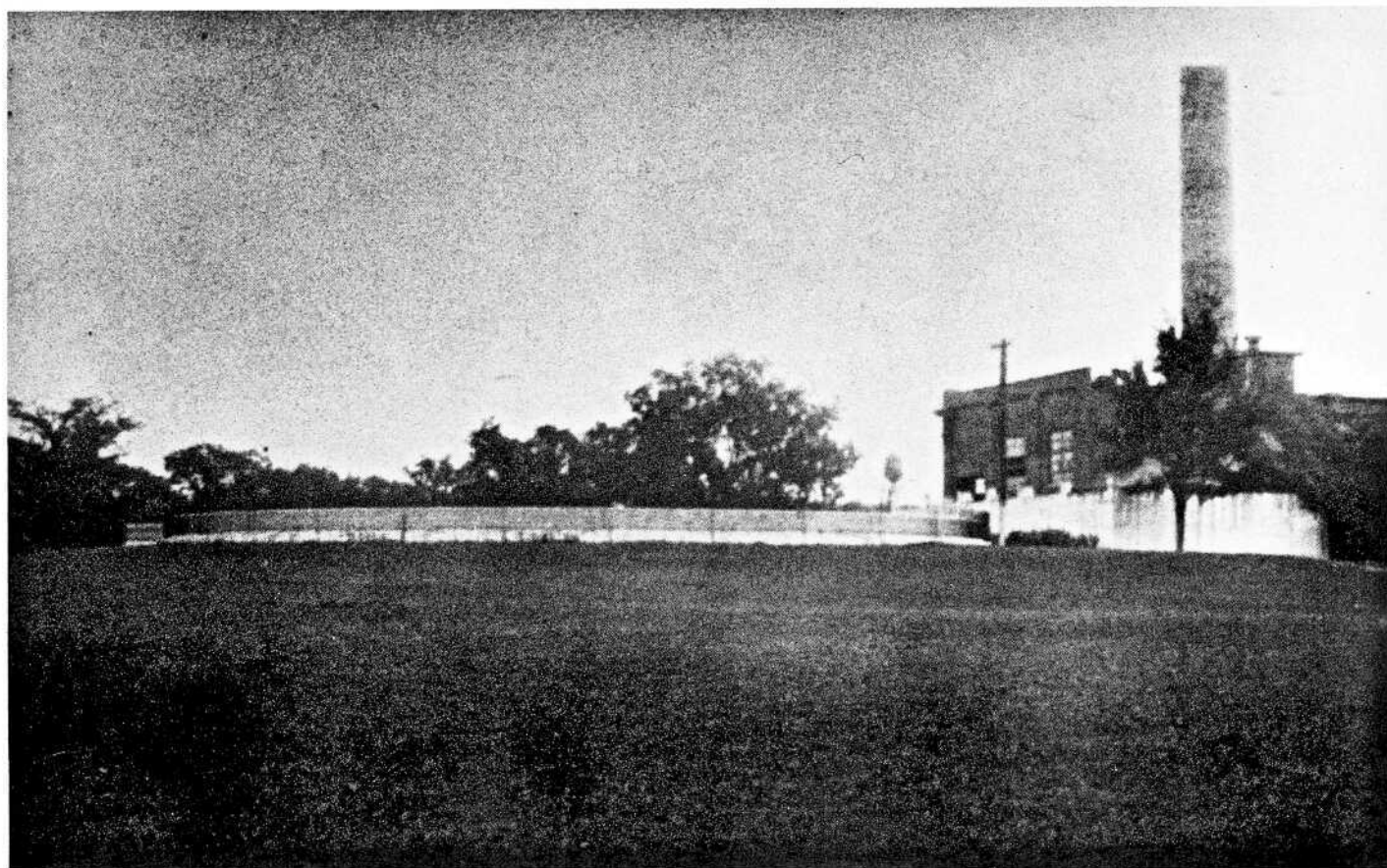


The JOURNAL



Vol. 14, No. 2, September, 1990

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Annual	\$ 10.00
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Journal Back Issues ... Each Copy	5.00

(For mail orders, add \$1.00 mailing charge per copy.)

Composite Index

for Volumes I thru IX 20.00

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Contents

VOL. 14, NO. 2

SEPTEMBER, 1990

Editor's Notes	2
The Fort Smith Water System	3
William Joseph Johnston, Mayor	21
The Dream Is Alive	24
Deaths of Fort Smith Residents	25
Joyce Reynolds Oglesby	27
News & Opportunities	28
Genealogy	34
Letters and Inquiries	36
1890 Newspapers	37
Business Sponsors	44
Index	45

COVER: Pump Station on Poteau River when the Poteau was Fort Smith's water source. Photo courtesy Fort Smith Public Library.

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Editor's Notes

We welcome two new guest writers for *The Journal*, Ben Johnston, Jr. and Cindy Jacobsen. Johnston's article about his grandfather, Mayor William Joseph "Col. Bill" Johnston, continues the series of articles on mayors of Fort Smith. Mayor Johnston, who served when the citizens of Fort Smith first petitioned for a municipal waterworks, was the only mayor of Fort Smith, so far as we know, who received a royal invitation to the coronation of a king of England.

We remind you again that we are still seeking pictures and biographies of former Fort Smith mayors. Please contact Amelia Martin, 783-1237, City Director Ray Baker, 783-0367, or Joan Stratmann, City Administrative Assistant, 785-2801.

Thirteen year old Cindy Jacobsen's outstanding speech "The Dream Is Alive," which made her a winner in the 1990 Optimists' Oratorical Competition, is such an eloquent reminder that the dream of freedom which has shaped our nation and our lives, is still alive — at home and abroad — it merits being recorded in Fort Smith history. With permission we share it with you.

We hope you find a few surprises in this issue. The story of the Fort Smith Water System is, of necessity an unending story. This would be true for any municipality trying to keep up with progressive growth. At least, we are no longer dependent on private wells (and dig those white snakes in the well).

The 1990 annual meeting of the Fort Smith Historical Society was a time of celebration for honors received by the Society, its *Journal*, its guest writer and its editor. (Continue reading for details.)

The Fort Smith Trolley Museum hosted the meeting on April 17 which was held in the Katy 910 chair car, and Jim Tuck was in charge of arrangements. Park Ranger Guy Nichols of the National Historic Site presented the program. He spoke on the "Social Life on the Frontier," drawing on his 25 years of service at the site and from letters of pioneer women, giving the woman's eye view of Arkansas in that time.

Announcement was made that *The Journal* and Dr. Phillip Wayne Russell, one of our guest writers, had received awards in the Arkansas Historical Association's 1989-90 competition. See page 28 for details.

Also, our editor, Amelia Martin, was honored by Arkansas' Governor Bill Clinton, the Arkansas Senate and House of Representatives, and the Fort Smith Historical Society. April 17, 1990 was proclaimed "Amelia Martin Day in Arkansas" by Governor Bill Clinton "in recognition of her foresight, ability and leadership in saving and preserving a portion of valuable Arkansas history which otherwise might have been lost forever."

For readers who may not be aware of Amelia's role in preservation of history, she is a co-founder of the Fort Smith Historical Society, has served as its president, and served as editor of *The Journal* for fourteen years; is a co-founder, with her husband Art and son Bradley and others, of the Fort Smith Streetcar Restoration Association and Fort Smith Trolley Museum; is editor of the *Trolley Report* newsletter of the Trolley Museum; has served on the board of the Arkansas Historical Association; is active in Daughters of the American Revolution and other historical organizations; is the author of a 700-page biographical history of physicians and medical care in Crawford and Sebastian counties, 1817-1976; and has written the history of a number of Fort Smith churches, as well as historical articles for newspapers and other publications.

State Senator Travis Miles presented Amelia with the proclamation from Governor Clinton naming April 17th "Amelia Martin Day," and resolutions of commendation from the Arkansas Senate and House of Representatives.

Jim Tuck announced that in honor of Amelia's service, the Historical Society was donating ten rolls of microfilm of the *General Index to Military Service Records of Revolutionary War Soldiers* to the Fort Smith Public Library. This gift will begin the collection of the entire 58-roll set.

Officers elected to serve for 1990-91 are: President, Wallace Floyd; Vice President, Mary Lou Jacobsen; Recording Secretary, Pat Birkett; Membership Secretary, Jo Tillery; Corresponding Secretary, Virginia Bruce; Treasurer, Donald Marquette.

New Board Members elected for three-year terms: Mary Lou Jacobsen, Conaly Bedell, Gordon Kelley, Joel Stubblefield, Joanne Swafford, and Thelma Wray.

We feel this is a most opportune time to express our thanks to each and every one of you for your support and to all who help us in research and publicity — Jack Moseley and the *Southwest Times Record*, the Fort Smith Public Library, the National Historic Site, City and County officials, privately owned businesses, and all individuals who "have a story to tell" and are so generous in sharing information and photographs. We appreciate each of you — without our supporters and helpers, there would be no *Journal*.

Sarah Fitzjarrald McCullough, Associate Editor

The Fort Smith Water System

Sarah Fitzjarrald

Even though the poet, Samuel Coleridge, was writing about an ancient mariner when he penned, "Water, water everywhere!/Nor any drop to drink", he could very well have been describing the plight of Fort Smith or communities all over the country, or the world, in their securing a lasting, potable supply of water.

Fort Smith, situated at the confluence of the Arkansas and Poteau Rivers, would seemingly have had no problem in getting plenty of good water. But such was not the case.

The first supply of water for the town was dug wells, which, considering the lack of technology, was normal for cities emerging in the 1800's. But after the on-going and lengthy original attempt at operating a municipal waterworks on wells, the townsmen naturally looked to the two rivers. The Arkansas was not reliable in that there was no steady flow. It dried up during summer drouths, flooded during the rainy season and froze over in the winter. Consequently, the Poteau River was chosen and it was an agonizingly slow process which led from the wells to water mains from the river.

Fort Smith was incorporated as a town in 1842 and it was not until 1884 when the wheels were finally put in motion to build a water system.

In the meantime the small community was suffering its own unique growing pains. In the context of history it seemed that one significant event followed closely on the heels of another. No sooner than Fort Smith was incorporated, it became an important jumping off place for many Americans going west during the Gold Rush to make their fortunes. There was another breathing spell and then Fort Smith found itself embroiled in the War Between the States, a war especially cruel to its citizens because a great many of its people were founders of the town who had come from the north. Again, only a brief time elapsed and Fort Smith became the border town, the buffer, between the Indians settling their own country to the west and the mauling, thieving, murdering white men who would have overrun their territory had it not been for the establishment of the federal district court and the arrival of Judge Isaac C. Parker.

It was not those individual events that set Fort Smith apart, rather it was the sum total of events. Few burgeoning cities have experienced so many events in such a short time.

One of the most popular features of our *Journal* is the extraction of news items taken from the old newspapers of the city. In these news items from back issues of the *Journal* are found bits and pieces which attest that Fort Smith was alive and well, taking its hardships in stride and seeming to enjoy

the good times to their fullest. One of the prominent newspapers was the *Fort Smith Weekly New Era*. Beginning with May, 1877, we offer the following:

There was another baptizing on Sunday in the Arkansas River. In April, 1878, a nice 14-lb. ham sold for 98 cents. In August of that year citizens were warned to keep their premises thoroughly cleansed and disinfected because of the near approach of yellow fever and other dangerous diseases.

On May 21, 1879, editor Valentine Dell made a "flying" trip to Van Buren, going over on the 3:30 p.m. freight train and returning on the 6:30 p.m. passenger train. "We had an hour and a half to spare for business, shake hands with a number of friends and pick up a few more subscribers," he said.

On August 20, 1879, the editor wrote, "We understand the Little Rock Ice Company will forward a sample piece of the manufactured article four feet long, three feet wide and 12 inches thick, to any party that will pay freight charges from Little Rock to this place. Ice houses will be useless hereafter."

In October, 1880, the trouble with the enormous Gainsboro hats was that it was only the little half-pint ladies who wore them. And a month later — The "Racquet", a new dance recently introduced was described as a cross between a cancan and a fight. It was generally frowned down by the best society.

In September of 1882, fifteen buildings in the business portion of the city were laid in ashes, at a cost of sixty thousand dollars.

In March of 1883, the city directory census showed a population of over 7,000 inhabitants. The census of 1880 showed only 3200 — an increase of over 100 per cent in less than three years.

A month later the editor noted, "Fort Smith is booming but no fire engine, nor any means to oppose a conflagration; the streets are wretched, no market house, no courthouse, no street lamps, no water works, no sewerage system, and but a single school house. It requires careful, skillful and honest management to supply the wants of this city and keep it from striking the rocks that swamped Helena, Memphis (West Memphis?) and many other cities." Then he added, "But Rome wasn't built in a day."

Things began to pick up. In July, 1883, work was commenced on the gas works. A month later it was reported, "The street cars will commence operations next Monday."

But in September, 1883, disaster struck again with a major fire. One of the most valuable business blocks on Garrison avenue was destroyed. There were no means to fight the flames because the city was without either waterworks or fire company. Six businesses were completely burned.

However, by March, 1884, things were looking up. The *New Era* was most optimistic in reporting that, "The city will have six miles of pipe when the water works are constructed, thus a very large portion of the city will have efficient protection from fire. Mr. Hill has obtained the contract to construct the water works in this city. Work will be commenced next month, and when completed, the cost will be about \$125,000. To have this amount expended here will make business brisk and give employment to about 200 people."

Two weeks later, on March 20, we find: "This burg ... Fort Smith ... with her 9500 people, comes pretty near being the magnetic centre of this country. In every direction, towns and cities are exerting themselves to get connection with Fort Smith. No man coming to this place, and becoming familiar with her undeveloped resources, but will admit that some day — and that not far distant — there will be concentrated here millions of wealth in manufacturing, banking and other pursuits of commerce..."

FORT SMITH WATER COMPANY

Then in May, 1884, the paper reported, "Articles of Association were filed yesterday of the Fort Smith Water Company. The purpose of the company is to supply the Border City with a good supply of water. The capital stock is \$100,000, limited. The directors are Davis S. Thomas of Carthage, Mo., Charles W. Hill of Parsons, Kan., Hubbard Stone, E.A. Thomas and John Vaile of Fort Smith. Davis Thomas and C.W. Hill own \$99,700 worth of stock."

On July 30, 1884, the work of putting in the hydrants on the Avenue at the points selected by the Council was begun.

In September, less than two months later, the work of laying the water mains from the Avenue to the reservoir was progressing steadily. "Water will be turned on about the fifteenth of next month." The October report was that the water mains were nearly all put down and the work was rapidly nearing completion. "Water will be turned on about the 20th inst."

At this point the *Journal* began extracting items from another newspaper, the *Fort Smith Elevator*.

The great day had arrived! We quote from the December 26, 1884, edition of the paper: "On Monday last the mayor and members of the city council, together with the representatives from the *Tribune*, *Times* and *Elevator*, visited the water works in a body, accompanied by the contractors, Messrs. Hill & Thomas. They first visited the reservoir, which is located on a high elevation about one and one-half miles from the central part of the city, and is 105 feet above the city, thus giving positive fire protection, as from altitude pressure alone, a dozen fire streams could be thrown simultaneously to a height of 80 feet, and the capacity of the reservoir is so great the same can be continued for a week without the aid of pumping engines. The reservoir now contains about eight feet of water, or two-and-a-half million gallons, which, however, is only a little over half its capacity.

It is about 280 feet square and 14 feet deep, and the water in it has a clean, pure appearance..." (The editor was describing the reservoir at Bailey Hill, just south of Dodson Avenue, Fort Smith's first reservoir.)

As valuable as a water works seemed to be, the number of water consumers was by no means 100 percent of the tax-paying property holders. The February 20, 1885, edition of the *Elevator* noted: "We don't think it necessary to pitch very deeply into sanitary matters, nor sewers for the city, nor the condemning of too many wells as yet... If she (the city) will suffer no cesspools to be made in the moist earth, and strictly under heaviest penalties suffer no deep ones to be made to reach to the underlying sand in which all or most of our wells terminate, there will be for years no need of abandoning or condemning wells of good water because there will be nothing to contaminate them."

"The idea of going to immense expense now to sewer a city scattered over so much ground would bankrupt it, but good attention to privies and removing the deposits once a month will very materially assist sanitation."

We are indebted to Mrs. E.E. Barber, Jr. (Margaret Ann) and to Mrs. Douglass Yadon (Julia) for the following water well story.

CLAYTON HOUSE WELL

Julia Yadon saved one of Fort Smith's fine old residences, the Wm. H.H. Clayton House at 514 North Sixth Street, from being torn down. She served on the Arkansas State Review Board of the National Registry of Historic Sites and was successful in having the W.H.H. Clayton House included in that registry. She was a founder of the Belle Grove Historic District, and of the Fort Smith Heritage Foundation which restored, maintains and operates the Clayton House. Restoration of the Clayton House was completed in 1969. Margaret Ann Barber was the first membership chairman of the Fort Smith Heritage Foundation.

In a conversation Margaret Ann recalled that there was a large water well near the house. Sometime in the late 1970s or early 1980s, Jimmy Schriver, son of Calvin Schriver, was doing some landscape work in the yard with a bulldozer and front-end blade. He struck something hard and heavy that would not budge. It turned out to be a huge flat rock that was placed there to seal the well. After getting reinforcements, young Schriver and the other men were able to open the well.

In the bottom of it there was a large number of "white snakes" (albino). In the absence of sunlight they had adapted to their environment and lost their skin pigmentation.

Naturally, the incident caused quite a stir. One of the local television stations sent out a young reporter who was going to be lowered into the well but thought better of it at the last minute.

Calvin Schriver remarked to Margaret Ann, "The snakes looked pink to me." (Calvin, a licensed architect, and his son, Jimmy, were running the

business set up originally by Calvin's father, "Geo. A. Schriver & Sons, Design Builders." They have since moved to Hot Springs.)

Julia Yadon also vividly remembers the white snakes and found some pictures she had taken of the open well. She was kind enough to share them. (See accompanying photograph.)



Left to right: David Helton, Jimmie Delle Caldwell and Julia Yadon looking at Clayton House well in which albino snakes were found. Photo courtesy of Julia Yadon.

Not only did some of Fort Smith's finest homes have water wells, but also most of them had outdoor privies. Even when the waterworks system first began reaching the residences, the plumbing was primitive, to say the least. The bathroom was for taking a bath and the "water closet" was for flushing.

The water closet had a large cylindrical storage tank above the stool and water was released by pulling a chain or rope. The Clayton House has such a water closet.

Julia Yadon relates that her father, James Richard Etter, was an engineer who could do anything. So he installed a water closet in their house a long time before some of the more affluent citizens of the town stopped going to outdoor privies.

Guy Nichols also remembers when the courthouse at the National Historic site had water closets. There were eight of them. In 1893, U.S. Marshal Jacob Yoes had his attention called to the need for repairs of the seats and other parts of seven of them. The courthouse was being used at that time for a hospital and jail. Yoes said the repairs were needed because of the "rough character of the men".

Steve Parke, manager of the City Utilities Department, sent copies of water bills for some of the houses of ill repute. One was for Pearl Starr's

house, run by Trixy Golden; one owned by Laura Zeigler, run by Bertha Gale (Miss Laura's House); and one owned by Nellie Anderson, run by Ella Scott. They were the same printed forms sent to all water consumers and one is dated as late as 1938.

Note the different columns: Bath, Water Closet, Urinal, Hydrant, Lawn Sprinkling, Cows, Horses, Vehicles, Sink, Basin, Other Uses. (See accompanying illustration.)

Service No. <u>209</u>		City No. <u>209</u>									
Owner <u>Trixy Golden</u>											
Consumer <u>Trixy Golden</u>											
Tap made											
Location on tap											
Location also box											
Meter No.	Bath	Water Closet	Urinal	Set. Hydrant	Lawn Sprinkling	Cows	Owner Horses	Vehicles	Sink	Basin	Other Uses
1000				21							
Annual rate											
5.00											
Service No. <u>222</u>		City No. <u>222</u>									
Owner <u>Bertha Gale</u>											
Consumer <u>Bertha Gale</u>											
Tap made <u>July 17-05</u>											
Location on tap <u>Independent service, tapped on front - 6' or 5' plus - 6' 2" from of the house - 10' front</u>											
Location also box <u>440 ft. - 10' front</u>											
Meter No. <u>795103</u>	Bath	Water Closet	Urinal	Set. Hydrant	Lawn Sprinkling	Cows	Owner Horses	Vehicles	Sink	Basin	Other Uses
20		2		24							
Annual rate											
5.42											
Service No. <u>1320</u>		City No. <u>1320</u>									
Owner <u>Nellie Anderson</u>											
Consumer <u>Ella Scott</u>											
Tap made <u>3/4" on 1 1/2" line laid 1938</u>											
Location on tap											
Location also box											
Meter No.	Bath	Water Closet	Urinal	Set. Hydrant	Lawn Sprinkling	Cows	Owner Horses	Vehicles	Sink	Basin	Other Uses
2000/5				18							

Water Service Records for three of Fort Smith's houses of ill fame: one owned by Pearl Starr and operated by Trixy Golden; one owned by Laura Zeigler and operated by Bertha Gale; and the third owned by Nellie Anderson. Copy of records provided by Steve Parke, Director of Utilities, City of Fort Smith.

GREMLINS IN WATERWORKS SYSTEM

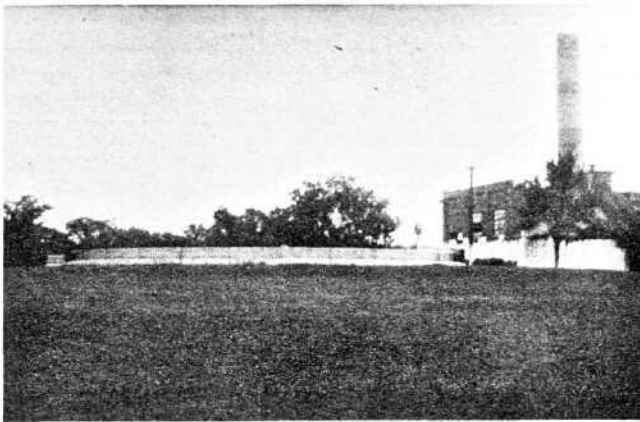
Unfortunately, after only three months of service by the new waterworks system, gremlins began sneaking in. On March 27, 1885, the editor of the *Elevator* wrote, "Considerable inquiry is made, and the people of the city are much concerned in regard to the delay in putting on steam by the company so the water could be thrown higher and fire be put out

quicker. This must not be the case again, and the city officials must certainly guard against it."

Electric lights were in full operation a couple of months later and many business houses on the Avenue were supplied with them. However, on July 25, the paper noted, "The water being furnished by the water company is wholly unfit for drinking, and has been for some time. Unless some remedy is applied the company will soon lose most of their customers."

This very small, seemingly insignificant, item appears quietly and without fanfare — August 7, 1885: "Water is being pumped from Poteau (River) now and as soon as the mains are cleaned out we will have good water."

The next month, September 18, 1885, the paper noted, "There is a sewer pipe being laid from the Hotel Main to Poteau (River)."



Old Pump Station on Poteau River.
Photo courtesy Fort Smith Public Library.

Many Fort Smithians remember, or have heard their parents speak of, "Poteau Punch" because of the unpalatability of the city's drinking water. But this sewer was not responsible except when it backed up to the water intake because of river flow since it emptied downstream from the pump station. "Poteau Punch" came later.

In the middle of May, 1886, the city council had a meeting at which the water works committee made a report condemning the works in some respects, stating that owing to a lack of cement, improper construction and bad repairs, the reservoir was unfit to fulfill the requirements of the water works franchise, etc. Mr. Thomas informed the council that the cement was on the way for the reservoir repairs, which would be done as soon as the material arrived, and that everything that could be done to give the city good, clear wholesome water would be resorted to.

FORT SMITH AND NATION PROSPEROUS

In February, 1887, Fort Smith was declared a city of the first class by the Governor.

In June, 1887, a cheerful note from the past — "Washington estimates the surplus revenue (of) the current fiscal year, now nearly completed, place it at about one hundred million dollars." (Editor: Was that perhaps the last surplus?)

Later, in August of that year, Fort Smith could boast of having gas, electricity, waterworks, three banks, street railways, a canning factory, fruit evaporator, two iron foundries, several lumber mills, one carriage factory, four wagon factories, numerous brick yards, galvanized iron works, a steam sausage factory, two steam brick machines, two large furniture factories, the largest cotton seed oil mill in the south, the largest cotton compress in the south, two large cotton yards and warehouses, three extensive lumber yards, three railroads, the U.S. Court (largest criminal court in the world), four fine public school buildings, and the largest school in the south. And only one month later Fort Smithians were contemplating the building of the Opera House, truly one of the finest anywhere in the southwest.

The town continued to grow and in April, 1888, the sewer commissioners added on to the original sewer system by awarding a contract to W.A. Doyle, of Kalamazoo, Michigan, for building it at a cost of \$155,240. (This was the same contractor who paved Garrison Avenue in 1889. His name was erroneously spelled "Dagle" in the September, 1989, issue of the *Journal*.)

Not only was Fort Smith growing but progress was "busting out all over". In January, 1889, the State of New York invoked electricity to "waft criminals over the river Styx". (First electric chair).

The next fifteen or twenty years would show that the city was keeping up with, or surpassing, the typical growth and progress of towns and cities throughout the southwest.

PRESENT WATER SYSTEM ESTABLISHED

On January 21, 1907, the wheels were first set in motion to establish our present water system. As per regulation, a group of real property owners, being more than ten in number, petitioned the City Council "to take steps toward constructing or acquiring and operating and maintaining in and for said City a system of waterworks, and to that end lay off the whole of said City as now bounded into one improvement district..." The signers were S.E. Donoghue, Louis Berdelle, Emile Frantz, W.E. Page, Fagan Bourland, J.F. McAfee, James Grier, I.J. Raines, Fagan Bourland, Jr., John Witherspoon, Andy Carr, Mary Coulter, Chas. Webb, and W.J. Johnston (who would later serve as mayor). The mayor presiding at that council meeting was Henry Kuper, Jr.

The ordinance was passed and approved in the city council meeting of February 4, 1907.

A mass meeting of citizens was held and a committee appointed to solicit signatures of property owners and to determine by certification of the

County Clerk the assessed valuation of real property in Waterworks Improvement District No. 1. John Ayers was chairman of the committee and the other members were Buck Williams and C.W.L. Armour.

The committee submitted their report in a council meeting on May 6, 1907, along with certification of valuation of property which amounted to \$3,565,345. They also presented an index marked "A-2" which contained names of property owners. Fagan Bourland was then serving as mayor.

We are greatly indebted to Bradley Martin, general manager of the Fort Smith Trolley Museum, for making available to us copies of documents which are on file at the Trolley Museum. They include the A-2 Index, utility reports, journals, etc.

The A-2 Index of 1,386 property owners contains the names of some of the first families of Fort Smith, those who helped in its establishment and whose family names remain alive and well.

On May 14, Mayor Bourland called a council meeting for the purpose of electing a Board of Improvement for Water Works Improvement District No. 1 and such other business that might be brought before it. Thereupon, Harry E. Kelley, Samuel McLoud and J.M. Tenney were declared duly elected members of the board.

On May 20th, the board met in an organizational meeting, Harry E. Kelley was elected chairman, and J.M. Tenney was chosen as secretary.

