

# The JOURNAL



Vol. 15, No. 2, September, 1991

**EDITOR:**

Amelia Martin

**ASSOCIATE EDITOR:**

Sarah Fitzjarrald McCullough

**CONSULTING EDITOR:**

Carolyn Pollan

**ORAL HISTORY:**

Lorna Schultis

**GUEST WRITER:**

Hugh Hart Pollard

Lorna Dickson Schultis

Joanne Swafford

**INDEXING:**

Sarah Fitzjarrald McCullough

**PROOF READERS:**

Dibby Reutzel

Charles Reutzel

Dorothy Williams

Paul Williams

**BOARD AND OFFICERS:**

Wallace Floyd, President

Thelma Wray, Vice President

Mary Lou Jacobsen, Treasurer

Pat Birkett, Recording Secretary

Jo Tillery, Membership Secretary

John Ayers

Ben Johnston

Floy Looper

Dorothy Williams

Conaly Bedell

Gordon Kelley

Joel Stubblefield

Joanne Swafford

Dorothy Hosford

Emily Lovick

Mark Parker

Dibby Reutzel

Paul Schaefer

Gordon Yearty

Membership in the Fort Smith Historical Society includes subscription to *The Journal of the Fort Smith Historical Society*, which is published semi-annually. Year begins January 1 and ends December 31.

For membership, send dues with your name and mailing address to:

The Fort Smith Historical Society, Inc.  
c/o Fort Smith Public Library  
61 South 8th Street  
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72901

**Types of memberships:**

Annual	\$ 15.00
Annual Contributing	25.00
Annual Sustaining	50.00
Annual Business Sponsor	50.00
Life (Individual)	150.00
Journal Back Issues	Each Copy 5.00

(For mail orders, add \$2.00 mailing charge per copy.)

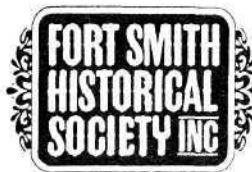
**Composite Index**

for Volumes I thru IX . . . . . 20.00

(For mail orders, add \$2.00 mailing charge per copy.)

We welcome the loan of Fort Smith historical material and will return promptly.

The Fort Smith Historical Society, Inc. is a non-profit organization under Sec. 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. Gifts and legacies are deductible.



# The JOURNAL

## Contents

VOL. 15, NO. 2

SEPTEMBER, 1991

Editor's Notes	2
Fort Smith Depression Era	3
New Courthouse Cornerstone	12
Sebastian County Judges	14
State, County & City Officials	14
Mayor James Keys Jordon	15
Attorneys and Judges Memorial Service	16
Memories of Helen Olive Jones Harper	17
Ranger Battalions Association	24
Book Notes	25
Westark Community College	26
Fort Smith Folks Get Things Done	29
Fort Smith Public Library	30
Letters From Our Readers	31
In Loving Memory	32
Poets and Poetry, Eloise Barksdale	34
News and Opportunities	35
Genealogy	38
Inquiries	39
1891 Newspapers	40
Index	46

**COVER:** Jones Cafe sign on "Old Town" building at 5th and Garrison. Restored by Art Downtown under direction of John Bell. Photo by Art Martin.

©Copyright 1991 ISSN 0736 4261  
By the Fort Smith Historical Society, Inc.  
c/o Fort Smith Public Library  
61 South 8th Street  
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72901

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS:**

Change of Address Cards are free at your post office. If you move, please fill one out and send it to: Fort Smith Historical Society, 61 South 8th Street, Fort Smith, Arkansas 72901.

**No portion of this publication may be reproduced in any form, except for brief excerpts for review purposes, without the consent of the Editors of *The Journal*.**

# Editor's Notes

Renew your Fort Smith Historical Society membership today. Prompt renewal saves postage for past due notices and additional postage to send individual copies that have to be mailed after bulk mailing because of late payment.

