of Maine  
Secretary of the Treasury - William Windom of Minnesota  
Secretary of War - Redford Proctor of Vermont  
Secretary of the Navy - Benjamin F. Tracy of New York  
Secretary of the Interior - John W. Noble of Missouri  
Postmaster General - John Wanamaker of Pennsylvania  
Attorney General - W.H.H. Miller of Indiana  
Secretary of Agriculture - Jeremiah Rush of Wisconsin  
They were sworn in Wednesday.

Mack Richie, a 17-year old boy of Paris, Logan County, was married last week to a Miss Rogers in consequence of which the Paris correspondent of the *Little Rock Gazette* wants the legislature to pass a law that will put a stop to the marriage of children.

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**March 15, 1889**

**AFTER THE MARSHAL'S OFFICE**

There are quite a number of candidates for the office of U.S. Marshal for the Western District of Arkansas. B.F. Hackett, of Hackett City, is on the ground with his application ready. Col. Thos. Boles, C.M. Barnes and H. Bradley of this city, have all got their hooks baited and lines out. Jacob Yoes, of Mountainburg, is a candidate. Mr. Tafts of Camden, is also in the field; so is Mr. Harrison, of Washington County. The scramble for office has begun in earnest all along the line.

— • —

**ED PRICE IN A DRUNKEN FRENZY  
CUTS HIS THROAT**

On Wednesday afternoon Dr. Kelleam was called in to attend a man who had cut his own throat in the suburbs of the city. He proceeded to the scene and found the would be cutter lying where he had fell with a fearful gash across his throat extending almost ear to ear. He was not dead, and after being revived, was able to walk to a hack, in which he was conveyed to St. John's Hospital, where his wound was dressed and sewed up. He now stands a fair chance of recovery. His name is Ed Price, and he recently came from St. Louis in company with his nephew, James Price, and a man named Clark. They had been spreeing around here for several days, and on Wednesday afternoon started to walk to Van Buren. It appears he became involved in a drunken quarrel with his nephew and would have hurt him had Clark not interfered. He suddenly drew a razor and said: "See what I'm going to do" and throwing his head back he brought the sharp instrument across his throat before he could be stopped. They were railroad men and came out here expecting to get work on the Wagoner branch of the Valley route.

— • —

**HEAVY ICE**

On Saturday last Mr. J.D. Young, agent of the Anheuser-Busch Brewery, received a car load of lake ice which indicated some exceedingly cold weather where it came from. There was one block in particular that was immense, being four feet long and two feet square. There were several other blocks equally as thick but otherwise not so large.

— • —

**NEW COUNTY COURT HOUSE**

The new county court house was on Friday last inspected and received by the commissioners. It will be furnished and fitted up at once. The building is a magnificent structure and a credit to Fort Smith. The next thing in order is a larger jail.

— • —

The people of Eureka Springs, without regard to politics, petitioned Powell Clayton to become a candidate for mayor of that city. He declined.

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NOTES: il - some sort of graphic is used, other than a portrait.  
 por - a portrait of the person(s) named is on page indicated.  
 (----) - for such as title, marital status, degree, etc.  
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