The men had their work cut out for them. It was not until February 3, 1908, when they returned to the city council and reported that they had formed a plan and ascertained the cost of the Water Works Improvement adequate to meet the demands of the city to be \$1,200,000. They also asked for the appointment of a Board of Assessors for said Water Works District.

A year later, on March 9, 1909, Harry E. Kelley addressed the city council on Paving, Sewer and Water Works Districts. Motion was then made by Alderman Smedley to elect a Board of Assessors for Water Works Improvement District No. 1, to consist of three members. The motion was adopted and the board members were elected. They were W.J. Murphy, B.D. Crane and John Ayers.

WATER WORKS SYSTEM FUNDED

Two years later, on January 5, 1911, the city council passed and approved Ordinance Number 935, levying assessments on the Real Property in Water Works District Number One for the purpose of constructing, acquiring, operating and maintaining a system of Water Works. The assessments were as follows: 2 per cent per annum for one year paid on or before the first day of March, 1911, and after expiration of that date, three and one-half per cent for eleven successive years; and after the expiration of eleven years, fifteen per cent was to be paid for three successive years; and fourteen and one-half per cent would be paid for one year on or before the first day of March in the sixteenth (16th) year. W.J. Johnston was presiding mayor.

Four months later, on April 4th, certification was given to the city council by the Lyman Abstract Company, attesting that they had examined the list of signatures attached to the original petition for a water works system and found that the value of real property owned by the petitioners represented more than a majority of value of all real property in the district. Certificate was signed by George H. Lyman, Sec'y and Treas. of Lyman Abstract Company. This firm is now the Guaranty Abstract & Title Company, owned by Sue Tittle Martin.

In the meantime, on January 26th, A.N. Sicard met with the Board of Improvement and submitted the proposition that he be appointed as collector and treasurer of Water Works District Number One to serve during the period covered by Ordinance Number 935, at a salary of \$250 per annum. He agreed to furnish bond to the Board of Improvement for \$100,000 on which the Board agreed to pay the premium not exceeding \$25.00 per annum.

The bond was to cover the period of twelve years from March 1, 1911. Sicard, before making the 13th installment under said ordinance would give to the Board another bond of \$380,000, conditioned as said bond for \$100,000, to cover the remaining period during which installments were to be collected under said ordinance.

On March 18, 1911, the Board of Assessors certified that benefits assessed against real property owners as shown by assessment list filed with the City Clerk on January 31, 1910, was \$1,255,103.

On April 3, 1911, Ordinance Number 942 was passed and approved by the city council that said, "...WHEREAS, the said City has the option to purchase the water works system and all property connected therewith belonging to the Municipal Water Works Company under which option if the City and the Water Company could not agree on value and did not agree to arbitration, the value of same should be determined by the Courts, and

"WHEREAS, a suit is pending in the United States Circuit Court for the Western District of Arkansas between the City and the Water Company for the purpose of fixing the amount to be paid by the City for the said Water Works plant and all property owned by the Water Company in connection therewith,

"THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council... That the City... transfers and assigns its option to purchase the said water plant to the said Improvement District #1, and hereby consents, when final decree is made by the said Court fixing the value of the plant and the amount to be paid by the City therefor, the said decree shall provide that the said Municipal Water Works Company make conveyance of said plant and property to the said Water Works Improvement District #1 of Fort Smith, instead of to the City... as authorized and provided for in Act #158 of the 38th General Assembly of the State of Arkansas, Approved March 30, 1911, copy of which act has been filed in said court. The said Improvement District to pay to said Water Company

the amount decreed by the Court to be paid for said plant and also pay all expenses including attorneys fees incurred by the City in said case to acquire said property, the plant to be operated by the City as provided by Section 5675 of Kirby's Digest." The ordinance was signed by W.J. Johnston, Mayor.

Probably the most interesting point of this ordinance is that it was written only three days after Act 158 of the Arkansas General Assembly was approved. It makes one wonder if perhaps some of our townsmen were instrumental in bringing it about.

The court suit pending in the ordinance had been begun in January, 1911, in which the city of Fort Smith had sued the Municipal Water Works Company and the Water Works Company had filed a cross complaint. President of the Water Works Company was George F. West.

The final decree was issued on April 5, 1911, only six days after Act 158 was passed and approved by the Arkansas State Assembly.

Provided in the decree was that the City of Fort Smith was ordered to pay \$500,000 to the Municipal Water Works Company for all its real property, buildings, equipment, etc., with the exception of the franchise, valued at \$40,000 and a stand-pipe, valued at \$85.00.

The Municipal Water Works Company was ordered to accept the \$500,000 and release all real property, buildings, equipment, etc. Included in the real property was something we seldom hear about nowadays, "... also lands in the Town of West Fort Smith, State of Oklahoma, formerly Choctaw Nation, Indian Territory, to-wit: Lots one (1), two (2), three (3), four (4), five (5), six (6) and seven (7), in block thirteen..."

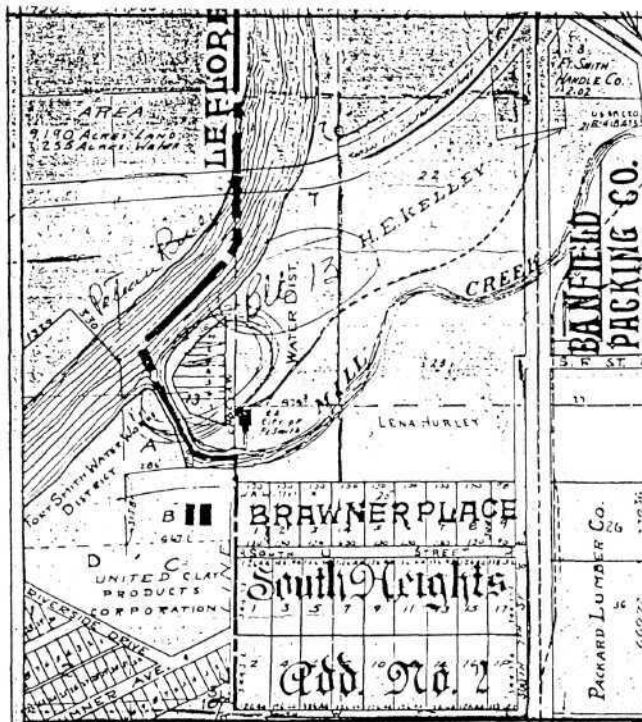
Guy Nichols, Park Ranger at the National Park Service, explains West Fort Smith as that property including Belle Point on the north, to and including the land just below the Naval Station on the south, lying between Wheeler Avenue and the middle of Poteau River.

Mary Campbell, of Guaranty Abstract & Title Company of Fort Smith, furnished the accompanying map showing West Fort Smith, Block 13 and the Fort Smith Water Works District. Block 13 is just south of the Naval Station. Sewer District #2 is also shown near the Fort Smith Handle Co. at the top right of the map.

The original pump station which furnished Poteau water may still be seen a few hundred feet north of the Naval Station. Annabelle Pilgrim of Arkoma, Oklahoma, remembers a beautiful park on the bank by the pump station where many people used to enjoy Sunday afternoon picnics.

POTEAU RIVER WATER

For the next twenty-five years the city of Fort Smith provided water to its citizens from the Poteau River. However, the going was never easy, and problems became rife. There was not only a threat as



Map showing location of West Fort Smith, Block 13 and the Fort Smith Water Works District. Map courtesy Guaranty Abstract and Title Company, Fort Smith.

to an adequate supply but also the quality of water became more and more difficult to maintain at even average standards.

In a report to Mayor Fagan Bourland in 1930 from the Water Department it was noted that there had been trouble "for several years" in meeting an adequate supply. The two biggest commercial users at that time were the Sorghum Plant in south Fort Smith and the Athletic Smelter on what is now Highway 255 (east Zero Street). The pumpage in 1930 ranged from 118 million gallons in the month of January to 67 million in the month of November.

The Crow (Crowe) Hill reservoir, constructed in 1923, had been without a really substantial fence around it, or cover, exposing it to stray cattle, dogs, cats and nocturnal wild animals getting into it. But the fence was built in that year of 1930 and was supplied with two gates. Mr. Leyden, the filter supervisor at the Poteau River pumping station, lived on the premises, looked after the basin and kept the fence gates locked. (Bailey Hill reservoir was also without a cover.)

Crowe Hill reservoir is still in use. There are two ground storage tanks and one upright (tower). The tower can be seen west off Old Greenwood Road, just north of Cliff Drive.

In addition to the reservoir there was a "clear well" which covered 17,000 square feet and from which tons and tons of vegetable matter (algae) had to be scraped and cleaned from the sides and bottom and lifted out "hand over hand".

There were eight filters in the filtration system which could clean 1,000,000 gallons each per day. But, added the report, "... it has never been necessary to pump that much except after a shut-down for cleaning." (At this point the supply apparently overran the quality.)

The report for 1931, written by the commissioner of WATERWORKS, STREETS, PARKS and PUBLIC PROPERTY, sheds even more light on the problems/solutions.

Revetment work on Poteau River at Braden Bend was done at a cost of about \$170,000. The Water Department agreed to pay 1/6th of the cost, up to a maximum of \$25,000. The Kansas City Southern Railroad Company and the Oklahoma State Highway Department absorbed the balance.

The total pumpage of water in 1930 was 1,034,986,126 gallons; it dropped off to 831,493,129 gallons in 1931. Even though the water was more expensive to treat than that in other cities, including Sedalia and Joplin, Missouri, Muskogee and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and Pine Bluff and Little Rock, Arkansas, the rate charged Fort Smithians was significantly cheaper.

The report recommended that the floor of the basins at Bailey Hill be covered with concrete on the entire area because the natural rock formation and the crevices and cracks allowed vegetable growth (algae) to form. As soon as it was cleaned out the algae began growing back immediately. Also, hundreds of thousands of gallons of "finished" water was lost each year through the faults in the bottoms of the three basins at Bailey Hill.

We quote from the Commissioner's report, "A personal communication from an executive head on one of the railroads on whose trains the Fort Smith water is being used in this division, advises me that the Bureau of Public Health Service in Washington has approved the use of the city water supply of Fort Smith for drinking and culinary purposes in interstate traffic, but the Bureau offers the suggestion that the clear well and storage basins should be covered. This practice is so general that unless some steps are taken to gain this improvement, we may find that the authorities in Washington will forbid the use of this water in spite of its purity when pumped to storage."

The commissioner continued, "... it is desirable to formulate more or less definite plans regarding a future water supply. In this connection, many will recall that after a discussion with the writer in 1929 a firm of engineers in Kansas City prepared a report regarding another source of water supply, which was no other than "Lee's" Creek. Their investigation and report was made at a cost of several thousand dollars and was paid out of private capital. These plans indicate that such an expense would be between \$750,000 and \$1,000,000. The issue of \$1,329,000 was made in 1921 but no bonds were paid until 1927. Bonds have been paid since March 1st, 1927 in the amount of \$239,500 of the water districts number one and number two."

COST ESTIMATES FOR NEW WATER SUPPLIES

In 1933, W.R. Holway, consulting engineer of Tulsa, Oklahoma, submitted cost estimates for two new different water supplies for Fort Smith. The first, in July, was for a dam on Lee Creek.

He wrote, "The Poteau River for many years furnished an adequate and satisfactory water supply, but in recent years the quality of the water has become more and more unsatisfactory. There are two causes for this. New coal mines have been opened in the drainage area of the Poteau, discharging their mine water into the river; new oil fields in Oklahoma and Kansas have been pouring salt water and oil refuse into the Arkansas River, which at periods of low flow in the Poteau backs up to the city's intake. Thus the city's water supply has been polluted from two sources."

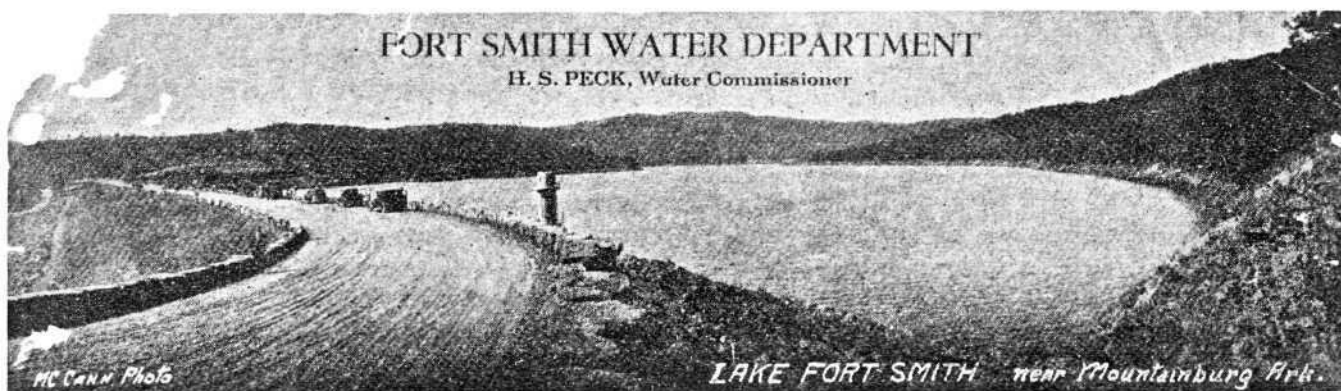
As we have already noted, there were at least two other sources of pollutants causing unpalatability — algae and commercial waste emptying into the Poteau River. Add to the taste of the pollutants enough chlorine to purify the water and make it safe for drinking and the resulting quaff most assuredly earned the name, "Poteau Punch".

Holway noted further, "North of Fort Smith across the Arkansas River in the hills is Lee Creek, a fast-flowing mountain stream. The water of this stream is pure and soft and is clear most of the year. The Lee Creek drainage area is mountainous, heavily timbered, and very sparsely inhabited. Its 435 square miles catchment area, with proper storage reservoirs, will supply a million people with an adequate water supply."

"Investigations and surveys disclose three possible locations within economical reach of Fort Smith where dams could be built across Lee Creek to store water for the city's use — one about three miles up from the mouth of the creek, one near the Oklahoma-Arkansas state line four miles up the creek from the first location, and a third four miles above this near the mouth of Webber's creek in Oklahoma."

"... the best and most economical site is the one near the state line. At this point a dam can be built which will create a lake containing 1500 acres. The lake will be seven miles long and will be completely surrounded by heavily timbered mountains. It will be one of the most beautiful lakes in this country and will furnish an abundant supply of pure, soft water." Estimated cost, \$750,000.

Holway also wrote, "From this project there will come to Fort Smith an advantage which may prove of as much value as the new supply of water itself. The 1500-acre lake proposed, in its mountain setting within a few minutes drive from the city, will prove one of the most attractive recreational centers between the Alleghenies and the Rockies. Fishing and boating will of course be permitted on the lake and a beautiful bathing pool will be formed below the dam."



AN INEXHAUSTIBLE SUPPLY OF COOL, CLEAR, SPARKLING MOUNTAIN WATER IS ONE OF THE REASONS WHY LIFE'S WORTH LIVING IN FORT SMITH.

Letterhead of Fort Smith Water Department in July, 1937, which showed a picture of Lake Fort Smith in color. Please note that directly under the picture was printed "An inexhaustible supply of cool, clear sparkling mountain water is one of the reasons why life's worth living in Fort Smith." Courtesy Helen Westbrook Mapstone.

One of the savings in expense to the city, Holway suggested, was that the city would no longer have to pump a large portion of its sewage to prevent it from flowing down Mill Creek valley to the water intake in the Poteau River. "This item will be entirely eliminated from the city's operating expense, since the sewage can then flow directly into the Poteau River by gravity."

Obviously, this was before the Environmental Protection Agency, snail darters or Scenic Rivers, to say nothing of state health departments.

CLEAR CREEK PROJECT — LAKE FORT SMITH AND LAKE SHEPHERD SPRINGS

In the Annual Report of Public Property, 1937, is found the cost estimate submitted by W.R. Holway for his second proposal in 1933, written in October. It was for the Clear Creek project and the figure was \$1,580,000.

"The proposed lake is very accessible for it is only twenty-six miles by paved road from Fort Smith. It should afford a beautiful recreation ground for fishing and boating; a bathing pool and camping grounds can be provided below the dam," he wrote.

He also recommended that the City of Fort Smith apply to the United States Government through its Administrator of Public Works for a grant and loan under the National Recovery Act for the funds to construct the Clear Creek Water Project.

When the Clear Creek project was finished in 1936 Lake Fort Smith was created. Actual cost of the water works was \$1,741,700 which included two residences at the filter plant and covers on the reservoirs at Bailey Hill and Crowe Hill.

The Lake Fort Smith Swimming Pool was built as part of a Works Progress Administration Project sponsored by the City of Fort Smith. The concrete pool was 300 feet long, 100 feet wide and had a capacity of 1,250,000 gallons. Depth varied so as to be suitable for children as well as adults. It was equipped with slides and diving boards. Admission fees were 10 cents for children under 12 and 25 cents for adults. Due to unfavorable weather conditions the official opening was postponed until June 20. At

the official opening Henry Armstrong, Director of the Fort Smith District of W.P.A., turned the pool over to Mayor J.K. Jordan who then turned it over to the Park Board. The Fort Smith chapter of the Red Cross also conducted a program consisting of water sports.

The management felt that because of the distance of the pool from Fort Smith a series of entertainments should be planned for the purpose of acquainting the public with this excellent recreational facility. As a consequence, a July 4 celebration, a bathing beauty contest, and a swimming meet were planned and held.

Since July 4 was on a Sunday the celebration was held on July 5. Mr. J. Paul Thompson, District Recreational Director for the W.P.A., planned and staged an excellent water carnival with acts lasting throughout the afternoon and early evening. In the early evening a free fireworks display was given at the Lake. The fireworks were donated by Mr. Claude Ward and were of a varied nature. "We were unfortunate in that lightning and a rain storm greatly diminished the effectiveness of this display," wrote Mr. A.H. Ullrich, who was manager of the Lake Fort Smith Recreational Facility.

To continue Mr. Ullrich's report: The Bathing Beauty Contest was held on the night of July 22, the date of the anniversary of the commencement of work on the water works dam. Miss Fort Smith was selected by means of ballots furnished by paid admission at the pool. All towns in the Fort Smith trade territory were invited to enter contestants for the title of Miss Lake Fort Smith. Contestants were entered by Midland, Alma, Ozark, Russellville, Dardanelle, Fayetteville, Tontitown, Springdale, Fort Smith, Danville, Bentonville, Clarksville and Rogers. Mr. J. Paul Thompson also staged the bathing beauty contest in a very able manner.

The front page story of the Fort Smith *Southwest American* newspaper, July 23, 1937, carried the following:



Beauty Queen
 Contestants at Lake Fort Smith on July 22, 1937: Helen Westbrook, Fort Smith, Queen; Patty Thompson, University of Arkansas student from Rogers; Corrine King, Ozark; Mary Croom, Dardanelle; Catherine Burns, Clarksville; Florence Byers, Alma; Maurine Lamberson, Bentonville; Winona Miller, Midland; Miss Jimmie Roberts, Fayetteville; Margaret Taldo, Tontitown; Janice Thacker, Danville; Sybil Trewitt, Springdale; and Jewell Whitfield, Russellville. Helen Westbrook is on right end of bottom row. Individual identification of other contestants is not known. Man holding the loving cup is believed to be Mayor J.K. Jordan.

Photo courtesy Helen Westbrook Mapstone.

"Miss Helen Westbrook Wins Honor Thursday Night at Program Celebrating the Date on Which Dam was Begun.

"Miss Westbrook, 17 years old, also won the beauty contest at the Van Buren viaduct celebration in May and was runnerup in the 1936 Ozark Smile Girl finals.

"Two girls tied for second and third place — Miss Patty Thompson, 18, University of Arkansas sophomore from Rogers, and Miss Corinne King, 18, Ozark, formerly with the Sally Rand Troupe. Miss Mary Croom, 19, Dardanelle, was fourth. Five judges listed their first, second and third choices among thirteen candidates. (See photograph above.)

"Miss Westbrook is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Conley Westbrook. She graduated from Fort Smith High School this year and was the school's homecoming queen in 1935 and 1936.

"She received a silver loving cup 19 and one-half inches tall from Mayor J.K. Jordan and as Miss Lake Fort Smith, she received free swimming privileges for one year."

Miss Helen Westbrook later turned down a contract in Hollywood and married C. Ray Baker, who played baseball in Fort Smith in the thirties. She has three children, Ray Baker, Fort Smith City Director-at-Large and teacher of social studies at Southside High School; Toy Baker, who is employed by Fox Communications Company in Fort Smith; and Mrs. Theda Jackson, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

After her husband's demise, Helen Westbrook Baker later married Mr. Howard E. Mapstone. They reside in Fort Smith.

(See the September, 1984 issue of the *Journal* for the story of C. Ray Baker, baseball player, and Mrs. Baker. The Ozark Smile Girls were featured in the September, 1983 issue of the *Journal*. The Sally Rand Troupe were dancers who performed at the Chicago World's Fair in 1933, among other places.)

The pool's first swimming meet was held on August 15. The object of this meet was to encourage competitive water sports which have been made possible by the pool. Mr. Buddy Singleton was chairman of arrangements and did a creditable job.

Others given credit for the success of the entertainments were Miss Peggy Paddock, Mr. Howard Bassham, Mr. Harry Robinson and Mr. J. Montgomery.

Naturally, with present swimming pools, parks and other recreational facilities in the city of Fort Smith, Lake Fort Smith has lost much of its former appeal. However, it has since become a State Park and is still alive. In Tom Blake's column in the Fort Smith *Southwest Times Record* of April 18, 1990, there was this: "Lake Fort Smith State Park at Mountainburg will host its first Fun In The Sun on Earth Day Sunday. Trail cleanup (four mile hike) at 10, tree planting at 1, five kilometer race at 2, bikini contest at 4."

(A bikini contest at Lake Fort Smith in 1936 would most likely have diminished the fireworks — or set off some more.)

Lake Fort Smith was created by an earth and rock-fill dam, 90 feet high and 2,000 feet long. It has a surface area of 438 acres. It furnished an ample supply of water until the early 1950s when again, the need arose to seek yet another larger supply of water.

In 1953, Lake Shepherd Springs was built upstream of Lake Fort Smith. It has a surface area of 470 acres, a dam 85 feet high and 2,100 feet long and is also constructed of earth rock-fill. The cost of the construction was \$897,801.

The population of Fort Smith in 1950, according to the U.S. Census, was 47,942. The estimated population listed for 1953 in the Fort Smith City Directory was 53,037.

City growth with its attendant new industries from 1953 until the present time has made it mandatory for each succeeding new mayor, directors and city administrators to look constantly to the increased water usage and the provision of a larger water supply.

Finally, on March 20, 1980, a resolution (2128) was passed by the board of city directors authorizing Mayor Jack Freeze to appoint a Citizens Water Supply Task Force.

We wish to express our thanks and appreciation to City Administrator Stribling Boynton, City Administrative Assistant Joan Stratmann, and the Fort Smith Administration office for copies of the minutes of the meetings of the Task force.

The first meeting of the Citizens Water Supply Task Force was held on April 3, 1980. Members present were Virgil Bracken, Bracken & Gardner; vice chairman Thomas Curtis, Jr., Southern Steel & Wire; Delores DeWitt, League of Women Voters; Darryl Francis, Merchants National Bank; H.L. Hembree, III, Arkansas Best Corporation; Harold E. Henson, Jr., City National Bank; Curtis L. Ivery, Westark Community College; James R. Lewis, Jr., Weldon, Williams & Lick; Mac McGehee, Spurling Fire & Burglar Alarm Company; Robert L. Nunley, *Southwest Times Record*; Al Pollock, Retired, Original member of Citizens for Lake Fort Smith project; Chairman George E. Royster, United Peoples Federal Savings and Loan; Sam Sicard, First National Bank; Douglas Smith, Warner & Smith; J.L. Terwilliger, Plumbers & Steam Fitters; Duane Wilson, Champion Container Division; William H. Wilson, Plastics Research & Development; and Herman Udouj, Riverside Furniture Mfg. Company. David Craig represented member Darryl Francis.

Other persons who appeared before the Task Force from time to time to render assistance and information were: David L. Burrough, Little Rock District, Corps of Engineers; Larry Burrough, Burrough-Uerling-Brasuell, Engineers; Jerry L. Canfield, Fort Smith City Attorney; John Luce, AR-OK Arkansas River Compact Commission; Sister Pierre Vorster, AR-OK Arkansas River Compact Commission; Pat Mickle, Mickle-Wagner Associates, Engineers; William L. Patton, Jr., Friday, Eldridge &

Clark (Bond Counsel); David Uerling, Burrough-Uerling-Brasuell, Engineers; and Gene N. Washburn, Little Rock District, Corps of Engineers. Also present at the first meeting on April 10th were Mayor Jack Freeze, City Administrative Assistant Joan Stratmann and City Administrator Stephen D. Lease. Mr. Royster asked the mayor and city administrator how much time the task force would have to complete its work and Mr. Lease suggested that the task force would hopefully make a report in approximately 45 days. Mr. Tom Curtis was elected vice chairman at the meeting.

The second meeting was held on April 10, 1980. Chairman George Royster introduced Larry Burrough, Engineer with Burrough-Uerling-Brasuell. The B-U-B firm had been authorized by the City of Fort Smith to conduct a Fifty-Year Water Supply Source Study which was completed in February, 1979. Mr. Burrough reported on the five following water supply sources which were believed to be of principal interest to the task force of the 24 alternates studied:

PLAN 60C — PINE MOUNTAIN

"The Corps of Engineers has proposed to construct an impoundment near Natural Dam between Mile 35 and Mile 36 on Lee Creek. The proposal would provide 60 million gallons of water per day at a total estimated cost of \$67,230,000. \$40,000,000 would be for the impoundment only and the remainder would be for treated water transmission line, raw water line, and treatment plant. For the purposes of this report a 20 million gallon treatment plant size has been used which should supply Fort Smith and the area with sufficient water until approximately year 2000, at which time additional treatment plant capacity would have to be constructed... The Corps of Engineers has upgraded cost estimates by \$2,000,000 to \$3,000,000 for a total project cost of approximately \$70,000,000 at this time. The main advantage of this plan is fairly low interest rates (7 and one-fourth per cent) compared to those in private market and possible deferment of a portion of the initial cost of the dam. About \$18,000,000 of the estimated \$40,000,000 could be deferred for 10 years with no principal and interest payment until water is used or 10 years occurs, which ever comes first. The Corps of Engineers would control the development and the lake — the City would be required to pay 78% of the annual maintenance and operational costs on the impoundment. The City's share of the Pine Mountain Dam Project is now estimated to be \$42,605,000 which includes all of the costs allocated to water supply plus the cost of flood control and recreation that exceeds the amount of benefits for flood control and recreation."

Plan 25A — NEW LAKE ON FROG BAYOU

"This study consists of additional development of the drainage area contributing to Fort Smith's present water supply. It does not meet the 30 million gallons of water per day but comes close and would

provide 25 million gallons of water per day. An impoundment would be constructed just upstream from the existing Lake Shepherd Springs and the plan of operation would be to release water into Lake Shepherd Springs then through Lake Fort Smith and through the existing treatment facilities and lines to Fort Smith. Total estimated project cost is \$57,240,000. The first year additional revenue required would be \$7,428,000. This plan has the highest unit cost of any plan studied (36.8 cents per 1,000 gallons) — as compared with Pine Mountain at 14.4 cents per 1,000 gallons — because of pumping costs and trying to get the last drop of water out of a drainage basin. A very high dam (210 to 220 feet) would be required for this water source."