Annual .....	\$ 15.00
Annual Contributing .....	25.00
Annual Sustaining .....	50.00
Annual Business Sponsor .....	50.00
Life (individual) .....	150.00

Thanks again to all of our members and other contributors. We appreciate each one of you.

In addition to your membership, remember gift memberships, memorial contributions, bequests, etc. All contributions are tax deductible and all money goes to actual operating expenses of the society — all labor is volunteer.

We remind you again that many corporations will match tax-free contributions of their employees. Check with your employer to see if this is a company policy at your place of employment.

Contributions of family histories, histories of Fort Smith businesses and events, copies of pictures from early Fort Smith, etc. are always welcome, as are your suggestions of subjects for articles to be included in *The Journal*. If you would like to join our staff of researchers and writers, please contact Amelia Martin or Sarah Fitzjarrald McCullough.

We welcome three new writers for this issue, Lorna Dickson Schultis, Joanne Swafford, and Hugh Hart Pollard. Lorna joins our staff to help with oral history, Joanne is assisting with our research of mayors, and Mr. Pollard, a columnist for the Little Rock newspaper, *Arkansas Gazette*, has graciously given permission for the reprint of his article, *Fort Smith Folks Get Things Done*, which was first published in the May 12, 1991 issue of the *Arkansas Gazette*. A very special thanks to Mr. Pollard for the use of his article.

The focus of this issue of *The Journal* is on the 1930-1940 Great Depression Era in Fort Smith. This was a difficult time for Fort Smith, as well as the rest of the United States, but Fort Smith came out a victor. *Fort Smith Depression Era* tells the story.

One plus for Fort Smith from the era was the building of the new combination courthouse and city hall in 1937. Through a contribution of Virginia Gardner (who is now deceased) we are able to bring to you a list of the contents of the cornerstone of this courthouse, a list of the Sebastian County judges, and *The Brief History of the Negroes of Fort Smith* which was compiled by the Rev. B.F. Neal and enclosed in the cornerstone. Lorna Schultis' article about Helen Jones Harper brings us first-hand memories of the Jones family which had a business in Fort Smith during the depression. Mrs. Harper is also the mother of our present county judge, W.R. "Bud" Harper Jr. Joanne Swafford has researched and written the biography of James Keys Jordon, who was mayor of Fort Smith 1933-1941.

A special loss to Fort Smith during The Depression was the streetcars. See *News and Opportunities* to see what is happening to the streetcars of Fort Smith today.

The history of Westark was a favorite of many of our readers. See *Westark Community College News* for more of the Westark story.

The Fort Smith Public Library is 100 years old this year. See the article on the library today and the abstract of the 1891 newspapers for the announcement of the establishment of the library.

*News and Opportunities* also includes the fall, winter and spring entertainment schedule for Fort Smith, as well as other news and announcements of interest.

Ranger Battalions Association will be holding its biennial reunion in Fort Smith October 10-13, 1991. Page 28 is a brief history of that organization and Brigadier General William O. Darby, a Fort Smith native who was the leader of the Darby Rangers during World War II.

Eloise Barksdale is our featured poet for this issue.

Space does not permit publishing all deaths listed in the Fort Smith newspaper, but we remember *In Loving Memory* those persons who have made special contribution to the Fort Smith Historical Society, and those who have been teachers in the Fort Smith schools.

Genealogy news, letters and inquiries concerning the Fort Smith area are published as space allows, with priority given to inquiries and letters from members of the Fort Smith Historical Society.

Books on Arkansas or Genealogy are reviewed upon receipt of a copy of the book. Review copies of books, after review, are placed in the Arkansas and Genealogy room of the Fort Smith Public Library, a gift of the author and the Fort Smith Historical Society.

Amelia Martin, Editor



# Fort Smith Depression Era 1930 - 1940

Amelia Martin

Stock market crash and the beginning of the most acute depression in the history of the United States — thus ended the 1920's and began the 1930's in the United States of America.

Nationwide, millions of persons lost their jobs and their money. Banks failed, factories shut down, stores closed, and local government's tax collections were slow.