Plan 90A — LEE CREEK AT MILE 3.8, JOINT PARTICIPATION BY ARKANSAS AND OKLAHOMA

"Plan 90A appears to be the most feasible; however, it is possible that the required cooperation and financing from Oklahoma might not be forthcoming. However, the local Oklahoma officials have been extremely cooperative. This plan would give the most water for the least cost. The impoundment would be located in Arkansas at Mile 3.8 on Lee Creek and would generate a total of 156 million gallons of water. Arkansas' share would be 42.36% of 66 MGD (million gallons per day). Total cost to Arkansas would be \$39,660,000 which includes Arkansas' share of impoundment, treatment facilities, and transmission lines, etc. This amount would provide an estimated 90 MGD raw water and 20 MGD treated water. First year additional revenues required would be \$5,160,000. Unit cost per 1,000 gallons is 6.5 cents. The Oklahoma share is estimated at \$11,500,000 to \$12,000,000 for the impoundment cost only. There are no estimates of other costs associated with the project because Oklahoma does not require an additional water supply at this time. However, Oklahoma probably will require additional water in the future. The possibility of generating hydroelectric power on this lake has been studied and it appears that 4,200 to 4,300 kilowatts of installed capacity would be feasible based on generating power of 65% of the year. It is estimated that \$1,000,000 per year in revenue could be generated from hydroelectric power. Proposals have been received from both OG&E and KAMO. Hydroelectric power revenues would go to Arkansas if all front end money were to come to Arkansas. If the City were to pay for the entire impoundment, the City would have total use and control until such time as Oklahoma could buy back its share as the need for water in Oklahoma occurs. As to the question of whether or not Arkansas needs Oklahoma in this venture, it is reasonable to assume that eminent domain by an Oklahoma governmental unit would be required. There is also the question of the Oklahoma Legislative action regarding removal of Big Lee Creek and Little Lee Creek from the scenic rivers protection. At this point, the Oklahoma House has voted to remove Lee Creek from the scenic rivers protection, however, the Oklahoma Senate has

voted against removing Lee Creek from scenic rivers. The Arkansas River Compact Commission possibly could override Scenic Rivers Act, however, that has not been determined at this time. The life of the Plan 90A Lake is estimated to be in excess of 100 years."

Plan 60A — MILE 3.8 ON LEE CREEK

"Plan 60A is a smaller version of Plan 90A. This plan would provide 60 million gallons of water per day for a total project cost of \$40,710,000 or a unit cost of 8.0 cents per 1,000 gallons of water. Part of the impoundment would be in Oklahoma and the same problems as those associated with Plan 90A regarding scenic rivers and eminent domain would need to be resolved."

Plan 60B — CEDAR CREEK WITH NEW WEIR ON LEE CREEK

"This plan consists of constructing a new weir at Mile 3.8 on Lee Creek and constructing a dam approximately one and one-half miles northeast of Figure Five for storage of water on Cedar Creek. The Lee Creek and Cedar Creek supplies would be joined by a water transmission line and during periods of low or zero flow in Lee Creek, the water stored at Cedar Creek would be pumped to the treatment plant and utilized until the flow resumed in Lee Creek at which time Lee Creek would be used as the water supply and all excess Lee Creek flow would be pumped back to fill the Cedar Creek reservoir. Total project cost of Plan 60B is \$39,760,000 and unit cost is 10.1 cents per 1,000 gallons of water. This impoundment is located entirely in Arkansas and would produce 60 million gallons of water per day."

Other items discussed during this meeting were: "The Burrough-Uerling-Brasuell ownership of 60% of 6,000 acres in the Plan 90A area in Oklahoma."

"The B-U-B firm has owned this property since 1969 and has stated to the City of Fort Smith that it would sell the land to the City without having to go to condemnation if the land were needed for a water supply."

RECREATIONAL ASPECTS OF WATER IMPOUNDMENT

"Arkansas Health Department regulations do not permit body contact activities (swimming and water skiing) in water impoundment lakes of certain size (700 acres or less). Arkansas regulations also require the taking of 300 feet of land above the high water mark which could raise the required land acquisition for the lake significantly."

POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING WATER FROM LAKE TENKILLER

"Lake Tenkiller was constructed for purposes of flood control, hydroelectric and recreation. To obtain water from Lake Tenkiller, it is necessary to go to the Secretary of the Army, and have the water declared surplus. It does not appear feasible at this time that Fort Smith could ever obtain water supplies from Lake Tenkiller."

The third meeting of the Water Supply Task Force was postponed from April 17th until April 24th because the chairman and several members had to be out of town.

In addition to the chairman and other members attending there were Oklahoma Arkansas River Compact Commission members Sister Pierre Vorster and John Luce; City Administrator Steve Lease; City Attorney Jerry Canfield; Engineer Larry Burrough; Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce Manager Paul Latture and members of the news media.

Chairman Royster said that the previous meeting had been delayed "because of bi-State activities relating to Oklahoma Senate disapproval of proposed Oklahoma Scenic Rivers Act amendments. He announced that the City Attorney was present to discuss legal aspects of proceeding with an effort whereby the Arkansas River Compact Commission established in 1970 would permit moving forward from a legal standpoint to impound water in Oklahoma in view of Oklahoma Scenic River designation of Lee's Creek."

The following is the City Attorney's report: "Several years ago the States of Arkansas and Oklahoma entered into a Compact dealing with the Arkansas River and particular tributaries which include the Lee Creek confluence with the Arkansas River. The Compact governs watersheds of Lee Creek in both Arkansas and Oklahoma. The Compact was approved prior to the passage of the Oklahoma Scenic Rivers Act. It is the opinion of the City Attorney that the Compact could be interpreted to prohibit Oklahoma from now saying they will prohibit an impoundment on Lee Creek. The basis of that opinion is construction of the legally-binding intent of that agreement. The Compact provides that each State may construct and operate for its needs, water storage reservoirs in either State. An impoundment on Lee Creek was recognized as a possibility in the notes of the Compact Commission during the preparation of the Compact. The Compact contains a reservation of police power rights to each of the States so long as such State action is not inconsistent with the Compact. The project would have to proceed with the cooperation of a legal entity in Oklahoma that has the power of eminent domain. Methods of enforcing the terms of the Compact include the current seeking of a declaratory judgment from the courts on the issue or proceeding with the project, realizing that the point will probably be raised sometime during the project. From a time standpoint, it would be most appropriate to raise the point at the beginning of the project and realize the year's head start on the determination."

Following are questions asked of the City Attorney and his answers:

1. How long would it take to get a decision?

Answer: Congress has provided that the U.S. Supreme Court has the power to decide questions between states; however, it would be possible that the U.S. District Court would also have jurisdiction. If the Supreme Court would accept the case, it would

be possible to get a decision in 18 months; however, if the procedure began through the U.S. District Court, it might be four (4) years before a decision is reached.

2. What would be the total cost to take the matter to the Supreme Court?

Answer: ... If the City took the lead in the matter in conjunction with the State Attorney General, minimum costs would be \$10,000.

3. Who would have police power on the lake when established?

Answer: If the City built the project without the cooperation of a bi-State agency, the City would only have the rights of a property owner, and have no police power rights. Oklahoma retains the right to protect its environment. Regarding operation of an impoundment built by a bi-State agency, the Oklahoma entity could use police powers to protect its interest. City Attorney has not researched this point.

4. Who would exercise the right of eminent domain?

Answer: This point of Oklahoma law has not been researched; however, governmental agencies could enter into an agreement with the City of Fort Smith or the Arkansas entity building the project, in return for receiving a future share of the water on a cost pay-back basis or other negotiated arrangement. A bi-state commission consisting of representatives of the City of Fort Smith, and Arkansas and Oklahoma entities could be created to govern the project. Both states have powers to create such an agency by agreement between the entities.

5. Does the Compact Commission have the authority to build an impoundment or have the right of eminent domain?

Answer: City Attorney does not think so because the Compact Commission is an informational agency.

6. How long would eminent domain take?

Answer: Eminent domain may be exercised and the property may be taken immediately, even though the amount of compensation may not be decided for several years.

7. Could a suit such as that relating to the snail darter restrict proceeding with the impoundment, and what would the liabilities be?

Answer: It is likely at some point in the project that an environmental question will be raised, no matter where the impoundment is located. The decision would have to be made before substantial amounts of money are expended. There are many possible challenges, both environmental and authority.

8. If a lake is built at Pine Mountain, wouldn't some of the same challenges appear?

Answer: There is a greater likelihood of an environmental challenge at Pine Mountain than at a project on the lower Lee Creek. The higher up Lee Creek the project is built, the greater the chance of an environmental challenge.

The City Administrator had asked the City Attorney to contact bond counsel regarding the feasibility of bonds to finance the project, and how to finance the project, etc. The City Attorney reported on the bond situation... It was noted after the financial report, that to finance a water supply solely from current water rates, they would have to be raised substantially. It was also noted by the City Administrator that a city sales tax would produce estimated revenue of about four to six million dollars per year, depending upon local economic conditions and tax ceilings.

Chairman Royster introduced Arkansas River Compact Commission members Sister Pierre Vorster and Mr. John Luce. Mr. Luce commented as follows: "The Arkansas River Compact Commission is not a planning agency but an administrative agency which authority lies in the allocation and quality of interstate waters," and referred to an opinion from the Justice Department to clarify the matter. "In 1934 a project of this type was planned in almost the same location and was not fulfilled because at that time there was no compact between the two States. In 1955 Congress ordered the two States to form this compact for situations such as this and others." He understands that the only legal recourse is through the Justice Department, attorneys for the Compact Commission. He is disappointed that they killed the Arkansas River Desalinization Project and has filed suit to bring that project back on the line.

City Administrator Lease reported that he had met twice the previous week with the Bi-State Task Force, and the Task Force "is still strongly in favor of the Oklahoma impoundment". Sequoyah County commissioner Frank Griffin indicated that Sequoyah County would take the lead with eminent domain; the problem would be with "putting Fort Smith money into Sequoyah County eminent domain..."

On Wednesday, April 16, the Administrator met with Corps of Engineers representatives regarding the status of Pine Mountain. "That project has been shelved until such time that the Corps runs out of operating funds in the current budget cycle. A decision needs to be made by the end of June, because of the Corps' operational funding."

"Also, on April 16, the City Administrator met with Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton. The governor would like to know if there is anything he could do to assist our efforts with Oklahoma. Regarding the Department of Health regulations, the governor would be supportive of relieving the body contact prohibition on any impoundment that would meet Statute requirements. Regarding open channel water transmission, the Governor would like specific information such as total cost impact and environmental impact substantiated by the U.S. Army Corps with a related formal request for Arkansas Health Department Commission review. It is expected that the Corps will provide this information at the May 1 meeting of the Citizens Water Task Force, as they have indicated the potential of reducing the total Pine Mountain Lake Project cost from \$71 million to \$47 million local share."

Larry Burrough was asked the question, "How long is it before we are in trouble?" Mr. Burrough responded that "the total net firm yield (the amount of water supply available during maximum drought) of Lake Fort Smith and Lake Shepherd Springs is 21 million gallons of water per day. Average daily water usage in 1978 was 19.4 million gallons. In 1979, average daily water usage was approximately 19 million gallons of water. At the current yearly water usage growth demand rate of .5 million gallons of water per day, the demand should reach the 21 MGD level in two or three years. The treatment plant will handle 35 million gallons of water per day... The highest peak demand to date was during the summer of 1978 at 19 million gallons of water per day. An additional net firm yield supply of 30 MGD will probably last about 50 years."

Mr. Luce noted that the Arkansas River Compact Commission has approved the Pine Mountain Project as proposed because it does not violate any provisions of the Compact. He mentioned open channel transmission for Pine Mountain to Fort Smith and said that Oklahoma would have the right to water transmitted down to Arkansas through Oklahoma.

Mr. Bill Wilson brought up the question of what local conditions would have to be present to invoke a no-water-tap order. The City Administrator stated that an ordinance was passed by the Board of Directors during the period of Fort Chaffee reactivation for Vietnamese refugee processing which then called for extra demand of 2-3 MGD.

Mr. Bracken asked if a dollar value had been determined on recreational benefits of the project. The City Administrator responded that, in relation to water impoundment acreage and size, the Oklahoma project could be excellent, the Pine Mountain benefits would be good, and Lee Creek-Cedar Creek benefits would be fewer than the Oklahoma and Pine Mountain Projects. Mr. Burrough stated that the Corps of Engineers had calculated a recreational benefit of approximately \$750,000 per year on the Pine Mountain project.

Mr. Lewis asked whether the City is looking at a water system that is too large for our needs. The City Administrator responded that the larger project 90A provides the most water at the least cost.

Mr. Royster asked the City Administrator to invite Corps of Engineers representatives to the next meeting to discuss the Pine Mountain project... Mr. Royster further stated that after the next meeting he would like to compact the thinking of the task force and get down to facts about what the City can afford and supplying adequate water for immediate and future needs.

Mr. Pollock suggested that the Fort Smith Board of Directors be contacted to ask the Board to consider asking those entities that receive water from the City of Fort Smith on a contractual basis to form their own citizens committee to protect their own best interest. The City Administrator stated that recommendations had already been made to these

groups that they set up citizens committees and secure some type of engineering opinions about what is being proposed, for their own protection. Mr. Royster stated that this item would be on next week's agenda for voting by the committee.

The fourth meeting of the Citizens Water Supply Task Force was held on May 1, 1980. Clyde Guterman sat in for Bill Wilson. Also attending were City Administrator Steve Lease, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers representatives David L. Burrough and Gene N. Washburn; Engineer Larry H. Burrough and R.C. Meeks of the *Southwest Times Record*.

Mr. David Burrough, Engineer, gave the following report:

"The original Pine Mountain study started in 1961 as a reactivation of a study done in 1947-48. In 1965 the Little Rock District of the Corps of Engineers submitted a report which was eventually authorized by Congress for engineering funds to study the Pine Mountain site as a logical flood control and future water supply site for Fort Smith and Van Buren. Detailed engineering studies were done in 1966, the Corps came to a tentative conclusion in 1970, suspended studies in 1972, and began again in 1975. In 1965 the plan was to transmit water by open channel down the Lee Creek stream from a dam to a water treatment plant; however, the Arkansas Health Department maintained at that time that transmission must be pipeline. In 1970-71, the U.S. Public Health Service and the Arkansas Department of Health again insisted and maintained that the water must be transported by pipeline. The Corps of Engineers had to agree with their conclusion as it is not within their authority to challenge or supersede other agency requirements.

"... In about 1978, the U.S. Forest Service adjusted the purchase limits of the Lee Creek unit of the Ozark National Forest to include all the Lee Creek Basin in the vicinity of Natural Dam. This results in the recreational costs associated with the Pine Mountain project being a total Federal Cost."

Some of the most interesting questions asked of Mr. Burrough were the following:

"What about using Arkansas River Water?"

Answer: Where there is better quality of water available we should use it, under Arkansas Health Department opinion.

"Could Arkansas River water be used for industrial use and not for drinking water?"

Answer: Arkansas River water could be usable for industrial cooling water, but equipment cleaning, maintenance, and replacement costs could be high.

"Is a part of the area of impoundment actually in the National Forest?"

Answer: Approximately 1,100 acres would be in National Forest.

In further discussion it was noted, "The benefit of alternate water supply projects is security because of possibility of something happening to the Lakes Fort Smith-Shepherd Springs water supply and

other drainage basins to provide additional water source potential."

The group discussed holding a closed working session for the May 8 meeting; no members objected to the procedure and the meeting was adjourned.

The sixth meeting of the Water Supply Task Force was held on May 15, 1980.

Chairman Royster introduced project comparison material prepared by Mr. Virgil Bracken. Mr. Bracken noted that the material had been presented to the committee in various forms and he had merely assembled the materials in columns.

He further noted that he is convinced that "Fort Smith needs a new water supply and that the amounts needed would be 10 MGD by the year 2000, 33 MGD by 2035, and 60 MGD by 2080. The three major costs of the water supply would be the treatment plant, dam and supply, and transmission costs."

Mr. Bracken commented further that he is convinced that the overall best supply would be the Pine Mountain project with pipeline transmission and is also convinced that Pine Mountain with open channel transmission would be the best supply for the money. Arkansas Health Department representative called Mr. Bracken and stated that the Arkansas Health Department (at this time) would not disapprove open channel transmission and (would also) approve a Lower Lee Creek impoundment; they are not concerned so much with the open channel as they are with the water flowing through Oklahoma where the Arkansas Health Department has no control.

In further discussion Mr. Bracken noted that "the contract users account for 16% of total water consumption, and that the big users are the small consumers". Mr. Lease noted that "the philosophy of Fort Smith has been that the long-range needs for water supply would not be solved by cutting off the contract users."

After more discussion pertaining to financing costs, etc., Mr. Bracken moved to restrict further discussion to the least two expensive alternates which are 60C, Pine Mountain with open channel transmission, and 60B1, Lower Lee Creek, which would provide a minimum of 10 MGD of water and can be expanded in the future. Motion passed on a vote of 10 to 1.

The seventh meeting of the Water Supply Task Force was held on May 20, 1980.

One thing that was made more clear in reading the minutes was the cost of environmental impact studies. The cost on the Lower Lee Creek project was estimated to range from a minimum of \$50,000 to a maximum of \$100,000. The cost previously discussed in the last meeting of the Pine Mountain project was from \$600,000 to \$700,000, submitted by the Corps of Engineers.

Also noted was that the Arkansas Health Commission representatives "have indicated that they would look favorably upon open-channel transmission from Pine Mountain or water provided

via Oklahoma drainage area if that project were in the best economic interest of this area and would not jeopardize public health".

Mr. Lease reported that on May 19 Mr. David Burrough of the Corps of Engineers had contacted him and Mr. Bracken. Mr. David Burrough stated that the recent Corps calculations on the initial 33 MGD Pine Mountain impoundment increment costs with open-channel transmission had been calculated too low by \$17,000,000. Instead of impoundment cost of \$20,000,000 it should be approximately \$37,000,000.

Further discussion by Mr. Lease explained project costs on phased Plan 60B (Lower Lee Creek), Cedar Creek, Pine Mountain open channel... Plan 60B would have optional flexibility for future years in that the Cedar Creek Dam could be added, the Bi-State project could be built, the Pine Mountain project could be built, or Arkansas River water could possibly be utilized, depending upon available technology in the next few years...

Mr. Lease stated that one element of risk involved with an initial 10 MGD supply on Lee Creek would be that the quantity of water available should last 15 years, but that is subject to local user demands remaining stable as according to historical trends... The importance of pursuing the expense of this proposed water supply on a phase basis was mentioned in order to fully utilize all options available and to increase water supply capabilities and respond to Fort Smith and area growth as it occurs.

After further discussion Mr. Bill Wilson moved that Plan 60B1 be selected for recommendation to the Fort Smith Board of Directors because of the flexibility for future expansion, the plan to include the large dam base to provide now for 60 MGD net firm yield of water (Bi-State option). The motion was seconded by Mrs. DeWitt... Motion carried.

Mr. Royster announced that a subcommittee of the Task Force might be formed shortly to prepare a recommendation for financing of the project which would be brought back to the full Task Force Committee prior to recommendation to the City Directors. He announced that the next meeting would be called after the financial recommendation has been prepared and that this process should be completed as rapidly as possible.

This, the final meeting was adjourned.

Since the final meeting of the Water Supply Task Force in June, 1980, the ensuing ten years have evidenced the same problems of maintaining an adequate water supply as when the City purchased the Municipal Water Works in 1911 until Lakes Fort Smith and Shepherd Springs were built in 1936 and 1953.

But they were busy years and at long last the front page story of the *Southwest Times Record*, April 7, 1990, by Linda Siebold, "Water Project on Lee Creek now Concrete" tells of the successful fruition of all the plans. Her chronology of events follows:

December, 1982: City Directors choose Lee Creek as reservoir site.

November, 1983: City applies to FERC and Corps of Engineers for reservoir permits.

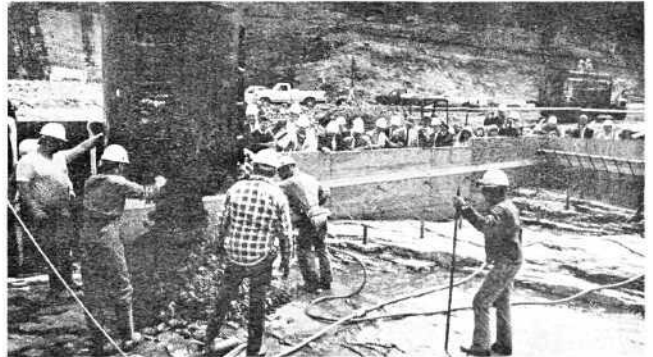
February-March, 1988: Corps and FERC issue permits for Lee Creek Project.

May, 1988: Oklahoma files objections to project.

November, 1988: Citizens of Fort Smith pass penny sales tax to pay for project.

March-June-July, 1989: City Directors approve contracts for Lee Creek dam, water line and treatment plant construction.

April, 1989: Oklahoma and Fort Smith settle objections to Lee Creek.



First load of concrete being poured at new dam on Lower Lee Creek. Photo courtesy *Southwest Times Record*.

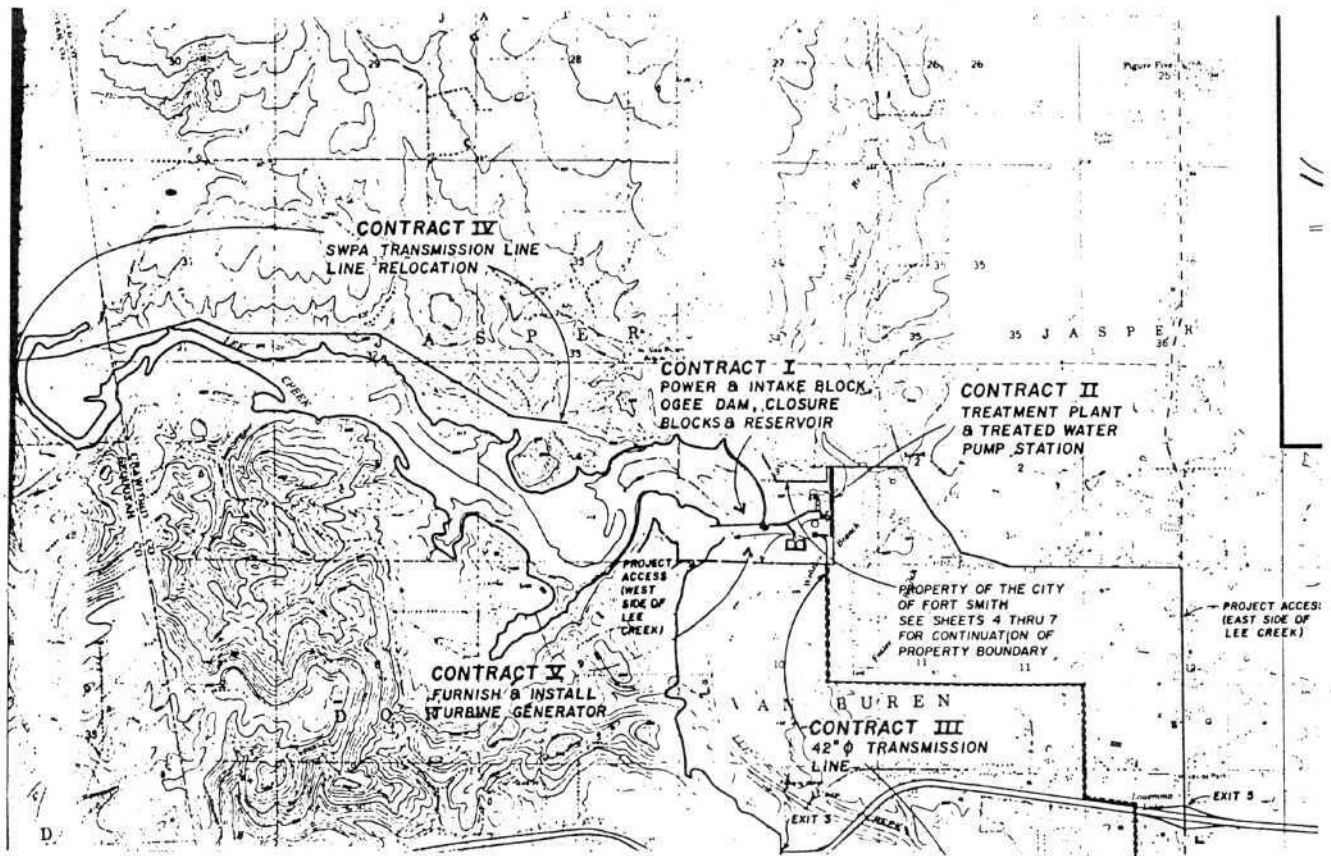
Since the first municipal water works was established in 1884 there have been 24 mayors (some have served more than one term). And since the City of Fort Smith acquired the waterworks in 1911 there have been 15 mayors, including William Vines, our present mayor. In addition, there have been dozens of city council members — commissioners, aldermen and directors.

The new system under construction at the present time will cost 31.5 million dollars. The contractors are as follows: water transmission lines, Garney Companies, Inc.; treatment plant, BRB Contractors, Inc.; dam, Rosiek Construction Co., Inc.; and engineers, Burrough-Uerling-Brasuell.

During recent flooding this spring there was an estimated \$100,000 damage to the cofferdam. But according to city administrator Strib Boynton, "By early 1992 we will be enjoying drinking water from this site."

None of us give much attention to each aspect of construction such as transmission lines, except of course, when there is an interruption in service. But there is an interesting sidelight on the transmission lines which have crossed the Arkansas River ever since 1936 when Lake Fort Smith was formed.

The lines were originally carried on the railroad bridge, and in the flood of 1943 soldiers from Fort Chaffee had to build pontoon bridges to carry them. In 1956 a tunnel was built under the Arkansas River. Steve Parke, director of utilities, tells us that it was



Map showing location of dam on Lower Lee Creek and contract numbers and locations of other segments of the project.
Map courtesy of Steve Floyd, Superintendent of Water/Waste Water Operations, City of Fort Smith.

constructed by manual labor and is six feet high, ten to twelve feet wide, and carries a transmission line which is 48 inches in diameter. The transmission line is on one side of the tunnel and is enclosed in concrete. It begins with an angle shaft downward at the foot of Knox Street in Van Buren and ends with a vertical shaft near the railroad bridge in Fort Smith. (And we thought that large tunnels built with manual labor were confined to cities with subways!)

Just because new construction is being done it does not necessarily follow that we can relax as to maintenance of the existing structures at Lakes Fort Smith and Shepherd Springs. A "crest gate" was installed at Lake Shepherd Springs in early 1989 and according to a front page story of the *Southwest Times Record*, February 21, 1990, it automatically inflated the previous week-end to catch an extra thirty days' worth of water for the area. It was made of rubber bladders at a cost of \$213,000. But it had not yet inflated because of the low water level in Lake Shepherd Springs. (See picture.)

Due to the rainfall, the reservoir level rose to more than 85 percent capacity and remained above that level for five consecutive days. The rubber bladders inflated and raised a metal gate against the rising water, thereby to conserve the water supply. In a follow-up story on March 17th it was reported, "The crest gate in the spillway of Lake Shepherd Springs has deflated because of high runoff from the lake."