As the nation went, so went Fort Smith to a degree. But people of Fort Smith had a plus on their side: city and county governments, chamber of commerce, and people working together as though they really believed these words written by Rudyard Kipling:

"It ain't the goods nor armaments  
Nor the funds you can pay,  
But the close cooperation  
That makes you win the day.

"It ain't the individual  
Nor the army as a whole  
But the everlasting team work  
Of every living soul."

Despite the depression and its resultant problems, the decade of 1930-1940 was a time of growth and building for Fort Smith.

Fort Smith, with a population of 31,429, entered the depression era with the Chamber of Commerce saying Fort Smith's industrial, financial and commercial enterprises were well equipped to carry prosperity into the new year, mentioning specifically a wide diversity of business activities and listing 166 products manufactured in Fort Smith. Included among other products on this list were furniture, food, building products, automobile, bus and truck bodies, bricks, electric power, wagons, leather products, caskets, glass, monuments, explosive powder, zinc smelter, scissors, clothing, farm implements and cigars. Other industries included coal, natural gas and zinc production, agriculture and timber.

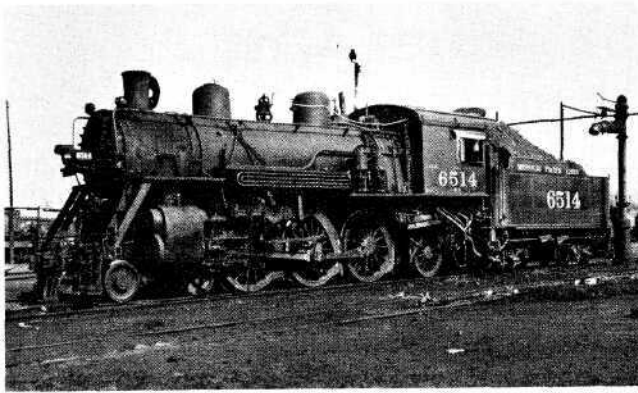
141 establishments employed 9,318 men and 2,330 women paying wages of \$6,000,000.00 annually.

Eight railroads, and five bus lines with seventy coach buses, were operating on regular schedules in and out of Fort Smith every day, and streetcars ran throughout the city as well as connecting Fort Smith to Arkoma and Van Buren.



Garrison Avenue, Fort Smith, 1930's, showing automobiles, streetcar, banks, hotels, businesses and Immaculate Conception Church at extreme end of the avenue. Courtesy Charles Winters.





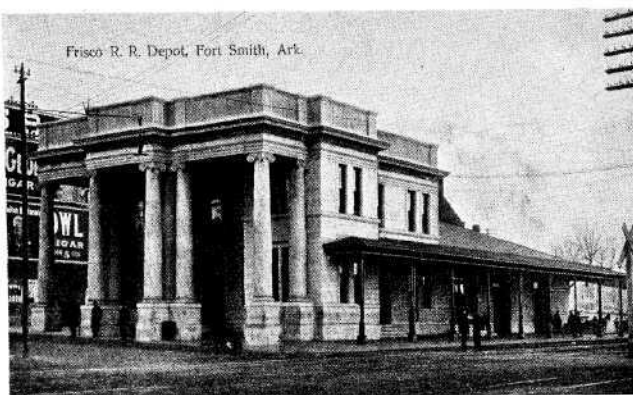
Missouri Pacific Steam Engine #6514. Courtesy Charles Winters.

Fort Smith was the junction point for the Missouri Pacific, Frisco and Kansas City Southern Railroads, and the terminus for the Fort Smith & Western, Midland Valley, Arkansas Central, the Greenwood branch of the Missouri Pacific and the Mansfield branch of the Frisco railways.

There was talk of stabilizing the Arkansas River and resuming river traffic. (Ironically, Riverboat Captain R.D. Blakely advocated this procedure in the late 1800's and drew up a plan he felt would work, but the idea had been rejected. Fortunately, C.F. Byrns and others kept the idea alive, and in 1937 the Fort Smith City Commission approved a contemplated project of the United States Government to construct a series of dams to control the Arkansas River and its tributaries.)