"The crest gate, which inflated last month... is set to automatically deflate when water reaches a certain level above the crest gate," assistant city administrator Dennis Hunt said Friday. "The crest gate deflates so an excessive amount of water doesn't put undue pressure on the earthen dam," Hunt said.

Hunt did not rule out that the gate may have deflated because of underwater damage. "Once the level of the lake recedes, the crest gate is programmed to reinflate to retain the extra thirty-day supply."

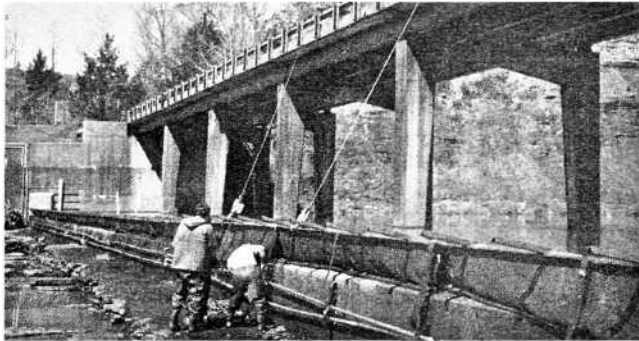
The last story about the crest gate appeared in the March 17th edition of *Southwest Times Record*. "The crest gate at Lake Shepherd Springs was damaged last week after it automatically lowered to relieve the lake of its excessive supply of water."



Crest gate at Lake Shepherd Springs installed in early 1989.
Courtesy *Southwest Times Record*.

"According to Strib Boynton, City Administrator, damage was caused when floating logs passed over the deflated gate and disconnected the pipe used to inflate the crest gate.

"City workers have replaced the pipe and put brackets to protect the pipe against such a recurrence.



Technicians make repairs to inflation pipe for crest gate at Lake Shepherd Springs in March, 1990. Photo courtesy *Southwest Times Record*.

"The crest gate inflated last month for the first time. When the lake level rose to three feet above the gate last week, it automatically deflated to relieve the extra water pressure against the earthen dam."

Where do we go from here? History tells us that we will face the need for expansion of the water system and the lower Lee Creek project, as noted in the minutes of the Task Force, has several options. There is also a beginning of seeking other water source supplies by the contract users. In South Sebastian County consumers are looking toward Lake Wister and even Blue Mountain Lake.

As recently as April, 1990, the publication, *University Reflections*, published by the University of Arkansas, contained the story, "Study Shows River Water Safe for Use." In it Gov. Bill Clinton announced that a study by Dr. James W. Moore, civil engineer, indicated that the Arkansas River is a suitable source of water for municipal, industrial and agricultural uses.

The study was the result of a two-year study by Moore and a team of UA graduates.

Gov. Clinton was quoted as saying, "This report indicates the Arkansas River is a suitable source of raw water. I have been working with the Arkansas River Valley interests, including the cities of Fort Smith, Clarksville, and Russellville, in an effort to assist them in the development of water supply projects capable of meeting current and future water needs. According to these findings, in the future these cities will be able to consider the Arkansas River as a source of water."

The project was sponsored by the Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission and the Little Rock District Corps of Engineers. The U.S. Geological Survey was also involved in collecting water samples.

However, the State Health Department and the U.S. Corps of Engineers must approve water treatment efforts and water for a specific community must be determined on a site-by-site basis.

The story concluded: The river water, taking into account salinity and chloride, is suitable for crop irrigation much of the year. And the river is not too pesticide-laden for use in irrigation. The report also recommended that routine monitoring be done if the river is to be used as a municipal water source.

Nobody knows, of course, what the future holds. We have become aware of the ozone layer, global warming and permanent plastics in landfills. How it all will affect our water supply is yet to be seen.

And again, weather patterns seem all mixed up. While we were experiencing the worst flooding in the early spring that we have had since 1943, San Francisco and southern Florida were having severe droughts.

On June 7, 1990, the *Southwest Times Record* carried the story, "Mandatory conservation on hold." The lakes were full to overflowing and the crest gate was in place, affording an extra 30-day supply of water. But on June 15, a week later, another story appeared, "City use of water too much too fast." City Administrator Strib Boynton said, "Fort Smith has plenty of water but the residents are using too much too fast... There is plenty of water in the lakes and reservoirs but the problem lies with the rate the water is being pumped."

The pumps were running Thursday (June 14) at a rate of 31 million gallons a day, which is the highest daily use rate in 11 years, he said. "We can't pump at that rate very long before the pumps will start to fail." He didn't know how long that would be but, he said, "There is a serious problem developing and it can be prevented if residents reduce their water use."

The next day, June 15, in the daily poll of the *Southwest Times Record* the question was asked, "Will you voluntarily cut your water use now to avoid water problems later?" The response, published June 16, was: yes, 71 percent; no, 29 percent.

Fort Smithians have always maintained a willingness to cooperate, and the negative response of almost one-third of the respondents to the poll seems to indicate a lot of frustration over too many summers of water rationing with no apparent resolution to the problem. Ten years (since the Water Supply Task Force made its recommendations) seems a long time for taxpayers to wait for plenty of water to use at their discretion.

Ten years is a long time for city officials to wait while overcoming one obstacle after another, seeking approval from state and federal agencies, cutting through the red tape of eminent domain, environmental impact studies, etc.

Then at long last, after heavy rains and construction already begun on the new project on Lower Lee Creek, water rationing is again upon us.

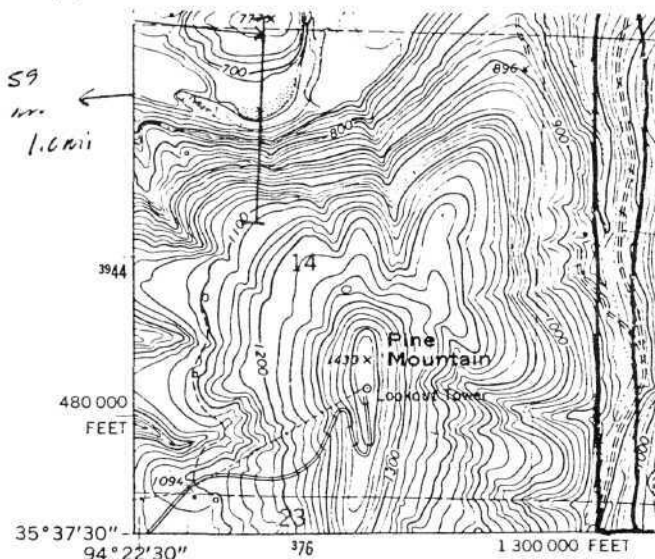
And we are no doubt in for further frustration. A close review of the 1980 Water Supply Task Force

minutes shows that the project now under construction was designed with expansion in mind. It is of necessity only the first step in securing an adequate water supply; that is, if we anticipate population and economic growth.

Fort Smithians have also been known for their optimism. When the aforementioned W.R. Holway wrote in his report (1934) that lower Lee Creek would provide enough water for 1,000,000 people he was only slightly less optimistic than was the Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce in 1965. In its Industrial Directory for that year it listed the 1964 population at 64,196. And in writing about the water supply they wrote, "Fort Smith has a plentiful supply of clean, pure water. The two municipally owned lakes hold enough water to last the city for over three years without additional rainfall..."

But we can ill afford optimism. We recall the three other options outlined by the Water Supply Task Force, one of which is the Pine Mountain project. In 1976, a Research Report No. 7, compiled by L. Mark Raab and published by the Arkansas Archeological Survey, is titled *Pine Mountain: Study of Prehistoric Human Ecology in the Arkansas Ozarks*.

Just in case you, too, missed this fascinating report about the Indian bluff dwellers, it seems that the inundation of thousands of acres in the National Forest area and other areas around Natural Dam could very well be quashed in the future. The artifacts of ancient Indians would no doubt rate higher than the snail darter. (Thanks to B. Cole for sharing this report with us.) (See accompanying map.)



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey.

Map showing approximate site of dam on Lee Creek in the Pine Mountain project. Map courtesy Chris O'Dell, U.S. Geological Survey Office.

Another option, already noted, is the Arkansas River. A news item picked up on Fort Smith Channel 5's "Noon On Five" program, June 21, 1990, reported that Clarksville, not too far downstream, is applying for permission to use the Arkansas River for its municipal water supply. And immediately the cry went up to maintain an adequate flow to protect the fish and wildlife.

Options can run out. And if we were ever forced to revert to dug wells (our first water supply), with all the "gunk" and pollutants now in our water and soil we might find to our dismay that not even a white snake could survive.

Ironically, several things have happened concerning our water supply since the research/writing of this story first began.

In addition to the earlier flood damage to the cofferdam at the new dam site there have been two serious accidents involving workers, one fatal.

We were no sooner put back on rationing when vandals pierced holes in part of the crest gate at Lake Shepherd Springs, causing a loss of approximately 210,000 gallons of water.

And something which seems at first glance quite far-fetched is the "projection" of an earthquake along the New Madrid fault in early December. (See "Steamboating the Arkansas" in the September 1982 issue of the *Journal*). The western edge of Arkansas hardly felt the three major quakes of 1811-1812 but there have been changes to our environment to be seriously considered — the drilling of oil and gas wells; underground fuel transmission lines crisscrossing the State (some as large as 4 feet in diameter); locks and dams on the Arkansas River; and last but not least, the nuclear power plant on the Arkansas River near Russellville.

In two stories appearing in the *Southwest Times Record*, June 20 and June 27, 1990, two men, Dr. Iben Browning of California, and Dr. David Stewart, from Southeast Missouri State University, have projected an earthquake along the New Madrid Fault. Both men are respected researchers and Dr. Browning told a meeting of corporate executives in San Francisco last October that they could expect an earthquake within three days of October 16. The earthquake occurred on October 17th.

While western Arkansas may experience little direct effects of an earthquake along the New Madrid Fault, the indirect result could quite probably affect dam structures and the flow of streams and rivers in our area, however slightly, causing problems with our own water system.

But we will survive. When Fort Smithians were once again put on water rationing we reduced our usage some 2,000,000 gallons per day. Our spirit of cooperation remains alive and well.

In addition to our usual assistants in research — Guy Nichols, National Historic Site; Wanda Karrant and Gail Underwood at the Public Library; and Mary Campbell at Guaranty Abstract & Title Co. — we would like to say a special thanks to Ray Baker, City Director-at-Large; City Administrator Stribling Boynton; Assistant City Administrator Dennis Hunt; City Administrative Assistant Joan Stratmann; Director of Utilities Steve Parke; Assistant Director of Utilities Jack Dillon; Steve Floyd, Superintendent of Water/Waste Water Operations; Bradley Martin at the Fort Smith Trolley Museum for use of his files; Chris O'Dell, Hydrologic Technician at the U.S. Geological Survey Office; Curtis Landers; B. Cole; and Margaret Ann Barber and Julia Yadon for the snake story.

William Joseph Johnston

Mayor of Fort Smith, 1909-1911

Ben B. Johnston, Jr., Grandson



Mary Bates Bourne Johnston



William Joseph Johnston

William Joseph "Colonel Bill" Johnston, known as one of the most powerful political figures in Sebastian County and one of the most dedicated civic supporters of Fort Smith, was mayor of Fort Smith when thirteen Fort Smith citizens first petitioned the city to set up the present water system by taking over the private water system.

In an article written sometime between 1923 and 1926, his friend Bleeker Luce described him as "the most independent character Fort Smith has ever known... and yet, in spite of his abnormally stiff backbone, his love and loyalty for his friends and his community were so intense that without yielding an iota in his decisions, he was enthusiastically honored by his city and country."

Not only was he recognized by his country, but in 1902 he received a royal invitation to the coronation of King Edward VII of England. (See accompanying invitation on following page.)

Bleeker Luce continued his description of Bill Johnston by saying, "Politically his head contained all the brilliant strategy of 'Old Tree Full of Owls' and the shrewd wisdom of 'Scattergood Baines', two famous politicians of modern literature.

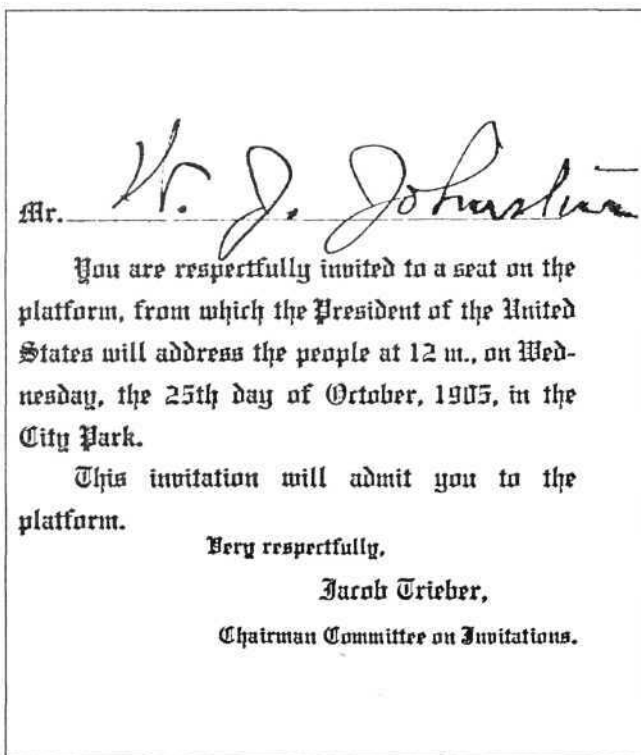
"Two townships in Sebastian County are named, one Mont Sandels for his best friend, and the other,

Bill Johnston for his son, William Joseph Johnston, Jr. He scorned public recognition for himself."

As a young man, Bill Johnston drove a stage coach between Fort Smith and Winslow, and while the railroad tunnel leading from Winslow was under construction, he drove a hack transporting people over the mountain from where the railroad ended on one side to where it began on the other side.

He owned a mercantile store on Lee Creek, and on January 1, 1881, went into the livery and transfer business with Samuel McCloud in Fort Smith. He bought half interest in the business for \$850.00 at 10%. They also operated the first steam ferry, the *Jenny Pearl*, to ply the Arkansas River between Fort Smith and the Indian Territory (Moffett, Oklahoma). In addition, they furnished horses for the Butterfield Stage Line.

An enterprising and farsighted business man, he was one of the largest stock holders in the company that installed the gas plant that first supplied Fort Smith with artificial gas, and was one of the original incorporators of the Fort Smith Light and Traction Company which brought electricity to Fort Smith and operated the electric streetcar system. He was also one of the original incorporators of the Ballman-Cummings Furniture Manufacturing



Invitation to Coronation of King Edward VII

Company and the Fort Smith National Bank (which later merged with Merchants National Bank).

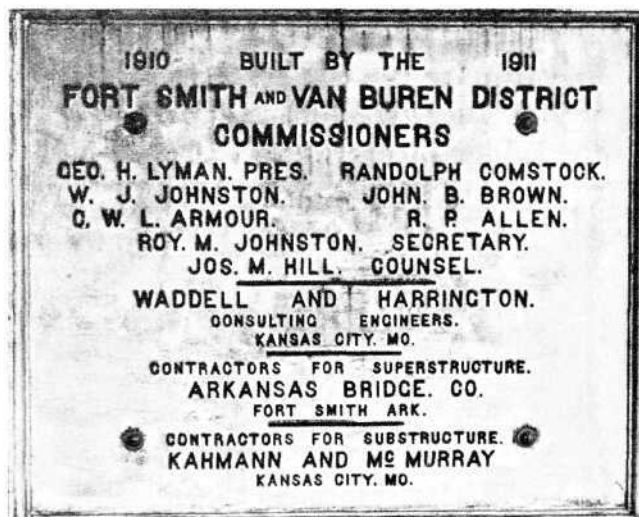
Always actively identified with any movement for the betterment and advancement of Fort Smith, he played a prominent role in negotiations for the expansion of the following railroad systems in the Fort Smith area: Missouri Pacific, Frisco, Kansas City Southern, TS, and Missouri & Arkansas.

He was a commissioner of the Fort Smith and Van Buren bridge district which erected the free bridge at Van Buren and was one of the first persons to cross the bridge in a vehicle.

He was also a member of the original commission chosen by the Arkansas Legislature for the Sebastian



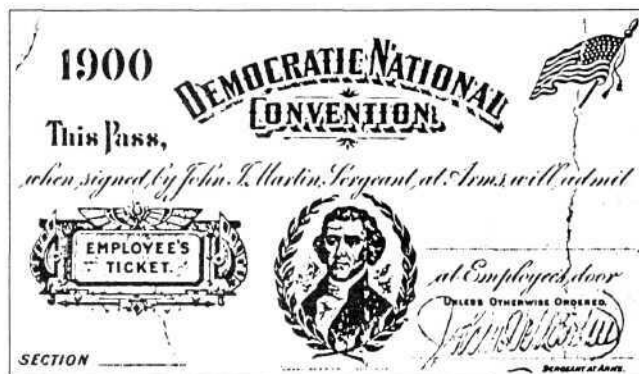
First vehicle to cross Fort Smith-Van Buren Free Bridge. Occupants of the buggy are W.J. Johnston, Jim Johnson, Colonel Decker of the *Southwest American*, and a fourth man who is unidentified. Courtesy of the Arkansas History Commission.



Plaque from Fort Smith-Van Buren bridge built in 1911. Photo by Ben Johnston, Jr.

County bridge district to construct the free bridge at the west end of Garrison Avenue.

For thirty years he was the acknowledged Democratic political leader of Fort Smith and Sebastian County, serving as secretary or chairman of the Central Committee and heading the delegation to the state Democratic conventions during that time. A delegate to the National Democratic convention a number of times, he was a delegate to the convention in Baltimore which nominated Woodrow Wilson for president.



Admittance card to National Democratic Convention

He was a member of the Fort Smith City Council for 15 years under the ward-mayor form of government, and defeated Fagan Bourland to serve as Mayor of Fort Smith from 1909 to 1911. On March 16, 1909, the City Council increased the Mayor's salary to \$200 per month, or \$2400 per year.

He opened his mayoral inaugural speech, made April 13, 1909, with, "In assuming the management of the affairs of the city, I fully realize that my success depends upon the advice and cooperation of all those people who unselfishly design to promote the growth, prosperity, health and happiness of this community. I am simply your agent and it will be my purpose to guard your interests with

FOR MAYOR



W. J. JOHNSTON

*There are a great many reasons why you
should support me for Mayor of your city.
There is no good reason why you should not.*

Campaign for Mayor political card

fidelity and to execute the trust placed in me with whatever energy and ability I have.

"I have no special policy outlined for the performance of my duties further than to try to foster, encourage and build up that which will be conducive to bringing about results that will produce the greatest good to the greatest number. There should be harmony between the Improvement Board, the contractors and the City government. Each one should vie with the other in getting the best results for the common cause."

As an alderman, he was working with the improvement board regarding the extension of the main sewer line and had been promised the work would begin immediately. He mentioned this in his inaugural address, and he solicited the cooperation of property owners to put in their curb and gutters so street paving work could be done, promising to see that the city engineer would furnish grades promptly.

He promised to endeavor to put the police, fire and public works departments to the highest possible standard of efficiency, urged municipal ownership of the water and sewer system, and proposed a plumbing and sewer inspector, an electric wiring inspector, and a first-class building inspector. He also made suggestions for improvement in the police and fire departments.

His plea to citizens was, "Do not be fault finders with your public officials, but if you have a grievance, come to the headquarters and report in a frank, business-like way the trouble, and I assure you that as far as lies in their power, they will correct it."

In his usual manner of getting directly to business, following his address he announced his standing committees, then made his official announcement of the appointment of Sid Johnston as chief of police and Henry Surratt, chief of police under Mayor Bourland, as chief of the fire department. The *Southwest American* reported, "Chief Surratt took off his star and passed it over to the new chief, and there was applause. The announcement of Mr. Surratt as fire chief also received a generous hand."

On April 11, 1909, before the mayor had made his official announcement, the *Southwest American* reported, "Sid Johnston Appointed Chief of Police. Sid was appointed on merit. In fact, his appointment was a promotion. He has been a member of the force

for practically fourteen years and was a day captain under Chief Surratt. All officers of the police force have already been serving on the police force."

Obviously Mayor Johnston was "dead serious" about law enforcement. The *Southwest American* reported a little later, "Mayor W.J. Johnston took matters in his own hands last night, and accompanied by Patrolman Baker rounded up a gang of eight men and women at the Farmers Exchange on Towson Avenue, who were drinking and having a regular knock-down-and-drag-out time..."

In 1914 he was appointed postmaster of Fort Smith by President Woodrow Wilson and served until 1918 when he resigned because of failing health.

Despite his vote-getting ability, he never aspired to any higher political offices than those he held in his beloved city.

November was his crucial month. He was born November 11, 1851, married November 10, 1878 and died November 21, 1922.

He and his wife, the former Mary Bates Bourne, who was active in the First Presbyterian Church, had five sons: William John (1880-1898); Frederick Bates (1881-1959); Roy Meredith (1883-1949); Mont Sandels (1894-1958); and Ben Bourne (1885-1928). Fred and Mont moved early in life and spent their latter years in California, while Ben and Roy spent their entire lives in Fort Smith. The nine living grandchildren of William Joseph Johnston are: John "Gene" Johnston and Ben B. Johnston, Jr. of Fort Smith; Dick Johnston, Lawrence, Kansas; Roy Johnston, Fayetteville, Arkansas; Adele Young, Santa Fe, New Mexico; Mary Ann Hollingsworth, Green Valley, Arizona; Marcie Forbes, North Ridge, California; Monte Johnston, Albuquerque, New Mexico; and Tom Johnston, McAlester, Oklahoma.

The first members of the Johnston family to come to Fort Smith were the parents of William Joseph Johnston, John Independence Johnston and his wife Eliza Virginia Meredith (1816-1895), who with a young son came from Rome, Georgia in 1838. John I. Johnston was a blacksmith and merchant, and a staunch Confederate sympathizer. At an advanced age, he took part in the Battle of Prairie Grove, was wounded, and returned home the following day on a stray mule he had caught. On March 10, 1864, he signed the Oath of Allegiance of the United States, but two months later, on May 13, 1864, he was called to the front door of his home at 4th Street and Garrison Avenue and was shot by bushwhackers when Bill was in his teens. Again we quote Mr. Luce: "In later years, Bill was considered by outsiders to be a cold-blooded, practical businessman, but he never sold that home place though many profitable offers were made for the plot. He had a great sentimental attachment for the scene of his father's sacrifice on the altar of patriotism and financial matters were without avail."

John I. and Eliza Virginia Johnston were the parents of four children: James A., the oldest, married Emma Rogers, daughter of John Rogers; two daughters who died at an early age; and William Joseph.

The Dream Is Alive

Cindy Jacobsen

Winner Optimist Oratorical Competition

OPTIMIST ORATORICAL COMPETITION

Cindy Jacobsen, representing the Fort Smith Girls' Clubs, won in the city-wide competition of the 1990 Optimist's Oratorical Competition. She then went on to represent the three Optimist Clubs of Fort Smith in the Zone competition. Following her success in that contest, she represented the Zone in the State Competition in Conway on April 28.

This year's theme for the speeches was "The Dream Is Alive". Ms. Jacobsen's outstanding essay related how dreams have shaped our nation and our lives.

THE DREAM IS ALIVE

by Cindy Jacobsen

Dreams are the seeds of hope and the incentive to action. Throughout history, from the beginning of time until the present, the ultimate goal of man has been the dream of freedom. Today the dream of freedom is alive. There are many types of freedom.

The freedom of worship was the reason the Mayflower brought the first colonists to Plymouth's shores. The dream and pursuit of freedom resulted in a country where one can worship as one chooses. First the dream, then hope, action and, finally, reality.

Another dream, the freedom of self-government was the basis of the American Revolutionary War. Men gave their lives in the pursuit of their dream of a self-governed nation — free from tyranny and in control of their own nation. First the hope, action, and then success. From this war the United States of America has become a large, powerful and free democratic nation.

Recognition of the individual's desire for freedom is expressed in the Bill of Rights. This dream of individuality is guaranteed in each of the statements of the Bill of Rights. For over two hundred years this dream of personal freedom has been alive.

Another dream was the freedom from slavery. Men had the hope to stop the buying and selling of other men. From this hope came the Civil War. During this war many men gave their lives in search of the dream. Their dream was realized with the Emancipation Proclamation which made it illegal to own slaves. No more could a man be bought and sold. Again, the dream is alive.

Man's dream of a better life, freedom from drudgery, freedom to soar in the air, and freedom to express ideas has resulted in labor saving devices, inventions, expansion of air travel, and extensions of our education system. If the Wright Brothers had not dreamed of flying, it is possible we might still be earth bound; however, since they dreamed of flying, we can soar with the eagles. Man took Wright's dream and now man travels to the moon. Their dream is alive as man continues to fly faster and farther.



Cindy Jacobsen

Martin Luther King's phrase "I have a dream", stimulated a recognition of the need for re-evaluation of attitudes and actions. This dream resulted in equal opportunity legislation. Men and women of all races were guaranteed fair treatment. First, he planted the seeds of hope, then he worked and marched until his dream became a reality. Martin Luther King's dream cost him his life; however, his dream of equality is alive as others continue his work many years later.

The dream is alive as the destruction of the Berlin Wall has again dramatically shown the dream becoming hope, then action. As the stones were chipped away, this man-made barrier which separated East and West Germany was torn down. The people from both sides of the wall who had dreamed of and hoped for a united Germany are now free to actively work for that goal. The dream is alive as all the world watches the people struggle to make this dream a reality.

The dream of freedom and hope is alive and growing in Lithuania and Estonia. These tiny little countries are struggling with the giant U.S.S.R. for their freedom. Time will tell if they achieve their freedom; however, their dream is alive.

The dream is alive in each one of us. Each of us has a dream — to be, to do, to have! As long as there are people, the dream is alive — free to be free.

Deaths of Fort Smith Residents

February 1, 1990 through June 29, 1990

The *Fort Smith Southwest Times Record* publishes obituaries for residents and former residents of Fort Smith, western Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma. The following death notices, abstracted from obituaries in the *Southwest Times Record*, are for Fort Smith residents only, and date shown is actual date of death. Full obituaries for these persons and residents of the area surrounding Fort Smith are available at the Fort Smith Public Library from microfilm of the *Southwest Times Record*.

Earl L. MILLER, 91, February 1
Natalie Ann CRAIG, infant daughter of
Randy and Cathy Craig, February 1
Vivian C. JOSLIN, 75, February 3
Mary Jane Turnham BRADLEY, 66, February 4
Dorothy FREEMAN, 75, February 5
Emmet P. WICKERSHAM, February 4
Gladys CAMPBELL, 81, February 6
Elsie Jackson DAVIS, 94, February 6
Gladys Marie DAVIDSON, 91, February 7
Faye L. DURBIN, 88, February 6
Cooper HUDSPETH, 95, February 6
Doris J. SCHMALZ, 60, February 7
Ethel NUNNELEE, 80, February 6
Tom DAVIS, 77, February 5
Myrtle OSBORN, 89, February 8
John E. ROUNDS, 77, February 8
John "G.D." GORDON, 71, February 6
Henry A. CANTRELL, 72, February 10
Harold H. HUTSON, 84, February 12
Mary McGOWAN, 84, February 11
Bonnie Sue ROGERS, 41, February 11
Claude D. FLOWERS, 83, February 13
Anna Rosemary SHARUM, 75, February 13
Mary Annene MITCHELL, 79, February 14
Laura Ann SYROCK, 25, February 14
Suzanne Eloy MICKLE, 88, February 14
Carl L. VINES, 78, February 14
Vivian V. WEBER, 89, February 17
Eugene E. HOMAN, 61, February 16
Dr. Edward J. SAFRANEK, 58, February 16
Ina Lou McCRIGHT, 71, February 16
Tiny ASHING, 77, February 18
Mrs. Theodora K. HUMPHRIES, 83, February 17
Delmar Allen KELLY, 51, February 17
Katherine BROWN, 73, February 18
Charles H. DOYEL, 83, February 20
Teresa SPRICK, 81, February 19
Letha BROWN, 101, February 20
Christine STARNES, 74, February 21
Christopher CATHEY, infant son of
Jody and Earlene Cathey, February 20
Dorothy Lee WHITE, 66, February 21
Doris Louise STAMPS, 74, February 20
Essie Johnston WRIGHT, 92, February 22
Gertrude Earp RAGSDALE, 76, February 23
Montine Snell MONTGOMERY, 81, February 24

Margaret Jane Marsh NEWELL, February 25
Vestal KHILLING, 77, February 25
Robert "Bob" BISHOP, 60, February 23
Othon "Festus" HAGAN, 62, February 27
Walter C. MORROW, 84, March 1
John L. JOHNSON, 53, February 28
Dezzie Meadors PALMER, 90, March 3
Howell K. BOYETTE, 78, March 4
Flossie SIZEMORE, 80, March 3
James L. METZ, 43, March 1
Robert MARLEY, Sr., 68, March 5
Ronald ARSENAULT, 55, March 4
Flocie TYLER, 75, March 5
Margaret Lynn HULETT, 28, March 5
Nancy Lee KEATHLEY, 41, March 7
Iva Mae THOMPSON, 76, March 6
Orville SATTERFIELD, 52, March 8
Tyree Brent SMITH, infant son of
Loran and Sue Smith, March 9
Mary Lucile COWAN, 74, March 8
Martha ALBERTSON, 50, March 10
Charles "Charlie" FIORI, 73, March 10
Vone XAYSANASAY, 60, March 11
Mary Louise BURT, 83, March 11
Grace Janet BRANCECUM, 83, March 11
Robert YOUNG, 51, March 13
Loren WATKINS, 80, March 13
Jack ROZELL, 85, March 13
George Harvey DUEY, 84, March 13
Aubrey "Art" WALLEN, 77, March 14
Frances Marie FALLEUR, 81, March 15
Angus MACDONALD, 86, March 15
Margaret Jacqueline WHITE, 57, March 15
Oren LeRoy SMITH, 44, March 16
Martha E. WARREN, 64, March 17
Eddie Bell Stone LEWING, 80, March 19
Jim Frank SKINNER, 56, March 18
Robert S. STEPHENS, 70, March 18
Amanda E. FOSTER, 89, March 20
Sister Placide BREAUX, 77, March 20
Burley J. FREEMAN, 73, March 21
Martha BYRD, 60, March 20
Ross CORBELL, 82, March 21
Vivian Gann REATHER, 68, March 20
Frank "Pappy" FINSEL, 79, March 22
Gene Michael FORSGREN, 35, March 22
Ella Allean BUMPERS, 89, March 25

Margaret L. Carolan SHAW, 70, March 24
 Henry P. JONES, 76, March 26
 Prudence BARNES, 86, March 25
 Leonard K. MOORE, 57, March 27
 Liz DUTY, 45, March 27
 Johnnye Blanche ABBOTT, 90, March 27
 Ruth McDANIEL, 92, March 29
 Terri L. GRINER, 31, March 30
 Hester Mae HUFF, 80, March 30
 Willie "Bill" FRANCE, 65, April 3
 George Deiser BALLARD, 81, April 2
 Edith WELLS, 70, April 3
 Ralph Paul BROWN, Sr., 67, April 3
 Gloria BYNUM, 72, April 3
 Agusta CASTLEBERRY, March 19
 Donald Ray RICHARDSON, 47, March 30
 Junior N. ENGLISH, 65, March 31
 Ruby Mona MURPHY, 71, April 4
 Johnson D. SELIG, Jr., 64, April 5
 Billy E. SPEAKER, 64, April 5
 Tris Eugene SPEAKER, 76, April 8
 Harvey EOFF, 80, April 9
 Elmer M. SMITH, 64, April 9
 George JUDY, 73, April 9
 Mary Sue DOUGLAS, 65, April 9
 Lavern Ray KIRK, 65, April 9
 Edgar W. BOOKER, 59, April 10
 Betty THOMAS, 62, April 11
 John William TYLER, 82, April 12
 Glen MOTT, 68, April 13
 Arvil Gay WOLFE, 73, April 15
 Julius DeBRINCK, 90, April 14
 Rebecca E. BATTERSON, 79, April 8
 Maude E. Hines POGUE, 85, April 18
 Robert Joe CLAYTON, 43, April 20
 Romaine MORRISON, 69, April 19
 Jennie "Ruth" JACOBSON, 88, April 19
 Quinton W. BRAKEBILL, 60, April 21
 Isaac THOMAS, 75, April 21
 Esther M. COCKREHAM, 94, April 22
 Wm. Nelson SMITH, 69, April 22
 Larry G. WOOD, 51, April 22
 Gail Alan WESTMORELAND, April 22
 Donald RATTERREE, 60, April 22
 Mildred H. WILLIAMS, 75, April 25
 Opal BELL, 86, April 24
 Hildegard DICKERSON, 66, April 24
 Joe LESSLEY, 60, April 25
 Barry L. WEBB, 43, April 21
 Jewell Leona CAUGHMAN, 81, April 26
 Cathy Lynn ROSS, 37, April 26
 Mrs. Francis Henderson CROSSLIN, 70, April 26
 Marcus RISTIG, Sr., 92, April 26
 Christine Elmore ALLEN, 69, April 28
 Phyllis Muriel BERD, 77, April 27
 James H. HERN, 86, April 26
 Howard W. KEOWN, 81, April 26
 Robert BASSETT, 38, April 28
 Ethel Alberta MITCHELL, 85, April 27
 Beatrice CROWDER, 68, April 29

George F. JACKSON, 82, April 29
 Mrs. Jim Ray BEALL, 71, April 28
 Myrtle A. WHITE, 90, May 1
 Gene COPLIN, 77, May 1
 D. Montiene WEST, 51, May 3
 Wilma Schmidt PADEN, 82, May 3
 Margaret E. TUDOR, 83, May 2
 Henry A. JONES, 71, May 1
 T.C. "Curtis" MILAM, 93, May 4
 Evan T. "Leck" WILSON, 87, May 4
 Kathy V. SCOTT, 45, May 5
 Warren Kent RANDOLPH, 58, May 5
 Clyde PERRY, 70, May 5
 Ray Milford LILES, 75, May 6
 Martha Jayne HOOPAW, 65, May 7
 Wanda STRASSMAN, 55, May 6
 Paul Joseph ERMAN, Jr., 72, May 8
 Howard L. CARSON, 79, May 6
 William "Bill" ROGERS, 72, May 8
 Claudia PURCELL, 74, May 10
 Verda P. WILSON, 97, May 8
 Helen Louise KERKENDOLL, 79, May 10
 R.L. "Sarge" WIECHERT, 72, May 9
 Gladys MAY, 84, May 10
 Emory C. FARRIS, 87, May 11
 Lillian Mae NICHOLAS, 80, May 13
 Paul Bernard DEAN, 81, May 13
 John J. "Bud" RILEY, 80, May 15
 Mattie Vera SPEARS, 82, May 15
 Freda MARTIN, 63, May 16
 Izone BYRUM, 81, May 17
 Clara BASS, 87, May 15
 Dessie Myers TURNER, 91, May 16
 Virginia Sue HIXSON, 76, May 16
 Richard Lee HIXSON, 36, May 15
 Ray SKELTON, 71, May 16
 Evalene BODINE, 70, May 12
 Herman E. DOW, 83, May 19
 Johanna Marie RUGE, 90, May 18
 Ocie DAVIS, 83, May 20
 Sue SHERMAN, 76, May 22
 Paul Spencer LEWIS, 74, May 22
 James F. ERP, 59, May 22
 Mary B. SCHULTZ, 95, May 22
 Ann S. SEAL, 44, May 24
 Tricia Sue BLACKMORE, 14, May 23
 Mildred Lela INMAN, 86, May 23
 Velda P. WEST, 33, May 23
 Sue PRUETT, May 25
 Helen L. BARR, 67, May 24
 Etta GRAHAM, 83, May 26
 Edward Garland FURR, 82, May 26
 Doris Thompson BOYD, 68, May 28
 Richard "Rick" ORY, 47, May 28
 Louise SEFTON, 90, May 26
 Meliss Mary BLAIR, 86, May 29
 Omar L. COLE, 65, May 25
 Frank J. FORD, 72, May 25
 Elaine GEREN, 75, June 2
 George A. PORTER, 79, June 1

Mattie Elizabeth DENTON, 77, May 30
 Clara M. BIGGS, 71, May 31
 David Tate MASSEY, 19, June 2
 Sister Geraldine ADAMS, OSB, 91, June 2
 Ed GOFORTH, 79, June 2
 Billy Wayne BECKHAM, 49, May 31
 Mrs. James B. GRACE, June 3
 Bobby PAUL, 42, June 4
 Kenneth Wayne CAMPBELL, 42, June 3
 Gary DRIGGERS, 42, June 5
 Rev. Nathaniel WYATT, 62, June 2
 Lewis "Blunt" Long, 84, June 6
 Freda Mae LOVELLE, 74, June 7
 Marie L. MILLER, 92, June 7
 Arlena A. OLIVER, 90, June 4
 Maude PRIMM, 79, June 7
 Frances McLaughlin WELCH, 73, June 7
 Linda KENNON, 44, June 10
 Frank ZIMMER, 73, June 9
 Henry Malcom DIXON, 74, June 11
 Reba E. DOUGLAS, 84, June 11
 Beulah R. WILLIAMS, 77, June 10
 Blanche F. DeLONG, 78, June 13
 Louise POTTS, 80, June 11
 Lila Tomlin MILLER, 86, June 12
 Ivan N. HEMPHILL, June 14
 Velma E. MOLE, 72, June 14
 Lillian Ann DAVIS, 86, June 13
 Raymond Paul GOODPASTER, 71, June 16

Ingeburg GLENN, 66, June 14
 Donald SMITH, Sr., 62, June 18
 Marie Ann Lux COLEMAN, 77, June 18
 Nina Walls DOLES, 88, June 18
 William M. SKORVAGA, 81, June 18
 Charles Douglas LATSHA, Sr., 74, June 18
 Bill B. SMITH, 66, June 21
 H.F. "Red" BOX, 69, June 21
 Vivian B. CONE, 67, June 21
 Roy C. DUNCAN, 87, June 21
 Rose WHOOTEN, 94, June 21
 Rena B. COOPER, 85, June 22
 Dr. Don W. CHAMBLIN, 69, June 21
 J.B. JEAN, 91, June 21
 Billie B. SMITH, 66, June 21
 Earline WEST, 75, June 20
 Daisy M. LIETZKE, 82, June 24
 Sterling Eugene WILLIAMS, 57, June 22
 Bertha Morris MILLER, 77, June 21
 Nola Ray HARRIS, 87, June 26
 D.B. SULLIVAN, 79, June 27
 Joe W. ROBISON, 85, June 27
 Viola M. Troike Martin FREDE, 89, June 28
 Maude C. BRANNON, 87, June 28
 Skylar Lee Anne BROWN, infant daughter of
 Michael Ross and Rebecca Lynn Brown, June 27
 Pauline Bailey LLOYD, 78, June 30
 Myrtle Marie ROESLER, 83, June 29
 Ruby V. CROW, 79, June 29

Joyce Reynolds Oglesby

(For the history of the Reynolds family, see "Dick Reynolds — His Family and His House" in the *Journal of the Fort Smith Historical Society*, Volume XI, No. 2, September, 1987, pages 28-36.)

Graveside service for Joyce Reynolds Oglesby, 101, of Chickasha, was held at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, February 3, 1990, at Forrest Park Cemetery, Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Joyce Reynolds Oglesby (Mrs. Ira D. Oglesby, Sr.) was born October 17, 1888, in Fort Smith, Arkansas, to Cyrus F. & Sabrina Hubbard Reynolds, and died Wednesday, January 31, 1990, in Chickasha.

She and Ira D. Oglesby, Sr. were married July 22, 1944, in Fort Smith, Arkansas. He preceded her in death in 1949.

Mrs. Oglesby resided in Fort Smith for 97 years. She moved to Nowata Garden Retirement Center in Chickasha in 1986. Due to health problems she moved to Christian Care Retirement Village in February, 1989.

She was a member of the St. John Episcopal Church in Fort Smith, Arkansas. She was an

honorary life member of the Old Fort Museum in Fort Smith, having served as president and board member.

She is survived by two nieces, Joyce Page of Springfield, Va. and Janice Koons (Mrs. Harly) Day of Chickasha; three nephews, Lewis Page of Laurel, Maryland, Ben Page of Houston, Texas, and Dick Koons of Houston, Texas; one step daughter-in-law, Lucy Lee Oglesby (Mrs. Ira Jr.) of Springdale, Arkansas; two step granddaughters, Lee Peterson (Mrs. Ed) of Springdale, Arkansas, and Ann Rhea (Mrs. E.M.) of New Orleans, Louisiana; several cousins including Jane and Lester Furr of Fort Smith, Arkansas, and Joanne Ray of Richardson, Texas.

Interment was held in the Forrest Park Cemetery, Fort Smith, Arkansas, under the direction of Sevier Funeral Home.

News and Opportunities

EXCEPT FOR LIFE MEMBERS, IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR FORT SMITH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP, SO:

Forget the trials you have had,
Forget the weather if it's bad,
Forget you are not a millionaire,
Forget the grey streaks in your hair,
Forget you ever had the blues,
But don't forget to pay your dues.

If you have a story, an article, or photographs that you think would be interesting and suitable for publication in *The Journal*, please contact one of the editors, Amelia Martin or Sarah McCullough: 783-1237 or 646-9542.

If you do not have a copy of the Cumulative Index for Volumes I thru IX of *The Journal*, copies are still available at the Fort Smith Public Library, price \$20.00. For mail orders, add \$2.00 for mailing.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROGRAMS PLANNED

Remembering Important People ("RIP") is the theme for a program on October 27th sponsored by the Fort Smith Historical Society. Program Chairman Jim Tuck plans to organize visits to local cemeteries to learn about some of the "important" people buried in Fort Smith and nearby. Initial contacts have been exciting — there should be some very interesting and, perhaps, amusing anecdotes shared. Anyone with information or who would like to help, contact Jim at 783-3961.

FORT SMITH HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1991 ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Fort Smith Historical Society on April 25, 1991, will include a bring-your-own picnic and, if plans work out, a very special program. More information when plans are finalized.

DR. RUSSELL AND *THE JOURNAL* RECEIVE AWARDS



Dr. Phillip Wayne Russell and Amelia Martin, editor of *The Journal*, accept awards at annual meeting of the Arkansas Historical Association. Photograph by John Eddleman.

Dr. Phillip Wayne Russell and the Fort Smith Historical Society were recipients of awards at the annual meeting of the Arkansas Historical Association in Hot Springs on April 27, 1990. Dr. Russell received the Arkansas Historical Association's award for the best community history published in an Arkansas county or local history publication in 1989, and *The Journal* was awarded second place in the "county or local history publication awards." Dr. Russell's article "Fort Smith City Government and the Progressive Era in Urban Reform," was published in the April 1989 issue of *The Journal*. Our congratulations to Dr. Russell and our appreciation to him for contributing his article for publication in *The Journal*.

The Arkansas Historical Association will hold its Fiftieth Anniversary meeting in Little Rock on April 4, 5, and 6, 1991. Headquarters will be the Excelsior Hotel. For information, contact Dr. Jeannie Whayne, Department of History, 12 Ozark Hall, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701.

Dr. Whayne has been elected secretary-treasurer and editor to replace Walter L. Brown, who is retiring after thirty-five years as secretary-treasurer and thirty-two years as editor of the Arkansas Historical Quarterly. Our best wishes to Dr. Brown and to Denyse S. Killgore, Dr. Brown's research assistant, who is also retiring after twenty years of faithful and efficient service to the Association. They will both be missed. Our best wishes to Dr. Whayne as she assumes her new duties.

Dr. Brown is the author of *Our Arkansas*, an Arkansas history textbook now in its third edition. In 1986 Governor Bill Clinton presented Professor Brown with the Sesquicentennial Humanities award from the Arkansas Endowment for the Humanities.

FORT SMITH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE UPDATE

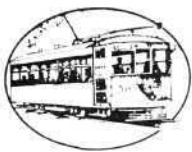
Volunteers in the Park continue to improve research facilities with continued indexing, map file reorganization and other useful projects.

The first floor of the Commissary building is now open to the public as a direct result of money donated to the park. The video camera installed in the Commissary is monitored by rangers at the information desk.

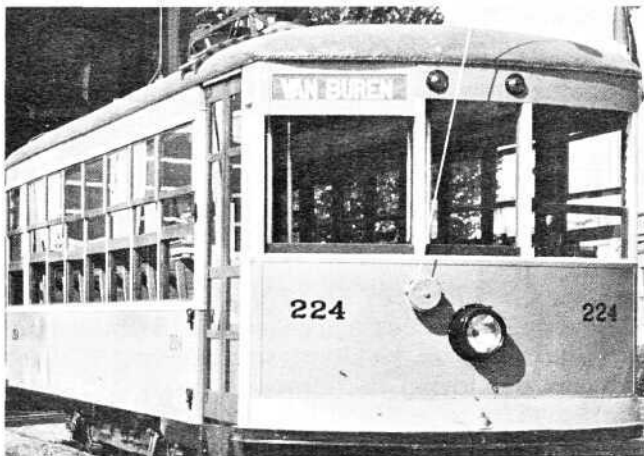
Tom Crowson, Chief Ranger for the past eleven years, has transferred to Padre Island National Seashore. Having worked closely with many organizations and individuals in the community through the years, he will be missed. A replacement should be named by late summer, to arrive in October.

Planning for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail continues. Newsletter Number 2, discussing the planning process, has been distributed. Copies may be obtained by writing the National Park Service, 75 Spring Street, SW, Atlanta, GA 30303.

1992 marks the 175th anniversary of the establishment of the first Fort Smith on Christmas Day, 1817. There will be special plans for the celebration.



FORT SMITH TROLLEY MUSEUM



Fort Smith Trolley Museum Car 224
Photo by Bradley Martin

Good news from the Trolley Museum. Car 224, which was built in 1926 and operated in Fort Smith until 1933, was on public exhibition outside the Trolley Museum car barn July 15 at the annual open house. After being taken out of use, the car was used as a diner at Ashdown, Arkansas until being saved by Louis Hennick, a streetcar buff of Shreveport, Louisiana. The car is almost completely restored to operating condition, with only minor things remaining to be done to it. The electrical substation which will produce the 600 volt DC current is under construction. When this is completed, final testing of all the electrical systems can be done. The goal is to have the car actually operate on track as it did before being scrapped in 1933. With the addition of an operating streetcar to an excursion railroad train, and the good prospect of having an excursion river boat, Fort Smith will have an increased tourist attraction to complement its history.

The streetcar restoration has been the result of the great support received from the community and the restoration's many friends over the entire United States. Your help is still needed until the car can be a reality as a revenue producing asset.

Address of the Trolley Museum is 100 South Fourth Street. Mailing address is 2121 Wolfe Lane, Fort Smith, AR 72901. Phone (501) 783-1237.

FORT SMITH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce in early fall will relocate its headquarters to the 7,000 square foot Donoho building at 612 Garrison Avenue, which

is directly across the street from its present location. Plans are to have the old headquarters building, which is not structurally sound, torn down and have a parking lot built in its place for the chamber's use.

FORT SMITH ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION COMMISSION



The Fort Smith Advertising and Promotion Commission formed by our city government in October 1989 to promote tourism, has chosen as its official logo one that depicts the history of Fort Smith.

Dee Carroll, executive director of the commission, describes the logo as that which symbolizes the heritage and Western frontier history of Fort Smith while at the same time represents the community's enduring presence on the border.

The commission is primarily targeting three areas of tourism: Convention business, bus tour business and family tourism. Information packets promoting Fort Smith have been developed for each of these areas and are being distributed.

In addition to existing attractions such as the Fort Smith Historical District, Fort Smith Trolley Museum, Old Fort Museum, National Historic Site, National Cemetery, Fort Smith Art Center, Clayton House, Bonneville House, Patent Model Museum, public parks and swimming facilities, Historical Murals, Riverfest, Rodeo and Fair, exceptional hotel/motel accommodations and a broad selection of ethnic dining, there are plans to develop the riverfront with an excursion river boat.

All of this and area attractions such as the newly organized Boston Mountain Excursion Train of Van Buren, Van Buren Main Street shopping, the Blue Ribbon Downs Horse Racing in Sallisaw, soon to be completed Cherokee Nation Bingo Entertainment Center in Roland, the Wiederkehr Winery at Altus, the Poteau Indian Burial Mounds and Queen Wilhelmina State Park have tremendous tourism potential for the area with Fort Smith as a destination for tourists traveling I-40 and Highway 71.

For more information about the work of the commission or to make comments or suggestions, contact Dee Carroll at (501) 783-8888.

EXCURSION TRAIN IN OPERATION

The long awaited Boston Mountain Rail Excursion Company's 250-passenger excursion train is in operation. Its first run on Friday, July 27, 1990, was a special media/VIP event, and regular runs were made on Saturday and Sunday, July 28 and 29.

The train, composed of passenger cars from the 1940s and 1950s pulled by diesel engines provided by the Arkansas-Missouri Railroad, carries passengers on a 3½ hour journey to Winslow and back through the Boston Mountains, across three high trestles and through a mountain tunnel. Each car is climate controlled and has private facilities.

Operated by Sean Reed, president of the company, and R.R. McClanahan, both of Pine Bluff, the train will run on alternate weekends between Van Buren and Winslow and Rogers and Winslow. When not in use, the train will remain in Rogers.

Members of the Midland Valley Railway Historical Society, a chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, serve as trainmen (car attendants) on the train.

Departure times from the Van Buren depot will be at 1:01 p.m. on Saturdays and 2:02 p.m. on Sundays through mid-October. Departure dates from Van Buren are: July 28 & 29, August 11 & 12, August 25 & 26, September 8 & 9, September 22 & 23, October 6 & 7, November 3 & 4, November 17 & 18.

Reservations are encouraged and tickets can be purchased at the Van Buren Chamber of Commerce (located in the Old Frisco Depot) Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or reserved by calling (501) 474-2761. Mailing address is P.O. Box 652, Van Buren, AR 72956. Any remaining tickets will be sold on a first-come first-serve basis.

Passengers should arrive at the Old Frisco Depot 30 minutes prior to departure with tickets in hand.

FARES

First Class Dome Observation Car \$30.50
Deluxe Chair Car (Beginning August 25) 25.50
Standard Coach:

Adult 20.50
Children 12 and under 15.50

Soft drinks, iced tea and snacks are available on each car. Refreshments are complimentary on the Dome Observation Car.

All cars are available for private charter — moving or standing. Reservations must be made in advance. Call the Van Buren Chamber of Commerce for pricing information.

U.S. ARMY RANGERS REUNION

Jim Altieri, one of the original 500 Darby's Rangers organized during World War II, has announced that the association's 22nd Biennial Reunion of U.S. Army Rangers will be held in Fort Smith at the Holiday Inn in October, 1991, in memory of Fort Smith "hometown boy" and famed founder of the Rangers, Gen. William O. Darby.

ZERO MOUNTAIN EXPANDS

A new expansion of Zero Mountain Inc., a cold storage facility in Fort Smith, has doubled its storage capacity. With the expansion, Zero Mountain will have 150,000 square feet of freezer/cooler space. The expansion will mandate another five to ten employees be added to the current twenty employees.

Zero Mountain located in Fort Smith in June 1987. Mark Rumsey, general manager, said that at that time the company planned to expand in 1992, but the growth of the freezer/cooler business called for an early expansion.

With the expansion, Zero Mountain upgraded its capacity from 32 million pounds to between 44 million and 48 million pounds.

A few of the local customers are the chicken and turkey processing companies, Planters Livesavers Company and Gerber Products Company.

BALDOR ELECTRIC COMPANY

Baldor Electric Company, leading manufacturer of industrial electric motors and related electronic products, has completed construction of a 46,000 sq. ft. warehouse. The new facility represents a 50% expansion of the current shipping and distribution center.

BEVERLY ENTERPRISES

Beverly Enterprises, a pacesetter in the industry of long-term care for the elderly and disabled, is in the process of moving its corporate headquarters to Fort Smith from Pasadena, California. The *Southwest Times Record* reported that, while it is premature to go into dollar amounts concerning payrolls, specific numbers of employees, etc., informed sources say the move could mean creation or relocation of up to 700 executive, financial, computer-related white-collar jobs with an annual payroll estimated above \$15 million.

WESTARK COMMUNITY COLLEGE

On May 1, 1990, the voters of Sebastian County voted a 3.75 mill tax increase which will insure that Westark can continue to serve the growing education and training needs of area citizens for the next 15 to 25 years. The money will be used to build new buildings, furnish all the new buildings, renovate three aging buildings, and buy peripheral property for future development.

This is the first millage increase Westark has had since the 1960s, when the millage was set based on an enrollment of 800 students. This past fall, the college's enrollment topped the 5,000 mark.

The first building to be built is an 82,000-square-foot University Center, which will allow other colleges and universities to offer four-year degrees through Westark. Also on the drawing board to be built immediately to compensate for current overcrowding are a math-science-tech building, a classroom and student services building and a general purpose classroom building.

After reviewing proposals from universities in the state, Westark has made final plans for its first bachelor's degree program. Arkansas Tech University in Russellville has been chosen to offer junior level courses for a bachelor of science degree in elementary education at Westark's new University Center. Each semester, additional courses will be offered for students interested in completing an elementary education degree.

Joel Stubblefield, president of Westark, said other negotiations are underway with the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville to offer a master's degree in business administration. Future negotiations with the U of A include a complete graduate degree program in elementary, secondary and special education.

WESTARK COMMUNITY COLLEGE SEASON OF ENTERTAINMENT 10

*Lionel Hampton Orchestra
Monday, September 24, 1990

National Shakespear Company
"Much Ado About Nothing"
Saturday, November 3, 1990

Westark Choir Concert
Thursday, November 8, 1990

Westark Jazz Band Concert
Tuesday, November 13, 1990

"A Christmas Carol"
Wednesday, November 21, 1990

Westark Wind Ensemble Concert
Thursday, November 29, 1990

*Anything Goes
Sunday, February 3, 1991

*Westark Jazz Band Concert
Thursday, March 7, 1991

Arkansas Repertory Company
"The Dining Room"
Thursday, March 14, 1991

Wind Ensemble Spring Concert
Thursday, March 21, 1991

Spring Choral Concert
Thursday, April 18, 1991

*TO BE PERFORMED AT THE FORT SMITH CIVIC CENTER

For reservations or ticket information, contact the Student Activities Office at 785-7200.

FORT SMITH CHORALE 1990-91 CONCERT SCHEDULE

December 6, 1990 Christmas Concert

April 26, 1991 Spring Concert

May 31, 1991 Pop Concert

For ticket information write to: Fort Smith Chorale,
P.O. Box 434, Fort Smith, AR 72902-0434.

OLD FORT MUSEUM

Until September 3, 1990, the Old Fort Museum will be open seven days a week: Monday thru Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Sunday, 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.

After Labor Day, it will be open Tuesday thru Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Closed on Monday.

A stickpin once belonging to Judge Isaac C. Parker was given to the Old Fort Museum May 25, 1990 by Judge Parker's great-grandson. James Bailey Parker presented the pin, which was originally a gold nugget from the California gold rush given by an admirer to Mary Elizabeth O'Toole (later Mrs. Isaac Parker), to the museum. Mrs. Parker had Tiffany's of New York make a pair of gold lizard earrings with three small diamonds out of the nugget. After losing one earring, Mrs. Parker had the remaining lizard made into a stickpin as a wedding present for her husband in 1861.

FORT SMITH LITTLE THEATER

September 20-29, 1990 Finishing Touches,
comedy by Jean Kerr

November 8-17 Sunshine Boys
by Neil Simon

For tickets or information, call (501) 783-2966.

CLAYTON HOUSE

514 North Sixth
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72901
Phone: 501-783-3000

(Restored home of Judge W.H.H. Clayton)

Open to public:

12:00 - 4:00 weekdays except Monday

10:00 - 4:00 Saturday

1:00 - 4:00 Sunday

FORT SMITH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Fort Smith Symphony Orchestra, the oldest symphony orchestra in the state, will open its 1990-91 season October 27 with "An American Vision," a program devoted to the best of American composers and patriotic pieces.

Other concerts will be:

December 1, "The Pleasures of Christmas" will bring tradition, whimsy and fantasy to please every heart's desire for the Christmas season.

January 26, "A Night of Passion" featuring romantic music to touch the soul plus an exciting secret guest pianist.

In April, "The Heat of Classics" showcases favorite classical pieces and the guest artist will be the winner of the eighth annual Young Artists Competition.

May 11, the Super Pops concert which is a new and innovative venture for the Fort Smith Symphony. "Party at the Pops" will bring sounds that are exciting, familiar and that will sweep you away as the "Boston Pops" type party is held with featured artists.

Subscription tickets for the symphony performances are available by calling (501) 783-2724.

The orchestra is composed of 60 or more professional musicians, each chosen by audition. Conductor and music director is John Thellman.

* * * * *

**FORT SMITH ART CENTER
EXHIBIT SCHEDULE — 1990-1991**

9/2-30

Main Gallery - Shirley Sutterfield - Tulsa, OK - mixed media

Bay Window Gallery - Sarah Plunkett - Kansas City, MO - oil

Gallery One - Sarah Noebels - Paris, AR - pottery

10/7-28

Main Gallery - Bob Crane - Little Rock - watercolor

Bay Window Gallery - open

Gallery One - Lee Smith - Fayetteville, AR - pastel

11/4-25

Main Gallery - 14th Annual Photography Competition

Bay Window Gallery - Melvin Gann - Fort Smith - wildlife carvings

Gallery One - Beverly J. Lambert - Little Rock - mixed media

12/2-22

Main Gallery - Annual Children's Christmas Card Design Competition

Bay Window Gallery - Roseanne Hartman - Tulsa, OK - mixed media

Gallery One - Marye Jones Huckins - Prairie Grove, AR - pastel

Gallery One - Adena Denton Huckins - Prairie Grove, AR - woodcarving

1/6-27/91

Main Gallery - Southwestern Bell Exhibit

Bay Window Gallery - Stephanie Gean - Fort Smith - oil, watercolor

2/3-24

Main Gallery - Jorge Eduardo Salcido - Mexico - handmade paper

Gallery One - E.C. Gilbreath - Fort Smith - photography

3/3-24

Main Gallery - Annual Student Competition - area schools - mixed media

Bay Window Gallery - Kay Krueger Jones - Fort Smith - mixed media

Gallery One - Toni Albers - Osage, AR - watercolor & pen & ink

4/7-28

Main Gallery - 41st Annual Competition

Bay Window Gallery - 41st Annual Competition

Gallery One - 41st Annual Competition

5/5-26

Main Gallery - Hank Kaminsky - Fayetteville, AR - sculpture

Bay Window Gallery - Jane Molpus - Fort Worth, TX - wildflowers

6/2-30

Main Gallery - Ann Griffin - Sherwood, AR - oil, pencil portraits

Bay Window Gallery - Pamela Mason - Greenland, AR - oils

Gallery One - Lee Mason - Greenland, AR - paintings & prints

7/7-28

Main Gallery - David Powell - McAlester, OK - pottery

Bay Window Gallery - Anne Dixon Leding

Gallery One - Mary Coffin - Fayetteville, AR - watercolor

8/4-25

Main Gallery - Shirley Sutterfield - Tulsa, OK - mixed media

Gallery One - Cheryl & Larry Buell - Winslow, AR - pottery

9/1-29

Main Gallery - Gloria McMahan - Russellville, AR - oils

Bay Window Gallery - Helen Howerton - Tulsa, OK - watercolor

Gallery One - Old Fort Woodcarvers - Fort Smith area - woodcarving

10/6-27

Main Gallery - Charles Peer - Siloam Springs, AR - mixed media

Bay Window Gallery - "Small Works On Paper" - AR Artists Registry

Gallery One - Vircy Williams - Fort Smith - mixed media

11/3-24

Main Gallery - 15th Annual Photography Competition

Bay Window Gallery - Norma Tamboulion - Lincoln, AR - sculpture

Gallery One - Russ Duncan - Fort Smith - watercolor

12/1-22

Main Gallery - Annual Children's Christmas Card Design Competition

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BOST HUMAN DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

The Bost Human Development Services recently celebrated the completion of two new group homes with an Open House at the Willow Creek home. Dr. Roger Bost, founder of Bost Human Development Services, returned to Fort Smith to dedicate the work and future of the homes. He praised the growth of work with the mentally retarded in this area and the continuation of his work by these homes becoming landmarks in the care for mentally retarded/developmentally disabled adults.

Both new Fort Smith homes are approximately 4,300 sq. ft. with four double bedrooms, two single bedrooms, and complete 24-hour staff. According to Dr. Bost, "Fort Smith provides a unique and outstanding program with intermediate Care Facilities for the mentally retarded/developmentally disabled to allow these individuals a home-like atmosphere and a place in the community."

JAN EDDLEMAN HONORED

Jan Eddleman, a teacher at Southside High School for 27 years, was the only teacher from Arkansas chosen as one of 200 teachers from around the country to participate in the "Teach the Teachers" seminar in New York City from June 25 to June 29, 1990. During the seminar, the teachers spent three hours on the New York Stock Exchange floor.

Mrs. Eddleman was also 1988-89 Arkansas history teacher of the year, and co-organizer and first president of TASC (Teachers of Arkansas Studies Council). TASC was legally constituted in April 1989 at the annual meeting of the Arkansas Historical Association and is an umbrella organization of that association. The purpose of TASC is to encourage the teaching of Arkansas history and culture, and to provide teachers with the information they need to teach these subjects.

FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR NAMED

Giang Nguyen, a 1986 graduate of Northside High School, has been named a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Arkansas. A senior at the U of A, Nguyen is only the second recipient of the Fulbright French Government Teaching Assistantship. She will teach English in a high school in France for one year. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tu Nguyen of Van Buren.

LORI NORIN RECEIVES AWARD

Lori Norin, Southside High School's publications adviser, has received the Adviser of the Year award from the Arkansas High School Press Association. Norin has been a publications adviser for 10 years, judging nationally for seven years, and she recently began "Critically Acclaimed", her own critique service.

Both the Southworld newspaper and the Southerner yearbook earned the All-Arkansas award, the highest publication honor given.

ART TEACHERS OFFICERS OF A.A.E.

Becky Shopfner, art teacher of Chaffin Junior High School, has been elected president of Arkansas Art Educators for the 1990-92 school years. Lynn Smith, Northside High School art teacher, is editor of the AAE News, the organization's newsletter.

DARBY TEACHER CHOSEN

Ray Martin, a Darby Junior High School science teacher, was asked by Merrill Publishing Co. to serve on their science textbook advisory council to design and develop new science books.

NSHS STATE QUIZ BOWL WINNER

Fort Smith Northside High School won the State Quiz Bowl Championship April 21, 1990 in Conway. Each player on Northside's team received a \$1,000 scholarship.

SHS RECEIVES SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

Fort Smith Southside is a school rich in athletic success, but perhaps its most important achievement was realized May 23, 1990 when the school was named the winner on the Class AAAA level of the Arkansas Activities Association's first Sportsmanship Award, which encompasses all of both boys' and girls' athletics. The schools are rated by their fellow conference schools, and Southside edged out Northside by only a point and a half. Southside principal said, "To have Northside and Southside as the top two, sportsmanship wise, as viewed by other conference schools, is really great."

REUTZEL HOUSE RESTORED

The Casper Reutzel House, corner of North Fifth and D streets, the second oldest home still standing in Fort Smith, is being restored by Fred Williams, president of Williams/McIntosh & Associates.

Casper Reutzel was a native of Germany who settled in Fort Smith and ran the largest cotton shipping company along the Arkansas River. The interior of his old home contains original German stenciling, the remains of an old cooking fireplace and gun ports that are located under the porch which were used during Indian attacks. Also on the lot is an old ice house where large pieces of ice from the Arkansas River could be stored. (For the story of Casper Reutzel and his family, see *The Journal*, Vol. V, No. 1, April 1981, pages 13-16.)

"The Fort Smith/Van Buren area's unique history is something special we can offer tourists that travel to this area," Williams said. "Sharing this history means, of course, careful preservation of historical buildings and monuments."

Genealogy

FORT SMITH PUBLIC LIBRARY

61 South Eighth Street

Fort Smith, AR 72901

Fax (501) 782-8571

Telephone (501) 783-0229

The Genealogy Department has a collection of books and microfilm to help people in their search for ancestral records. There are books from nearly every state as well as census indices from most states through 1850 and some through 1870, as well as the newly published 1880 Arkansas Soundex.

The permanent microfilm collection has all of Arkansas and most of Oklahoma census through 1910 plus many other partial states.

There is a special collections microfilm section containing county records from Sebastian County as well as some other counties of Arkansas and other states. This collection also includes some out-of-print books and a few special films concerning Indians and some war records indices, etc.

The department can order census film for all counties of every state that is not in the permanent collection through the year 1910 and a wide selection of other films. The microfiche collection includes the LDS International Genealogical Index, LDS Family Registry, LDS Surname and Locality Catalogs and other miscellaneous fiche.

The staff of the department is experienced in genealogy research and can give guidance to help obtain needed information.

There are patriotic society book sections as well as sections with some books on various wars. There are family files containing information patrons have placed for safe keeping and to share with others.

Records of births and deaths of Fort Smith from 1881-1965 as well as many funeral home and cemetery records of the area are available for the staff to help patrons. City directories of Fort Smith are also available.

FORT SMITH AREA FUNERAL HOME RECORDS

Frontier Researchers, A Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 2123, Fort Smith, AR 72902, has announced publication of *Master Index to Agent Funeral Records Book 1 - 14* by Wilma Jean Hoyle. The index lists names and citations to the records found in 14 volumes of Agent Funeral Home records, Sallisaw, Oklahoma. The records begin in August 1938. Photocopies of the records are on file at Fort Smith Public Library's Genealogy Section.

Wilma Jean Hoyle's index is \$15.00 plus \$2.00 postage and is available from Frontier Researchers.

BOURLAND-LOVING SOCIETY REUNION

The seventh National Bourland-Loving Society reunion will be held April 19-20-21, 1991 in Fort Smith. Joe Lloyd, 1426 Maple Shade Road, Alma, AR 72921, reunion arranger, says, "If you can come early to do research, that will be great."

The address for the editor of *The Bourland-Loving Society Bulletin* is: Helen M. Crawford, Rt. 2, Box 50. Hamilton, MS 39746.

THE OZARKS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Invites your participation in its 10th Annual Fall Conference, September 28 and 29, 1990, in University Plaza Hotel, St. Louis Street at John Q. Hammons Parkway, Springfield, Missouri. Registration \$20 if postmarked by September 15; \$25 thereafter. Cancellations received by September 22 will receive refund less \$1 handling fee. Make checks payable to Ozarks Genealogical Society, Inc. Mail to same, c/o Conference Registrar, P.O. Box 3494, Springfield, MO 65808.

For more information, phone: (417) 883-1778, (417) 881-5424 or (417) 672-3889.

1920 CENSUS RELEASE

(Reported in National Genealogical Society Newsletter, Vol. 15, No. 6, November-December 1989.)

The 1920 federal census is due to be opened for researchers Monday, 2 March 1992. A formal agreement in 1952 between the Bureau of the Census and National Archives said census records would remain closed for 72 years after enumeration. The 1920 census was enumerated on 1 January, but copy preparation time caused the opening to be set 2 months later than the official 72 years.

Don Wilson, Archivist of the United States and author of the *NSG Newsletter* says, "The 1920 census exists only on microfilm and consists of 2,076 rolls of population census schedules and 8,590 rolls of the Soundex index. Every state in the 1920 census is indexed."

A separate microfilm catalog for the 1920 census will be published in the spring of 1991. Prospective purchasers can place advance orders for complete sets of the entire census or entire states, to be shipped on opening day.

The National Archives Microfilm Rental Program will begin rentals of the 1920 film on opening day and advance orders can be placed after 1 September 1991.

In the meantime, search fees in unreleased census film has been increased from \$15 to \$25 for its age-and-citizen searching service. Additional copies are \$2 each and "full schedules" are an additional \$6 each. The new form number is BC-600. Write Bureau of Census, Pittsburg, KS 66762.

DOUTHIT ANCESTRY is published twice yearly. All subscriptions, address corrections, editorial contributions, photographs and queries should be sent to Editor Jan Douthit Weir, 3900 Bogey Court, Lake Valley, Longmont, CO 80503 or to Associate Editor Phyllis Fulk, 1321 Riverview Drive, Horseshoe Bend, AR 72512.

Kin Hunters Genealogical Publications & Research, P.O. Box 151, Russellville, KY 42276-0151 announces publication of a new book, *1900 Federal Census, Logan County, Kentucky*, and a reprinting of *Logan County, Kentucky Records, Volume 1*, which was compiled by the late Mrs. Lalla McCulley in 1969.

1900 Federal Census, Logan County, Kentucky. This census includes the household number, the name of each person in the household, his or her month and year of birth, state of birth, age, relationship to the head of household, how many years married, number of children born to the women and how many are still living, occupations. Anyone who has attempted to read the microfilm copy of this census knows how difficult it is to read. Much of it was next to impossible to read. Many hours were spent studying other records in an effort to correctly identify many, many of the names. Contains 600 pages including a surname index. Only a limited number of copies were made. Due to the expense of copying, etc., this publication will be sold at \$40.00 while they last.

Logan County, Kentucky Records, Volume 1, 1969, second printing 1979. Compiled by the late Mrs. Lalla McCulley. Mrs. McCulley prepared this publication many years ago and offered it for sale. Montgomery Vanderpool of *Kin Hunters* reports that he recently talked with Mrs. McCulley's daughter and because of the many requests for copies of the book, she asked him to reprint it. Some of the contents of this publication include: Origin of Logan & 12 counties formed from Logan; Early Logan County Statesmen; Revolutionary War Pension List for Logan County; Cemetery lists; Vital Statistics for Logan County, 1851-62; Revolutionary Ancestors Roll, Russellville Chapter DAR; Fragment of U.S. Census for Logan County 1850; One Hundred Years of Lewisburg - Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church; Logan County Will Book A 1792-1814; Logan County Deed Book A1 1792-1798; Logan County Marriage Records 1702-1818. Indexed. 85 pages, priced at \$11.00.

A Beginner's Guide to Family History Research has clearly written chapters about using home and family sources, organizing your records, using libraries and archives, and searching various governmental records.

Other chapters in this book, written by Desmond W. Allen and Carolyn E. Billingsley, have information about the proper use of correspondence, family reunions, past adoption procedures, and how to get professional assistance in tracing records. This volume, claims the authors, isn't "padded" with pages of forms and lists of libraries. It tells one where to get the proper information fast.

If you are already researching your family background but have run into "dead ends," this book, submits the authors, will help you take a different look at your work and offers an alternate perspective about the research processes.

A discount is offered on sales of ten or more copies of the volume. For your copy send \$5.00 (and \$1.50 for postage) to Research Associates, P.O. Box 122, Bryant, Arkansas 72022.

Ranks of Honor, A Regimental History of the Eleventh Arkansas Infantry Regiment and Poe's Cavalry Battalion, C.S.A., 1861-1865, by Colonel Jabez M. Smith. Available from Eagle Press, 12002 Pleasant Forest, Little Rock, AR 72212. Price \$33.00 plus shipping: One copy \$1.75, 75 cents each additional copy. Arkansas residents add 4% Sales Tax; Pulaski County residents, add 6% Sales Tax.

The Eleventh Arkansas Infantry Regiment was formed in July, 1861 and was made up of companies from Saline, Ouachita, Hot Spring, Columbia and Hempstead Counties.

The nucleus of Poe's Battalion was recruited from members of the Eleventh Arkansas captured at the fall of Port Hudson while waiting for mounts to join the regiment. The unit was formed after the surrender of Little Rock due to the concern of Major Poe and the Saline County men for their families being located so close to the enemy. Later the unit was designated as Logan's Arkansas Cavalry. The unit was later attached to Tappan's Brigade.

Steele's Retreat from Camden and The Battle of Jenkin's Ferry, by Edwin C. Bearss, Chief Historian, National Park Service, is also available from Eagle Press. Acid free paper, 200 pp., 13 illustrations, 11 maps, notes and ref., index, order of battles, dust jacket. Price \$32.00, shipping \$1.75 for one copy, each additional copy 75 cents. Arkansas residents add 4% State Sales Tax; Pulaski County residents add 6% Sales Tax.

Bearss has authored the only in-depth publication that completely documents General Frederick Steele's part in the ill-fated Red River Campaign masterminded by General Nathaniel P. Banks. This book also covers the battles of Poison Spring and Marks' Mills.

The History of Washington County, Arkansas, is now available from the Shiloh Museum, 118 West Johnson, Springdale, Arkansas 72764. Price includes Arkansas sales tax and postage and handling: Linen, \$78.47, and Leather bound \$268.00. If you prefer to pick up your book, the Shiloh Museum office hours are from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. and prices are \$69.50 and \$250.00 respectively, plus tax.

This is the first comprehensive history of the area in 100 years. The 1,700 pages include a general history of the county from prehistoric times to the present by Joseph C. Neal; 1,100 family histories, special sections on cornerstone families, businesses, schools, churches, clubs, and organizations, selected articles by Robert G. Winn, detailed index by surnames and place names. Cover has reproduction of Washington County collage painted by Anna Jones.

ACCELERATED INDEXING SYSTEMS INT., INC., P.O. Box 2127, Dept. 1790, Salt Lake City, Utah 84110, announces the publication of the *1790 Census Index*, with the following features:

First time the 1790 has ever been keypunched or indexed from original schedules — all in one set.

Includes names and corrections never published in original 1907 government publications.

First totally alphabetized index to the entire existing 1790.

Only official published bicentennial project exclusive of the 1790 census.

First and only index to coordinate the names with the page numbers as found on the National Archive films.

This will be a "Bicentennial Commemoration Set" of 13 volumes which will include the 1790 CT, ME, MD, NH, NY, PA, RI, SC, VT, and portions of DEL, ILL, IN, KY, MI, OH, TN, VA and more. Price of the set is \$825.00.

GENEALOGICAL PUBLISHING CO. announces the publication of two books for tracing family heritage in Scotland:

Scottish Family History, (219 pp., indexed, cloth, 1990. \$22.45 ppd.). David Moody examines the Scottish family in the context of the great movements of local history and reveals to the reader the sources and techniques for successful family history research in Scotland. While Moody does not overlook the conventional sources of genealogical

information, such as church records, government records and so on, what makes *Scottish Family History* unique is its consideration of the records of community life — the religions, the trades, the clan, industry, etc. — in the context of family history.

Scottish Local History (178 pp., indexed, cloth, 1990, \$22.45 ppd.), on the other hand, is an exhaustive survey of the vast records of Scottish cities, towns, villages and parishes. Among the topics treated in this work are: the methodology and records of Scottish local history, the Scottish family and community, dwellings and buildings, and the history of the individual villages, towns, and parishes. So comprehensive in its coverage is *Scottish Local History*, that no Scottish genealogical investigation can be complete without consulting it. The magazine, *Scottish Local History*, had this to say about Mr. Moody's book: "It is hard to praise it highly enough for it combines the accurate information we needed, set out in a sensible and readable way, with sensitive and shrewd advice about the nature and aims of local studies."

Letters and Inquiries

I am looking for information on my great-grandmother's brothers, John Norman JONES and Nathan (Bully) JONES, who were said to have been U.S. marshals or deputy marshals under Judge Parker. They lived around Cowington, I.T.

In the late 1800s my family went from Cass county and Fannin county, Texas to Indian Territory (now Haskell and LeFlore counties). They include Green L. COPLEN/COPELAND and his wife Elizabeth Sarah (Sally) JONES COPLEN, William C. COPLEN, wife Sarah (Sally) JONES, daughter of Jim JONES of Arkansas and Texas. Their daughter, Roaxie Ann COPELAND, born in Arkansas 15 March 1877.

Others who came to I.T. were my great-grandmother's brothers: Alfred Bud JONES, James T. JONES, John JONES, and Sebe JONES. Sisters were Annie JONES and Weltha JONES, who married John Washington COLE. Norman J. Davis, Rt. #1, Box 114A, Wilburton, OK 74578.

Does anyone have current address for Mrs. Norma JONES, a WILSEY family researcher whose former address was Box 34-A, Uniontown, AR 72955? Jackie Uhles, 1313 W. 12th, Sulphur, OK 73086.

Need grandparents, parents and siblings for Margaret Jane NORTON, born 4 November 1846 in Fort Smith, Arkansas. She married Charles VAN SICKLE about 1864/1868.

Enclosed is \$10.00 for subscription and SASE. Tyma Clark Sellers, Rt. 2, Box 82, Mammoth Spring, AR 72554.

Looking for information on Andrew J. STANLEY, born December 1834 in Arkansas. His father was from England and his mother from South Carolina. Beverly Anderson, 10100 Quince St. N.W., Coon Rapids, MN 55433.

Searching for burial places and descendants of my great-grandparents, Gus (died ca 1861), and Tempy MASON HOPPER who are listed on the 1860 Sebastian County census in Center township. Children: Catherine, b ca 1834; Leb, b ca 1840; Tabitha, b ca 1845; Laurel Trousdail (known as T. HOPPER) b ca 1850; and Margaret, b 1853. Cora Lee Hopper Baughman, Rt. #3, Box 116, Harrison, AR 72601.

Tracing McKISICK family in Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas, who came to Arkansas in the early 1830s from Bedford county, TN with their friends the DICKSONS. Sharon M. Hart, P.O. Box 1301, Grove, OK 74344.

Information needed on the VANDERPOOL surname and its variants for publication in the *Vanderpool Newsletter*. While you are researching your ancestors you may come across the VANDERPOOL surname in wills, deeds or other records. I will refund postage and copying charges. The *Vanderpool Newsletter* is a 50 page quarterly. For additional information contact: Montgomery Vanderpool, P.O. Box 151, Russellville, KY 42276-0151.

I need information on a Dr. James Barney WILLIAMS. He would have practiced medicine about 1900-1917; was in Fulton county, Ark. and moved to McCurtain county, OK. I was told by family members he received his training through a correspondence course from Fort Smith, Ark. Diane Broadrick, 1402 Country Lane, Allen, TX 75002.

We are researching our AKIN and RUCKER ancestors who lived in Crawford county, Ark. 1850 to ca 1875. Vic and Pat Castens, 525 East Washington, Pittsburg, KS 66762.

1890 Newspapers

FORT SMITH ELEVATOR

June 27, 1890 - December 19, 1890

Excerpted from microfilm at the Fort Smith Public Library by Mary Lou Jacobsen, Thelma Wray and Don Marquette. Typed by Juanita Dyrhood and Amelia Martin.

Editor's Note: Newspapers are one of our most accurate accounts of history because they are recorded as history is being made. The FORT SMITH ELEVATOR carried State, Indian Territory, Choctaw Council, National and International as well as local news. Local news included personal items, Chamber of Commerce, Quorum, Circuit and U.S. Court proceedings, Railroad Time Tables, serial stories, poetry, and advertising — which all makes for fascinating reading.

Obviously six months of news cannot all be included in space available here, so the excerpts have been limited to include some of the more interesting articles about Fort Smith people and events, interspersed only occasionally with an item from state, Indian nation, national or international news. Serious researchers of this time period should refer directly to the microfilm from which these excerpts were taken.

During this 1890 era Benjamin Harrison, a Republican, was president of the United States and J.P. Eagle, a Democrat, was Governor of Arkansas.

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June 27, 1890

Mr. Patrick O'Shea and Miss Bettie Doyle were married at the Catholic church on Tuesday morning - last by Rev. L. Smythe. After the ceremony the bridal party repaired to the residence of the bride's mother, Mrs. Thomas Doyle, where a reception was held during the day. We have known Miss Bettie from her infancy, and extend congratulations to our friend Pat for securing for a life companion so true and worthy a young lady. On the other hand we congratulate Miss Bettie on her good luck in securing for a protector so good & true a man as Pat O'Shea, who is one of Fort Smith's most enterprising and upright business men. The *Elevator* wishes Pat and his bride long life replete with happiness and prosperity.

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July 11, 1890

DEATH OF E.D. GREGORY

Rev. E.D. Gregory, pastor of the First Presbyterian church of this city died near San Antonio, Texas, on the night of the 3rd. His remains were brought to this city and interred Sunday afternoon in Oak Grove cemetery.

Mr. Gregory came to the city almost two years ago in response to a call to the Pastorate of the First

Presbyterian church. Something less than a year ago he was married to Miss Emily B. Farrow, of this city. Shortly afterward a disease of pulmonary nature making its appearance in his system, he went to Southern Texas, where he remained until the time of his death, vainly endeavoring to regain his health.

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FAMILY SKELETON

One should be very tender in one's handling of the skeletons in other people's closets. Whenever you enter a house no matter how handsome, or how cheerful it is, be assured that the closet and the skeleton are there. Do not only be content to not drag the skeleton out, but steer clear of it, go around it. If you hear its bones clanking, shut your ears; if some thoughtless or cruel hand tears the door open, shut your eyes. To the people in that house that skeleton is a living sorrow, a daily horror, and seldom it is their fault that it is there. However young you may be, however good you may be, however pure may be the atmosphere of your house, there is a little secret closet in it; and you don't like to think that any one save God knows what is in it. When you are in other people's houses, remember the closet and its grim occupant in your own house.

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July 18, 1890

DEATH OF MRS. MARY A. DOYLE

Mrs. Mary A. Doyle, an old citizen of Fort Smith, died on the 10th and was buried in the Catholic cemetery on the 11th, Rev. Lawrence Smythe conducting the obsequies. Mrs. Doyle was the sister of Messrs. E.C. and Joe Lanigan and leaves two daughters and two sons. Peace to her ashes.

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MARRIED

In this city on Thursday evening July 10, by Rev. A.J. Massey, Mr. A.J. Thrash, of the Boston Store, this city, and Mrs. Leila Brodie, of Van Buren. The *Elevator* extends congratulations, and hopes there is much happiness and prosperity in store for Mr. and Mrs. Thrash.

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August 1, 1890

Our population has increased just four hundred percent since 1880. The population of the State will show about 60 percent in the same time. We say this is a fair showing compared with Kansas, which it is estimated has fallen off 200,000 since 1885, and some of her young cities have 33 1/3 percent less population than they had five years ago.

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A FORMER FORT SMITH LAWYER DEAD

Col. William Glass, at one time a prominent lawyer of this city, died at New Orleans on the 21st ult. Col. Glass was at one time the law partner of Gen. W.L. Cabell and married Miss Sue Rector. Although a brilliant man, endowed with extraordinary abilities, he allowed strong drink to get the better of him, and left here about 1873 never to return.

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August 8, 1890

THE POTEAU BOTTOM BARBECUE AND PICNIC

One of the most enjoyable gatherings of the season was the grand barbecue and picnic given by the people residing in Poteau bottom, at Watts' ferry on the Arkansas river a short distance from this city. There were twelve or fifteen hundred people present and everybody is loud in praise of the management and general conduct of the affair. "Tock" Hood, W.B. Cantwell and E.C. Robertson were among the prime movers in getting up the affair, and exerted themselves throughout the day in making everyone feel at home. The beef, pork and mutton was barbecued to perfection, and there was more than sufficient for all present. Music, dancing and all manner of amusements were provided, and everything passed off in the most pleasant manner. Many attended from this city, and all say they had a big time.

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August 15, 1890

ANTON NEIS, ANOTHER OF FORT SMITH'S OLD PIONEER CITIZENS, PASSES AWAY

By an unfortunate oversight we failed last week to mention the death of Anton Neis, one of our oldest citizens, who passed away on the 2d of the present month, after a lingering illness. Mr. Neis was born in Bavaria, near Alsace, France, in 1818 making him 72 years of age at the time of his death. He came to Fort Smith in 1844, when the place was a mere village and frontier military post, and this has been his home since that time. In 1845 he married Miss Catherine Goetz*, and together, by their industry, they built up quite a little fortune and reared a family of five children. Mrs. Neis died in 1876, and four of the five children survive their father — **Mrs. B.L.E. Bonneville, Mrs. Charles Robinson, Anton and Albert Neis. (*Goodspeed, Biographical Index, shows maiden name as Catherine Sengel.) (**Widow of Gen. Bonneville, Bonneville House on No. 7th her home.)

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AN ATTEMPT AT SUICIDE

Mrs. Winsett, wife of Paul Winsett, a hack driver in the employ of Wm. Schulte, last Friday attempted to kill herself by taking rough-on-rats. Shortly after she had taken the dose her condition was discovered and medical aid was summoned, which saved her life. Mrs. Winsett and her husband had quarrelled, and she took a dose of rough-on-rats under the belief that it would cause her husband to be more considerate in his behavior.

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PRIVILEGES FOR LABOR DAY

The bids for ground privileges for the great Labor Day celebration, to be held at Scheutzen Park, August 28, will be received at the K of L hall, Thursday night Aug. 21. The amount of purchase money or gilt-edge security must accompany each bid. The privileges will be lunch stand, cigar and tobacco stand, peanut, tamale and Weiner-wurst stands, knife racks, shooting gallery and swings.

J.G. Wilkinson, Chairman Com.

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ST. SCHOLASTICA'S ACADEMY, SHOAL CREEK, ARK. CONDUCTED BY THE BENEDICTINE SISTERS

This Institute is located in a very healthy and desirable part of Arkansas in Logan County, near Spadra. The course of instruction embraces every useful and ornamental branch of female education, especially music. Every attention is paid to forming the moral and manners of the pupils. Difference of religion is no obstacle to admission, provided the pupil conforms to the regulations of the institution. Tuition, Boarding, washing, and bedding, per semester of 5 months, \$75.

For further information apply to Mother Superior.

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August 20, 1890

The first bale of cotton was received at Pine Bluff on the 16th from New Edinburg, Cleveland county, it sold for 17½ cents.

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NOT CANDIDATES

Mr. F.M. McLendon, the gentleman whose name was placed on the prohibition ticket for sheriff sends us word that he knew nothing about it, and that he is not a candidate. Mr. McClendon is a Democrat, expects to vote a straight Democratic ticket and hopes all his friends will do the same thing.

We also understand that Rev. Alexander knew nothing of his nomination, and is not a candidate. His son is our authority for this statement.

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Mr. & Mrs. James M. Sparks have returned from a visit to Northern watering places.

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Sheriff John F. Williams has been in the city several days putting in his best licks for the Democratic Party.

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August 22, 1890

"ARE YOU FIXED?"

ROBERT BARLING SHOOTS FARREL DAILY FOR INSULTING HIS WIFE

On Friday last quite a sensation was created on South Sixth street by the shooting of Farrel Daily, Jr., by Robert Barling, Jr. It appears that on the day previous young Daily had visited the home of Mr. Barling on some pretext or other, and Barling not being at home, Daily, who was intoxicated, grossly insulted Mrs. Barling. The wife related the conduct of Daily to her husband when he came home that night, and on Friday, he fixed himself and kept a

lookout for his man. About 10:30 a.m., young Daily came along on a pony and the two men met in the street opposite the Annex saloon. Barling asked Daily about the matter, and stepping back said, "Are you fixed Farrel?" and the next instant fired, the ball entering the right breast between the fourth and fifth ribs, going through the upper lobe of the lung and passing out under the shoulder blade. Daily attempted to dismount from his pony, but fell, and everyone who saw the shot supposed he was killed. He was picked up and taken to the Annex saloon, the blood gushing from the wound in a stream. Medical aid was at once summoned, and the wound temporarily dressed to stop the bleeding, after which the wounded man walked to a carriage and was conveyed to his home.

Barling at once surrendered and gave bond in the sum of \$1000. He was to have been examined Monday before Esquire Greer, but waived examination and gave bond for his appearance at the next term of circuit court in the sum of \$1000.

Public sentiment seems to be on the side of Barling.

Daily is recovering from his wound and will likely be out in a couple of weeks.

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LABOR DAY GRAND BALLOON ASCENSION AND THRILLING PARACHUTE JUMP

The united labor organizations of this city and Western Arkansas have entered into contract with Prof. W.H. LeRoy, the dauntless king of the air, to give one of his thrilling balloon ascensions and parachute descents at the German Park on Labor Day, 28th of this month, the feat to be performed between 10 am and 7 pm. Large numbers of people will be here from all parts of the country and all railroads running in here will give special rates to visitors. The local organizations are doing everything for the proper entertainment of the crowd, and it will be one of the greatest days for general enjoyment the country has ever had. LeRoy's balloon ascension and perilous jump is in itself worth more than the loss of time and expense incurred in getting here.

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August 25, 1890

DEATH OF DR. JAMES E. JOHNSON

On Sunday night, August 3, Sebastian County sustained the loss of one of her best and most worthy citizens, in the death of Dr. James E. Johnson, in his home at Greenwood. He was 43 years of age and leaves a wife and several children. He was born in Monroe County, Mississippi, in 1847. In 1884 he moved from Polk County, Arkansas to Sebastian County, residing for a time in Central, from which point he removed to Lavaca, where he practiced medicine until January 1889, and then moved to Greenwood. While residing in Polk County, he was elected to the Legislature and served with distinction. He was a soldier in the Confederate army during the latter part of the war... He was a mason in good standing and was buried with Masonic honors.

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September 5, 1890

Thursday morning, the 28th, James Sinnot was killed on the Frisco near Cummings Bros. mill, this city... Sinnot said, before his death, that he was from Ruthorford, Texas, and that he had come to this section in search of work... He requested that notice of his death be given J.O. Manning of Crafton, Texas. He was 22 years old.

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Mr. John Wren left Monday for Sedalia, Mo., to visit his mother who he has not seen for more than thirty years.

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WANTED

A good, strong boy, 13 to 15 years old, who wants to learn butchering business can find employment at H. Wendland's, corner of Pine and 11th streets.

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September 12, 1890

A YOUTHFUL BRIDE

Mr. William Reed and Miss Lillie Ellington were married near Enterprise, this county, on Tuesday, 2nd inst., by Rev. N.B. McNabb. There is nothing unusual in this announcement, for people marry and are given in marriage every day; but the age of the bride is what made the neighbors gossip. She is 12 years old, though her age was given as 14 when the license was applied for. The bridegroom Mr. Reed is 30 years old, but has been married once before. We understand Mrs. Reed had been attending school until within a short time before the wedding. The marriage took place with the knowledge and full consent of her parents.

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Mr. Geo. Tilles has returned from a trip to Mexico.

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On last Friday morning, September 5, Mrs. Annie Davies, wife of Mr. C.W. Davies, departed this life at her residence on Towson... The deceased leaves a husband, two beautiful little children and a brother, Mr. Joseph Coane.

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Jake, the 3 year old son of Mr. Geo. T. Sparks, who was so ill a few days ago, has almost entirely recovered.

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September 19, 1890

DEATH OF MRS. FRANTZ

Mrs. Elizabeth Frantz, wife of Mr. Emile Frantz, died in this city in the presence of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. P. Bruder, on Friday, the 26th ult... was in 25th year of her life... leaves two children, one 31 months old, the other 9 months old...

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BUILDING ROCK FOR SALE

We have for sale the old court house foundation on sixth street. There is in this foundation a very fine lot of dressed and rough stone ready to put into a new building. If you wish to buy a choice lot of rock already quarried and dressed call on

Carnall Bros., Real Estate Dealers

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MARRIED

Bollinger-O'Brien — at Pierce City, Mo. on Wednesday morning last, Mr. Will Bollinger, of this city, to Miss Stacy O'Brien of Pierce City.

Immediately after the ceremony Mr. & Mrs. Bollinger left for St. Louis on a wedding trip, and will return here in a few days.

Will is one of Fort Smith's most popular young business men, while his bride is a young lady of true worth and intelligence.

Both are to be congratulated on their new relationship and the *Elevator* wishes them a long life of happiness and prosperity.

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Gass-Groesbeck — at St. John's Church, in this city, on Wednesday evening, September 17, by Rev. George F. Degen. Mr. James B. Gass, of this city, and Miss Jennie A. Groesbeck, of Kalamazoo, Michigan.

After the ceremony a few invited guests assembled at the residence of Col. S.B. Wattles, where a reception was held, and congratulations were offered. Mr. Gass is our city engineer, and the bride has for some time been the guest of Miss Wattles. May success attend them through life.

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VIRGINIA HOUSE

Mrs. High can now be found nicely fixed up on 4th street No. 113, near Avenue, and wants all her old patrons to look her up when in the city.

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September 20, 1890

Mr. Will Luce left Saturday for Harvard College, at which place he has been a student for some time.

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A DELICATE OPERATION

Last Sunday morning there was performed in St. John's Hospital, one of the most delicate operations known in surgery. Four years ago Edith Villyard, of Russellville, wounded her right eye with the rib of an umbrella. In time orbital aneurism was produced, greatly to the distress of the patient. She was brought to Dr. G.W. Smith, of this city, by Dr. Prewitt of Russellville, for an operation, and last Sunday morning Drs. Bailey, Smith, Prewitt and Stephens operated by cutting down and tying the common carotid artery. This is the first operation of the kind ever performed in this state. The patient, 13 years old, stands every chance of recovery.

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Among the inmates of the crap dive raided Friday night by officer Cox was Ed McDaniel, late Republican candidate for Justice of the peace.

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October 3, 1890

Wheat, postmaster of the House of Representatives, is in a bad way on account of corruptions practiced in his office since it came under his charge. This, however, is nothing out of the way in Mr. Wheat's party. Bribery, corruption and boodleism are what it was built upon and upon what it exists today.

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SERIOUS RUNAWAY

On Tuesday evening last a dray team belonging to Meady Cabell, colored, and driven by a negro boy, ran away on Second street and came in collision with a mule attached to a street car. The wagon tongue struck the mule in the breast tearing a frightful hole in the animal, which fell in its tracks and died almost instantly. The boy, son of Frank Green, was thrown from the wagon when the collision took place and appeared to be pretty badly hurt, but was able to get home on a dray and received proper attention. The team was caught after running for some distance and neither the horses or wagon were injured.

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WANTED

IMMEDIATELY 500 GOOD COTTON PICKERS BY THE FARMERS OF WEBBERS FALLS BOTTOM, CHEROKEE NATION.

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October 10, 1890

The stage running between Eureka Springs and Harrison was held up and robbed by masked men on the night of the 29th ult. The amount of money secured is not known.

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COTTON PICKERS WANTED

Cotton pickers, both men and women, are wanted on the plantation of Capt. W.S. Hood, near this city. Cabins furnished. Pay the usual price. Five or six hundred acres to pick.

W.S. Hood, Fort Smith

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October 17, 1890

MARRIED

Mr. Frank Dunlap and Miss Bertie Fleming were married Wednesday night at the Central Methodist church in this city. Rev. W.J. Massey performed the ceremony...

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STATE NEWS

There is talk of building a free bridge across the Arkansas River at Little Rock.

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Clara Bradley, a Van Buren girl of "Sporting" proclivities, suicided last week on the Morphine route. She had a quarrel with her lover.

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GENERAL NEWS

The house in which Abraham Lincoln was born will be removed to the World's Fair in Chicago.

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The people of Dallas, Texas are rejoicing over the find of a heavy stream of artesian water in the court house square in that city. Its flow is estimated at 2,000,000 gallons per day.

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The population of Arkansas, according to official figures, 1,325,385. This shows an increase, since 1880 of 40 percent.

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LOCAL NEWS

The storm Sunday night blew down the smoke stack of the Fort Smith Furniture Company.

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The attendance at the fair from the Indian country is larger than ever before. The hotels are crowded.

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The members of St. John's Parish of this city have under consideration the erection of a handsome stone church building costing \$25,000.

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October 24, 1890

At Van Buren, on the 15th, Constable Moore accidentally discharged his gun and the charge tore off his left hand.

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The Magnolia and Meriden Railroad was incorporated last week. Capital Stock, \$250,000. Length of road, 25 miles.

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The State of Arkansas was last week awarded the premium for the best collection of apples on exhibition at the American Institute, New York.

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Judge B.J. Brown last week sold his plantation, which lies just below Van Buren, for \$25,000. It was purchased by Col. Geo. Ferguson, of Fayetteville.

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Bradley County cotton has taken the first premium at the World's Exposition, at the Louisiana State Fair, at the South Arkansas Fair, at the Fordyce Fair, and probably others.

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LOCAL NEWS

Capt. Blakely and Mr. D.H. Cheney left Wednesday for Louisville, Ky. to receive the new steamer just being completed there for the up-river trade. Capt. Blakely will return with the boat in two or three weeks.

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Old Uncle Johnny Wright is up again after a serious attack of fever. The old gentleman is now over 98 years old and is getting somewhat feeble.

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Miss Lula Krone, of this city, was married on Tuesday last at Paris, Texas to Mr. Ben C. Duffy, formerly of Little Rock. They will make their home in Texas.

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Joseph H. Merrell was enrolled as a member of the Bar on Friday last.

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Deputy U.S. Marshal Wm. T. Hardin, Cameron, I.T. pursued two whisky peddlers to a point near Bengal, Choctaw Nation where he was mortally wounded and died Monday night.

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JOHN A. O'LEARY

Died at the home of his brother, Tom O'Leary, in this city, Wednesday night, John A. O'Leary, aged 22. He was born in Pennsylvania...

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October 24, 1890

BOUDINOT MEMORIAL

On Monday morning at 9:30 o'clock, members of the bar and friends of the late Elias C. Boudinot met in the United States court room for the purpose of passing suitable resolutions to the memory of the departed Indian statesman and lawyer who had died on 27th September at his home in this city.

Col. Ben T. DuVal, a life-long friend of Boudinot, delivered a lengthy and fitting eulogy on the life and character of his friend, relating many incidents in his early career. Col. DuVal was followed by the various members of the bar in turn, each of whom paid handsome tribute to their late brother. The following resolutions were adopted...

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Quorum court met Saturday, Judge Blythe presiding. The following justices were present: Edmondson, Stillman, Vance, Grier, Conley, Wiegand, Surat, Satterfield, Humphrey.

A committee to investigate accounts reported they found the report of each officer correct and that all money had been paid to the proper authorities... no school tax recommended for this year... a city tax of five mills on the dollar be levied upon the assessed valuation of all real and personal property, within the city of Fort Smith for the year. A motion to carry a 2½ mills county tax was carried unanimously.

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MADAME BLANCHE

The world's greatest mind-reader, is now in our midst and is located in the LeGrand Hotel. Madame Blanch is one of the best clairvoyants that ever visited our city. She can read your life from the cradle to the grave...

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November 7, 1890

STATE NEWS

James R. Jones, an old citizen of Van Buren, and one of the first to volunteer in defense of the South in 1861, died last week.

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The Medical Department of the A.I.U. (Arkansas Industrial University) began its annual session at Little Rock on the 5th with an attendance of 30 students.

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Bud McCoy, leader of the notorious McCoy Gang, was killed in Logan County, W. VA. last Friday evening by members of the Hatfield Gang. Eighteen bullet holes were found in his body. McCoy is known to have killed 18 men in his lifetime.

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November 14, 1890

STATE NEWS

The Capital Stock of the Citizen's Bank of Van Buren has been increased from \$75,000 to \$900,000.

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The entire business portion of Hartman, Johnson County, including the depot and 100 bales of cotton, was burned on the night of the 5th.

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President Harrison has issued a proclamation setting apart Thursday, November 27th, as a day of thanksgiving and prayer.

The candidacy of Col. DuVal for the Supreme Court leaves no one in the race for the majority but Mr. C.M. Cooke, who now has a very clear track before him. The mayor to be elected in April.

Col. Thos B. Price, son of the late Confederate General Price, was shot and killed on board a train near Sedalia, Mo., on the 5th by Judge John Higgins.

Stanley, the African explorer, has arrived at New York, accompanied by his wife.

Geo. W. Peck, editor of "Pecks Sun" of Milwaukee, and author of the once noted "Bad Boy" stories, has been elected governor of Wisconsin.

Fort Smith again has occasion to mourn the death of one of her eminent citizens. Last Wednesday morning, Judge M.H. Sandels, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of this state, breathed his last after a lingering illness. His age was 39 years and three months.

J.W. Hart was arrested Monday for attempting to get away with a horse and saddle belonging to W.F. Quinley of Hackett.

Judge Humphrey and Mr. C.E. Wagner have formed a partnership and have rooms in the Hallwell Building.

Mr. and Mrs. John Carnall left Monday for Hot Springs, where they will probably remain some time.

From Mr. A.M. Muse we learn that the school of Lavaca will move into its new building Monday.

Col. W.L. Morris, of this city, will sever his connection with the *Times* on the 24th inst. to take charge of the Greenwood school. The people of Greenwood will find in Prof. Morris all that goes to make up a first class teacher and gentleman.

A CONFLICT

The clash between Mayor Baker and Police Judge Murphy as to the former's right to remit fines is now before Judge Parker's court and will be acted upon the 13th of next month. Mrs. Marquarnt, the party over whom the difficulty arose, is at home in this city now, and has, we learn, since the trouble began, given birth to a daughter.

"DOCK" FALCONER IS DEAD

... George Comages Falconer, son of W.A. and M.E. Falconer, was born July 16, 1848, on the very premises where he passed away on November 1, 1890... a victim to that relentless foe to humanity, consumption... He deliberately arranged his earthly affairs for the welfare of his wife and four little girls...

About 1874 he married Miss Lucy Beavers, sister of M.M. Beavers of Waldron, and V.V. Beavers of Franklin county, who survives him, with four children...

EDMUND McCURTAIN

Edmund McCurtain died suddenly on Tuesday morning last... in Skullyville, Choctaw Nation... McCurtain was among the most prominent men in Choctaw county and a leader among his people... His death is greatly deplored in this city where he had many friends...

He served two consecutive terms as Governor, succeeding his late brother, Jackson McCurtain. He has several times been a delegate to Washington, and during his eventful life has held nearly every office of importance in the gift of his Nation, being a member of the council at the time of his death... He is of a noted family, whose names can be seen through the pages of Choctaw history for a generation or more...

The one brother left is Green McCurtain, present treasurer of the Choctaw Nation, and to him and the family of Edmund, the *Elevator* extends the hand of sympathy.

DEATH OF MISS MARY B. NEILL

Miss Mary B. Neill died at her home on North 13th last Monday evening... Her mother and sister, the latter Mrs. S.P. Day, reside in this city... Her age was 37 years... interred in City Cemetery.

MARRIED

Mr. P.A. Ball and Miss Josie Gariloh were married on Thursday evening last at the Baptist church by Rev. Kincaid...

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November 28, 1890

STATE NEWS

The Batesville Electric Light Company was organized last week. Capital Stock \$100,000.

The City Council of Arkadelphia has closed a contract with a company to put in water works, electric light plant and street railway.

The street railway lines of Pine Bluff have been consolidated, the Citizen's Line selling out to Wiley Jones, the colored capitalist, and a stock company. Wiley Jones is general manager of the consolidated line. Its Capital stock is \$250,000.

A man named Kelley last week visited Atkins accompanied by a woman claiming to be his wife, and shortly after their arrival they behaved in such a manner that the people of the town gave them a coat of tar and feathers and ordered them to leave.

The Indians of South Dakota still have a threatening attitude. The old chief, Sitting Bull, is at the bottom of most of the threatening trouble. His case should have been settled years ago with a few feet of rope or a few ounces of lead.

Mr. J.R. Tolbert, editor of the *Coal Hill Banner*, was in the city Saturday.

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Col. J.S. Dunham, editor of the *Van Buren Press*, was in the city yesterday.

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Col. Ben T. DuVal is in Little Rock consulting his friends on his chance of securing the Supreme Judgeship.

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Mr. William Hendrix, who left home last September with his wife, intending to locate permanently at Corpus Christi, Texas, returned on Saturday last, bag and baggage, and will probably go into business here. He says Corpus Christi is a good place, but Fort Smith is better.

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Rev. B.H. Pierson, of Witcherville, Sebastian County, will probably become a candidate for chaplain of the senate. If an irreproachable character, coupled with first class ability and a long and honorable life of usefulness avail anything, he will surely be elected. He has the best wishes of the *Elevator* for success.

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December 5, 1890

The undertakers of the state met in convention at Little Rock last week and organized the Arkansas Undertakers Association, adopting a constitution, by-laws, etc. Chas. A. Birnie, of Fort Smith, was chosen president.

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A wreck occurred on the Iron Mountain Railroad at Oliphant Junction, on the morning of the 26th. Fifteen cars were derailed, and a few of them burned. The loss is about \$50,000.

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Bill Pitts, a deputy marshal of the Paris District was killed on Blue River, in the Choctaw Nation, on the night of the 30th by three Indian whisky peddlers. Pitts was attempting to arrest the men, and while parleying with them they took his gun from him and shot him.

— • —

Dave Andre, convicted at Tahlequah last month of the murder of John Poorbear, and sentenced to be hanged on the 10th of December, was pardoned last week by chief Mayes. The pardon was issued on the recommendations of citizens on the ground that he did not have a fair trial.

— • —

Col. Fishback has been in Fayetteville this week attending the opening exercises of the Arkansas Industrial University (Ed: Now the University of Arkansas).

— • —

Col. B.T. DuVal went to Fayetteville Monday to attend the opening exercises of the University, in which he took part, delivering an address.

— • —

Col. M. Stoddard, formerly of this city is resident secretary of the American Safety Co., in St. Louis.

— • —

Col. W.T. Bourne, an old resident of this city died Monday at the residence of Mr. J.H. Hamilton, on Fifth and Oak Streets. Col. Bourne was born in England, but spent the greater part of his life in the South. During the war he served in the Confederacy, and achieved a reputation as one of the bravest of the brave.

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December 12, 1890

TIN WEDDING WITH A SURPRISING ACCOMPANIMENT

The tin wedding of Mr. and Mrs. O.D. Weldon was celebrated at their residence in this city Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock. There was a large number of friends in attendance, all of whom joined in expressing congratulations and extending wishes for future happiness.

But the tin wedding celebration carried with it one feature that had not been laid down on the regular programme. Just at 8:30 o'clock Rev. A.J. Kincaid, pastor of the First Baptist church, stepped into the parlor and took his stand in the center of the room. At almost the same moment the doors of a side room were thrown open and Mr. James W. Meek and Miss Gertie Brown stepped before him as candidates for the matrimonial state. In a short and impressive ceremony Mr. Kincaid pronounced the couple man and wife. This was a complete surprise to all but a few present. After the ceremony the couple were the recipients of warmest congratulations.

The spread that accompanied the entertainment was elaborate. Words cannot do it justice.

Mr. Meek is well known in this city as one of our most successful young business men. The bride is a sister of Mrs. O.D. Weldon and a young lady of more than ordinary beauty and accomplishments.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

December 19, 1890

FORT SMITH PRESSED BRICK COMPANY

Missouri Capital and Fort Smith Clay Unite

For some months past, enterprising and far reaching capitalists and experienced brick men of St. Louis have been experimenting with Fort Smith clays for the purpose of the manufacture on a large scale here of first class pressed brick and tileing if the clays met the proper requirements. All that could be desired has been the result of the investigations, and now it is our pleasure to chronicle the fact of the incorporation in St. Louis last week of the Fort Smith Pressed Brick and Tile Co., with its domicile in St. Louis and under the superb manner of G.N. Timmerman as president... The company has bought of Whaton Carnall 67 acres of ground, of Oak Park Land Company 30 acres, and of J.P. Tilly 10 acres...

May the year 1891 bring to our city many repetitions of the day which planted here the Fort Smith Pressed Brick and Tile Company.

Annual Business Sponsors

<p>Beals Advertising Agency 220 North Greenwood Avenue Fort Smith, Arkansas 72901</p>	<p>McDonald's Restaurant 3001 McKinley Avenue Fort Smith, Arkansas 72901</p>
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<p>Jim Grizzle Tire Company 3002 Towson Avenue Fort Smith, Arkansas 72901</p>	<p>Taliano's Restaurant 201 North 14th Street Fort Smith, Arkansas 72901</p>

Index

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.
 "----" - for nickname or special emphasis.
 (-) - hyphen denotes main character(s) whose name(s) appear throughout story.

Abbott, Johnnye Blanche, 26
 Accelerated Index Systems Int., Inc., 35
 Adams, Sister Geraldine, 27
 Akin-Rucker Ancestors, 36
 Albers, Toni, 32
 Albertson, Martha, 25
 Alexander, Rev., 38
 Allen, Christine Elmore, 26
 Allen, Desmond W., 35
 Altieri, Jim, 30
 Anderson, Beverly, 36
 Anderson, Nellie, 5
 Andre, Dave, 43
 Arsenault, Ronald, 25
 Armour, C.W.L., 7
 Armstrong, Henry, 10
 Ashing, Tiny, 25
 Ayers, John, 1, 7
 Bailey, Dr., 40
 Baker, C. Ray, 2, 11, 20
 Baker, Mayor, 42
 Baker, (Patrolman), 23
 Baker, Toy, 11
 Ball, P.A., 42
 Ballard, George Deiser, 26
 Banks, Nathaniel P., 35
 Barber, Mrs. E.E., Jr.,
 (Margaret Ann), 4, 20
 Barling, Robert, 38
 Barnes, Prudence, 26
 Barr, Helen L., 26
 Bass, Clara, 26
 Bassett, Robert, 26
 Bassham, Howard, 11
 Batterson, Rebecca E., 26
 Battle of Jenkins' Ferry, 35
 Baugham, Cora Lee Hopper, 36
 Beall, Mrs. Jim Ray, 26
 Bearss, Edwin C., 35
 Beauty Queens, por 11
 Beavers, Lucy, 42
 Beavers, M.M., 42
 Beavers, V.V., 42
 Beckham, Billy Wayne, 27
 Bedell, Conaly, 1, 2
 Beginner's Guide to Family History
 Research, 35
 Bell, Opal, 26
 Berd, Phyllis Muriel, 26
 Berdelle, Louis, 6
 Biggs, Clara M., 27
 Billingsley, Carolyn, 35
 Birkett, Pat, 1, 2
 Birnie, Chas. A., 43
 Bishop, Robert "Bob", 25
 Blackmore, Tricia Sue, 26
 Blair, Melissa Mary, 26
 Blakely, Capt. (Wm.), 41
 Blanche, Madame, 41
 Blythe, (Judge), 41
 Bodine, Evalene, 26
 Bollinger, Will, 40
 Bonneville, Mrs. B.L.E., 38
 Booker, Edgar W., 26
 Bost, Roger, 32
 Boudinot, Elias C., 41
 Bourland, Fagan, 6, 7, 21-23
 Bourland, Fagan, Jr., 6
 Bourland-Loving Society, 34
 Bourne, W.T., 43
 Box, H.F., "Red", 27
 Boyd, Doris Thompson, 26
 Boyette, Howell K., 25
 Boynton, Stribling, 12-20
 Bracken, Virgil, 12-20
 Bradley, Clara, 40
 Bradley, Mary Jane Turnham, 25
 Brakebill, Quinton W., 26
 Brancecum, Grace Janet, 25
 Brannon, Maude C., 27
 BRB Contractors, Inc., 17
 Breaux, Sister Placide, 25
 Broadrick, Diane, 36
 Brodie, Leila, 37
 Brown, B.J., 41
 Brown, Gertie, 43
 Brown, Katherine, 25
 Brown, Michael Ross, 27
 Brown, Ralph Paul, 26
 Brown, Rebecca Lynn, 27
 Brown, Skylar Lee Anne, 27
 Brown, Dr. Walter, 28
 Browning, Dr. Iben, 20
 Bruce, Virginia, 1, 2
 Bruder, M/M P., 39
 Buell, Cheryl, 32
 Buell, Larry, 32
 Bumpers, Ella Allean, 25
 Burns, Catherine, 11
 Burrough-Uerling-Brasuell, 17
 Burrough, David L., 12-20
 Burrough, Larry, 12-20
 Burt, Mary Louise, 25
 Byers, Florence, 11
 Bynum, Gloria, 26
 Byrd, Martha, 25
 Byrum, Izona, 26
 Cabell, Meady, 40
 Caldwell, Jimmie Delle, por 5
 Campbell, Gladys, 25
 Campbell, Kenneth Wayne, 27
 Campbell, Mary, 8, 20
 Canfield, Jerry L., 12-20
 Cantrell, Henry A., 25
 Cantwell, W.B., 38
 Carnall Bros., 39
 Carnall, John, 42
 Carnall, Wharton, 43
 Carr, Andy, 6
 Carroll, Dee, 29
 Carson, Howard L., 26
 Castens, Pat, 36
 Castens, Vic, 36
 Castleberry, Augusta, 26
 Cathey, Christopher, 25
 Cathey, Earlene, 25
 Cathey, Jody, 25
 Caughman, Jewell Leona, 26
 Chamblin, Dr. Don W., 27
 Cheney, D.H., 41
 Clayton, W.H.H., 4
 Clayton, Robert Joe, 26
 Clinton, Gov. Bill, 2, 15-20, 28
 Coane, Joseph, 39
 Cockreham, Esther M., 26
 Coffin, Mary, 32
 Cole, Bernice (B.), 20
 Cole, John Washington, 36
 Cole, Omar L., 26
 Coleman, Marie Ann Lux, 27
 Coleridge, Samuel, 3
 Cone, Vivian B., 27
 Conley, (Justice), 41
 Cooke, C.M., 42
 Cooper, Rena B., 27
 Copeland, Roxie Ann, 36
 Coplen/Copeland, Green L., 36
 Coplen, Elizabeth Sarah (Sally) Jones, 36
 Coplen, William C., 36
 Coplin, Gene, 26
 Corbell, Ross, 25
 Coronation Invitation, il 22
 Coulter, Mary, 6
 Cowan, Mary Lucile, 25
 Cox, (Officer), 40
 Craig, Cathy, 25
 Craig, David, 12-20
 Craig, Natalie Ann, 25
 Craig, Randy, 25
 Crane, B.D., 7
 Crane, Bob, 32
 Crawford, Helen M., 34
 Crest Gate at Lake Shepherd Springs, il 18
 Croom, Mary, 11
 Crosslin, Mrs. Francis Henderson, 27
 Crow, Ruby V., 27
 Crowder, Beatrice, 26
 Crowson, Tom, 28
 Curtis, Thomas, Jr., 12-20
 Daily, Farrel, 38
 Darby, William O., 30
 Davidson, Gladys Marie, 25
 Davies, Annie, 39
 Davies, C.W., 39
 Davis, Elsie Jackson, 25
 Davis, Lillian Ann, 27
 Davis, Ocie, 26

Davis, Norman J., 36
 Davis, Tom, 25
 Day, Mrs. S.P., 42
 Dean, Paul Bernard, 26
 DeBrinck, Julius, 26
 Degen, Rev. George F., 40
 Dell, Valentine, 3
 DeLong, Blanche F., 27
 Denton, Mattie Elizabeth, 27
 Dewitt, Delores, 12-20
 Dickerson, Hildegard, 26
 Dickson family, 36
 Dillon, Jack, 20
 Dixon, Henry Malcom, 27
 Doles, Nina Walls, 27
 Donoghue, S.E., 6
 Douglas, Mary Sue, 26
 Douglas, Reba E., 27
 Douthit Ancestry, 34
 Dow, Herman E., 26
 Doyel, Charles H., 25
 Doyle, Bettie, 37
 Doyle, Mary A., 37
 Doyle, Mrs. Thomas, 37
 Doyle, W.A., 6
 Driggers, Gary, 27
 Duey, George Harvey, 25
 Duffy, Ben C., 41
 Duncan, Roy C., 27
 Duncan, Russ, 32
 Dunham, J.S., 43
 Dunlap, Frank, 40
 Durbin, Faye L., 25
 Duty, Liz, 26
 Duval, Ben T., (Col.), 41, 42, 43
 Dyrhood, Juanita, 37
 Eagle, J.P., 37
 Eddleman, Jan, 33
 Eddleman, John, 28
 Edmondson, (Justice), 41
 Ellington, Lillie, 39
 English, Junior N., 26
 Eoff, Harvey, 26
 Erman, Paul Joseph, 26
 Erp, James F., 26
 Etter, James Richard, 5
 Falconer, George Comages "Dock", 42
 Falconer, M.E., 42
 Falconer, W.A., 42
 Falleur, Frances Marie, 25
 Farris, Emory C., 26
 Farrow, Emily B., 37
 Ferguson, Geo., 41
 Finsel, Frank "Pappy", 25
 Fiorio, Charles "Charlie", 25
 First Load of Concrete Poured at
 New Dam, il 17
 First Vehicle to Cross Free Bridge, il 22
 Fishback, (Col.), 43
 Fleming, Bertie, 40
 Flowers, Claude D., 25
 Floyd, Mary, 1
 Floyd, Steve, 18-20
 Floyd, Wallace, 1, 2
 Forbes, Marcie, 23
 Ford, Frank J., 26
 Forsgren, Gene Michael, 25
 Fort Smith Advertising and Promotion
 Commission Logo, il 29
 Fort Smith Area Funeral Home Records, 34
 Fort Smith Trolley Museum, il 29
 Foster, Amanda E., 25
 France, Willie "Bill", 26
 Francis, Darryl, 12-20
 Frantz, Elizabeth, 39
 Frantz, Emile, 39
 Frede, Viola M. Troike, 27
 Freeman, Burley J., 25
 Freeman, Dorothy, 25
 Freeze, Jack, 12-20
 Fulgham, David, 1
 Fulk, Phyllis, 34
 Furr, Edward Garland, 26
 Furr, Jane, 27
 Furr, Lester, 27
 Gale, Bertha, 5
 Gann, Melvin, 32
 Gariloh, Josie, 42
 Garney Companies, Inc., 17-20
 Gass, James B., 40
 Gean, Stephanie, 32
 Geren, Elaine, 26
 Gilbreath, E.C., 32
 Glass, William, 38
 Glenn, Ingeburg, 27
 Goetz, Catherine, 38
 Goforth, Ed, 27
 Golden, Trixy, 5
 Goodpaster, Raymond Paul, 27
 Gordon, John "G.D.", 25
 Grace, Mrs. James B., 27
 Graham, Etta, 26
 Green, Frank, 40
 Greer, Esquire, 39
 Gregory, Rev. E.D., 37
 Grier, James, 6
 Grier, (Justice), 41
 Griffin, Ann, 32
 Griffin, Frank, 15
 Griner, Terri L., 26
 Groesbeck, Jennie A., 40
 Guterma, Clyde, 16-20
 Hagan, Othon "Festus", 25
 Hampton, Lionel, 31
 Hardin, Wm. T., 41
 Harper, Wm. R. "Bud", 1
 Harris, Nola Ray, 27
 Harrison, Benjamin, 37
 Hart, J.W., 42
 Hart, Sharon M., 36
 Hartman, Roseanne, 32
 Helton, David, por 5
 Hembree, H.L. III, 12-20
 Hemphill, Ivan N., 27
 Hendrix, William, 43
 Henson, Harold E., Jr., 12-20
 Hern, James H., 26
 Higgins, John, 42
 High, Mrs., 40
 Hill, Charles W., 3, 4
 History of Washington County,
 Arkansas, 35
 Hixon, Richard Lee, 26
 Hixon, Virginia Sue, 26
 Hollingsworth, Mary Ann, 23
 Holway, W.R., 9-20
 Homan, Eugene E., 25
 Hood, "Tock", 38
 Hood, W.S., 40
 Hoopaw, Martha Jayne, 26
 Hopper, Catherine, 36
 Hopper, Gus, 36
 Hopper, Laurel Trousdail
 (known as T. Hopper), 36
 Hopper, Margaret, 36
 Hopper, Tabitha, 36
 Hopper, Tempy Mason, 36
 Howerton, Helen, 32
 Hoyle, Wilma Jean, 34
 Huckins, Marye Jones, 32
 Hudspeth, Cooper, 25
 Huff, Hester Mae, 26
 Hullett, Margaret Lynn, 25
 Humphrey, (Justice), 41
 Humphries, Theodora K., 25
 Hunt, Dennis, 18-20
 Hutson, Harold H., 25
 Inman, Mildred Lela, 26
 Ivery, Curtis L., 12-20
 Jackson, George F., 26
 Jackson, Theda, 11
 Jacobsen, Cindy, 1, 2, 24, por 24
 Jacobsen, Mary Lou, 1, 2, 37
 Jacobson, Jennie "Ruth", 26
 Jean, J.B., 27
 Johnson, James E., 39
 Johnson, John L., 25
 Johnson, Ken, 1
 Johnston, Ben B., Jr., 1, 21-23
 Johnston, Ben Bourne, 23
 Johnston, Dick, 23
 Johnston, Frederick Bates, 23
 Johnston, Gene, 1
 Johnston, James A., 23
 Johnston, John "Gene", 23
 Johnston, John Independence, 23
 Johnston, Mary Bates Bourne,
 21-23, por 21
 Johnston, Mont Sandels, 23
 Johnston, Monte, 23
 Johnston, Roy Meredith, 23
 Johnston, Sid, 23
 Johnston, Tom, 23
 Johnston, W.J., 6, 7, 8
 Johnston, William Joseph, 2, 21-23, por 21
 Jones, Alfred Bud, 36
 Jones, Anna, 35
 Jones, Annie, 36
 Jones, Henry A., 26
 Jones, Henry P., 26
 Jones, James R., 41
 Jones, Jim, 36
 Jones, John, 36
 Jones, John Norman, 36
 Jones, Kay Krueger, 32
 Jones, Norma, 36
 Jones, Sebe, 36
 Jones, Weltha, 36
 Jones, Wiley, 42
 Jordan, J.K., 10, 11
 Joslin, Vivian C., 25
 Judy, George, 26
 Kaminsky, Hank, 32

Karrant, Wanda, 20
 Keathley, Nancy Lee, 25
 Kelley, Gordon, 1, 2
 Kelley, Harry E., 7
 Kelly, Delmar Allen, 25
 Kennon, Linda, 27
 Keown, Howard W., 26
 Kerkendoll, Helen Louise, 26
 Kerr, Jean, 31
 Khilling, Vestal, 25
 Killgore, Denyse S., 28
 Kin Hunters Genealogical Publications & Research, 35
 Kincaid, Rev. A.J., 42, 43
 King Edward VII (England), 21
 King, Corrine, 11
 King, Martin Luther, 24
 Kirk, Lavern Ray, 26
 Koons, Dick, 27
 Koons, Janice (Mrs. Harly Day), 27
 Krone, Lula, 41
 Kuper, Henry, Jr., 6
 Lamberson, Maurine, 11
 Lambert, Beverly J., 32
 Landers, Curtis, 20
 Lanigan, E.C., 37
 Lanigan, Joe, 37
 Latsha, Charles Douglas, 27
 Latture, Paul, 14-20
 Lease, Stephen D., 12-20
 Leding, Ann Dixon, 32
 LeRoy, W.H., 39
 Lessley, Joe, 26
 Letterhead, Fort Smith Water Department, July, 1937, il 10
 Lewing, Eddie Bell Stone, 25
 Lewis, James R., Jr., 12-20
 Lewis, Paul Spencer, 26
 Leyden, Mr., 8
 Lietzke, Daisy M., 27
 Liles, Ray Milford, 26
 Lloyd, Pauline Bailey, 27
 Logan County, Kentucky, Census Release, 1900, 35
 Logan County, Kentucky, Records, 35
 Long, Lewis "Blunt", 27
 Looper, Floy, 1
 Lovelle, Freda Mae, 27
 Luce, Bleeker, 21-23
 Luce, John, 15-20
 Luce, Will, 40
 Lyman, George, 7
 Macdonald, Angus, 25
 Manning, J.O., 39
 Map of Dam Site, Pine Mountain, il 20
 Map of Dam Site on Lower Lee Creek, 18
 Mapstone, Helen Westbrook Baker, 11
 Mapstone, Howard E., 11
 Marley, Robert Sr., 25
 Marquart, Mrs., 42
 Marquette, Donald, 1, 2, 37
 Martin, Amelia, 1, 2, 28, por 28, 37
 Martin, Art, 2
 Martin, Bradley, 2, 7, 20
 Martin, Freda, 26
 Martin, Sue Tittle, 7
 Mason, Lee, 32
 Mason, Pamela, 32
 Massey, David Tate, 27
 Massey, Rev. A.J., 37
 Massey, Rev. W.J., 40
 May, Gladys, 26
 McAfee, J.F., 6
 McClanahan, R.R., 30
 McCoy, Bud, 41
 McCulley, Lalla, 35
 McCullough, Sarah Fitzjarrald, 1, 3, 28
 McCurtain, Edmond, 42
 McCurtain, Green, 42
 McCurtain, Jackson, 42
 McDaniel, Ed, 40
 McDaniel, Ruth, 26
 McGehee, Mac, 12-20
 McGowan, Mary, 25
 McKisick family, 36
 McLendon, F.M., 38
 McLoud, Samuel, 7, 21-23
 McMahan, Gloria, 32
 McNabb, Rev. N.B., 39
 McRight, Ina Lou, 25
 Meek, James W., 43
 Meeks, R.C., 16
 Meredith, Eliza Virginia, 23
 Merrell, Joseph H., 41
 Metz, James L., 25
 Mickle, Pat, 12-20
 Mickle, Suzanne Eloy, 25
 Milam, T.C. "Curtis", 26
 Miles, Sen. Travis, 2
 Miller, Bertha Morris, 27
 Miller, Earl L., 25
 Miller, Lila Tomlin, 27
 Miller, Marie L., 27
 Miller, Winona, 11
 Mitchell, Ethel Alberta, 26
 Mitchell, Mary Annene, 25
 Mole, Velma E., 27
 Molpus, Jane, 32
 Montgomery, J., 11
 Montgomery, Montiene Snell, 25
 Moody, David, 36
 Moore, (Constable), 41
 Moore, James W., 19-20
 Moore, Leonard K., 26
 Morris, W.L., 42
 Morrison, Romaine, 26
 Morrow, Walter C., 25
 Mott, Glenn, 26
 Murphy, (Police Judge), 42
 Murphy, Ruby Mona, 26
 Murphy, W.J., 7
 Muse, A.M., 42
 Neal, Joseph C., 35
 Neill, Mary B., 42
 Neis, Albert, 38
 Neis, Anton, 38
 Newell, Margaret Jane Marsh, 25
 Nguyen, Giang, 33
 Nicholas, Lillian Mae, 26
 Nichols, Guy, 2, 5, 8, 20
 Noebels, Sarah, 32
 Norin, Lori, 33
 Norton, Margaret Jane, 36
 Nunley, Robert L., 12-20
 Nunnelee, Ethel, 25
 O'Brien, Stacy, 40
 O'Dell, Chris, 20
 O'Leary, John A., 41
 O'Leary, Tom, 41
 O'Shea, Patrick, 37
 O'Toole, Mary Elizabeth (Parker), 31
 Oglesby, Ira D., Sr., 27
 Oglesby, Joyce Reynolds, 27
 Oglesby, Lucy Lee (Mrs. Ira, Jr.), 27
 Oglesby, Mrs. Ira D., Sr., 27
 Old Pump Station on Poteau River, il 11
 Oliver, Arlena A., 27
 Ory, Richard "Rick", 26
 Osborn, Myrtle, 25
 Ozarks Genealogical Society, 34
 Paddock, Peggy, 11
 Paden, Wilma Schmidt, 26
 Page, Ben, 27
 Page, Joyce, 27
 Page, Lewis, 27
 Page, W.E., 6
 Palmer, Dezzie Meadors, 25
 Parke, Steve, 5-20
 Parker, James Bailey, 31
 Parker, Judge Isaac C., 3, 31
 Patton, William L., Jr., 12-20
 Paul, Bobby, 27
 Peck, Geo. W., 42
 Peer, Charles, 32
 Perry, Clyde, 26
 Petereson, Lee (Mrs. Ed), 27
 Pierson, Rev. B.H., 43
 Pilgrim, Annabelle, 8
 Pitts, Bill, 43
 Plaque from Fort Smith-Van Buren Bridge, il 22
 Pogue, Maude E. Hines, 26
 Political Card for Mayor, il 23
 Pollan, Carolyn, 1
 Pollock, Al, 12-20
 Poorbear, John, 43
 Porter, George A., 26
 Potts, Louise, 27
 Powell, David, 32
 Prewitt, Dr., 40
 Price, Thos. B., 42
 Primm, Maude, 27
 Pruett, Sue, 26
 Purcell, Claudia, 26
 Quinley, W.F., 42
 Raab, Mark L., 20
 Ragsdale, Gertrude Earp, 25
 Raines, I.J., 6
 Randolph, Warren Kent, 26
 Ranks of Honor, Eleventh Arkansas Infantry, 35
 Ratteree, Donald, 26
 Ray, Joanne, 27
 Reather, Vivian Gann, 25
 Rector, Sue, 38
 Reed, Sean, 30
 Reed, William, 39
 Repairs to Crest Gate, il 19
 Reutzel, Casper, 33
 Reynolds, Cyrus F., 27
 Reynolds, Dick, 27
 Reynolds, Sabrina Hubbard, 27
 Rhea, Ann (Mrs. E.M.), 27
 Richardson, Donald Ray, 26

Riley, John J. "Bud", 26
 Ristig, Marcus, Sr., 26
 Roberts, Jimmie, 11
 Robertson, E.C., 38
 Robinson, Harry, 11
 Robinson, Mrs. Charles, 38
 Robison, Joe W., 27
 Roesler, Myrtle Marie, 27
 Rogers, Bonnie Sue, 25
 Rogers, Emma, 23
 Rogers, William "Bill", 26
 Rosiek Construction Co., Inc., 17
 Ross, Cathy Lynn, 26
 Rounds, John E., 25
 Royster, George E., 12-20
 Rozell, Jack, 25
 Ruge, Johanna Marie, 26
 Russell, Dr. Phillip Wayne, 2, por 28
 Safranek, Dr. Edward J., 25
 Salcido, Jorge Eduardo, 32
 Sandels, Mont, 21-23
 Sandels, M.H., 42
 Satterfield, (Justice), 41
 Satterfield, Orville, 25
 Schmaltz, Doris J., 25
 Schulte, Wm., 38
 Schultz, Mary B., 26
 Scott, Ella, 5
 Scott, Kathy V., 26
 Scottish Family History, 36
 Scottish Local History, 36
 Seal, Ann S., 26
 Sefton, Louise, 26
 Selig, Johnson D., 26
 Sellers, Tyma Clark, 36
 Sengel, Catherine, 38
 Sharum, Anna Rosemary, 25
 Shaw, Margaret L. Carolan, 26
 Sherman, Sue, 26
 Shopfner, Becky, 33
 Schriver, Calvin, 4
 Shriver, Geo. & Sons, 4
 Shriver, Jimmy, 4
 Sicard, A.N., 7
 Sicard, Sam, 12-20
 Siebold, Linda, 17
 Simon, Neil, 31
 Singleton, Buddy, 11
 Sinnot, James, 39
 Sizemore, Flossie, 25
 Skelton, Ray, 26
 Skinner, Jim Frank, 25
 Skorvaga, William M., 27
 Smedley, (Alderman), 7
 Smith, Billie B., 27
 Smith, Donald, 27
 Smith, Douglas, 12-20
 Smith, Elmer M., 26
 Smith, G.W., 40
 Smith, Jabez M., 35
 Smith, Lee, 32
 Smith, Loran, 25
 Smith, Oren LeRoy, 25
 Smith, Sue, 25
 Smith, Tyree Brent, 25
 Smith, William Nelson, 26
 Smythe, Rev. Lawrence, 37
 Sparks, Geo. T., 39
 Sparks, Jake, 39
 Sparks, M/M James M., 38
 Speaker, Billy E., 26
 Speaker, Tris Eugene, 26
 Spears, Mattie Vera, 26
 Sprick, Teresa, 25
 Stamps, Doris Louise, 25
 Stanley, Andrew J., 36
 Starnes, Christine, 25
 Starr, Pearl, 5
 Steele, Frederick, 35
 Steele's Retreat from Camden, 35
 Stephens, Dr., 40
 Stephens, Robert S., 25
 Stewart, Dr. David, 20
 Stillman, (Justice), 41
 Stoddard, M., 43
 Stone, Hubbard, 4
 Strassman, Wanda, 26
 Stratmann, Joan, 2, 12-20
 Stubblefield, Joel, 1, 2, 31
 Sullivan, D.B., 27
 Surat, (Justice), 41
 Suratt, Henry, 23
 Sutterfield, Shirley, 32
 Swafford, Joanne, 1, 2
 Syrock, Laura Ann, 25
 Taldo, Margaret, 11
 Tamboulion, Norma, 32
 Tenney, J.M., 7
 Terwilliger, J.L., 12-20
 Thacker, Janice, 11
 Thellman, John, 32
 Thomas, Betty, 26
 Thomas, Davis S., 4
 Thomas, E.A., 4, 6
 Thomas, Isaac, 26
 Thompson, Iva Mae, 25
 Thompson, J. Paul, 10
 Thompson, Patty, 11
 Thrash, A.J., 37
 Tillery, Jo, 1, 2
 Tilles, George, 39
 Tilly, J.P., 43
 Timmerman, G.N., 43
 Tolbert, J.R., 43
 Trewitt, Sybil, 11
 Tuck, Jim, 1, 2, 28
 Tudor, Margaret E., 26
 Turner, Dessie Meyers, 26
 Tyler, Floecie, 25
 Tyler, John William, 26
 Udouj, Herman, 12-20
 Uerling, David, 12-20
 Uhles, Jackie, 36
 Ullrich, A.H., 10
 Underwood, Gail, 20
 Vaile, John, 4
 Van Sickle, Charles, 36
 Vance, (Justice), 41
 Vanderpool, Montgomery, 36
 Villyard, Edith, 40
 Vines, Carl L., 25
 Vines, William, 17-20
 Vorster, Sister Pierre, 12-20
 Wagner, C.E., 42
 Wallen, Aubrey "Art", 25
 Ward, Claude, 10
 Warren, Martha E., 25
 Washburn, Gene N., 16-20
 Water Service Records, il 5
 Watkins, Loren, 25
 Wattles, S.B., 40
 Webb, Barry L., 26
 Webb, Chas., 6
 Weber, Vivian V., 25
 Weir, Jan Douthit, 34
 Welch, Frances McLaughlin, 27
 Weldon, M/M O.D., 43
 Wells, Edith, 26
 Wendland, H., 39
 West Fort Smith Map, il 8
 West, D. Montiene, 26
 West, Earlene, 27
 West, George F., 8
 West, Velda P., 26
 Westbrook, Helen, 11
 Westmoreland, Gail Alan, 26
 Whayne, Jeannie, 28
 Wheat, Mr., 40
 White, Dorothy Lee, 25
 White, Margaret Jacqueline, 25
 White, Myrtle A., 26
 Whitfield, Jewell, 11
 Whooten, Rose, 27
 Wickersham, Emmet P., 25
 Wiechert, R.L. "Sarge", 26
 Wiegend, (Justice), 41
 Wilkinson, J.G., 38
 Williams, Beulah R., 27
 Williams, Buck, 7
 Williams, Fred, 33
 Williams, James Barney, 36
 Williams, John F., 33
 Williams, Mildred H., 26
 Williams, Sterling Eugene, 27
 Williams, Vircy, 32
 Wilsey family, 36
 Wilson, Don, 34
 Wilson, Duane, 12-20
 Wilson, Evan T. "Leck", 26
 Wilson, Verda P., 26
 Wilson, William H., 12-20
 Wilson, Woodrow, 22
 Winn, Robert G., 35
 Winsett, M/M Paul, 38
 Witherspoon, John, 6
 Wolfe, Arvil Gay, 26
 Wood, Larry G., 26
 Wray, Thelma, 1, 2, 37
 Wright, Essie Johnston, 25
 Wright, Johnny, 41
 Wyatt, Rev. Nathaniel, 27
 Xaysanasay, Vone, 25
 Yadon, Mrs. Douglass (Julia), 4, 5, 20
 Yoes, Jacob, 5
 Young, Adele, 23
 Young, Robert, 25
 Ziegler, Laura, 5
 Zimmer, Frank, 27