KFPW Radio had just gone on the air with studios in the Goldman Hotel. There were eight hotels in Fort Smith with a total of 727 rooms and the city commissioners were discussing the need for a new water supply for Fort Smith. The project being discussed at the time was the "Lee's Creek project."

When Herbert Hoover became President in 1929, he seemed admirably qualified to improve the government and business conditions, but circumstances were too strong for him. By the end of 1930, more than six million Americans were out of work. A year later the number had risen to twelve million, and nationally, 32,000 businesses went bankrupt and more than 5,000 banks failed.



Frisco Railroad Depot, Fort Smith, Arkansas.  
Courtesy Charles Winters.



Union Railroad Station, Fort Smith. Photograph taken from top of First National Bank by a Mr. Shipley who was employed by Fort Smith Light and Traction Company. Courtesy Charles Winters.

Between 1930 and 1935, the number of Fort Smith manufacturing establishments had slid from 141 to 84, employment was down from more than 11,000 to 3,012 jobs with total wages reduced from six million dollars to a little less than three million dollars. However, all three of the Fort Smith banks — First National, Merchants National and City National; and one trust company, the First Federal Savings and Loan — were operating on a sound basis.

A side effect of national unemployment was the mass movement of transients moving from one location to another seeking employment.

Because of its geographical location, Fort Smith became a crossroads for transients, even as it had been a crossroads for movement to the west in the 1800's. Great numbers of people came to the city on their way to what they hoped would be better opportunities for work.

The Salvation Army transient facilities were no match for the influx of financially strapped unemployed. Travelers' Aid matrons, their small salary paid from city and county funds, offered aid to travelers at the railroad stations, but much more aid was needed.

An agency of the national government took over the LeFlore Hotel at 316 Garrison Avenue to house, free of charge, men only, who were traveling looking for work. The Federal government also built two barracks, which would accommodate several hundred transients, on an eighty acre tract owned by the city of Fort Smith known as "Wildcat Mountain."

When abandoned in 1935, these buildings were offered to the Arkansas Tuberculosis Sanatorium in Booneville for the purpose of opening a branch or annex sanatorium in Fort Smith. The offer was gladly accepted.

Tuberculosis was rampant in this area, and although additional buildings had been built with PWA funds at the sanatorium at Booneville, it was filled to overflowing with Tubercular patients.

For the purpose of opening the annex at Fort Smith, the WPA provided additional funds and constructed more buildings.

The city of Fort Smith deeded the Wildcat Mountain land to the Sanatorium with the agreement that should it cease to be used for this purpose, the land would revert to the city. It did revert in 1958 when the annex was closed, and the Methodist Nursing Home and Methodist Retirement Village now occupy the Wildcat Mountain site.

Physicians of the area, concerned about the spreading tuberculosis and adequate medical care for the indigent sick, gave generously of their time to staff out-patient clinics at the Health Department providing medical care for the poor. They established Crippled Children's and Tuberculosis clinics, and urged the operation of out-patient clinics by the hospitals. Members of the Sebastian Medical Society also examined all indigent tuberculosis contacts in the public schools, and took care of pauper cases at the county hospital.

Their help and cooperation to the Negro Hospitalization Association, which was formed in 1930, resulted in establishment of the "Border City Hospital" which opened that same year.

This help continued through troubled years and two moves. First, to the 1200 block on North Ninth street, and finally, in 1941, to a new hospital building at 1717 Midland Blvd., which was built by the WPA. With the move to Midland Blvd., the name of the hospital was changed to Twin City Hospital, and it operated under that name until 1964 when it ceased to exist as a hospital and was converted to a nursing home. Increased expenses, together with changing Nursing Home regulations and financial problems, caused the home to be closed permanently about 1970.

In an effort to turn business conditions around, the Hoover administration began a construction program for roads, public buildings and airports, and increased the country's credit facilities. Most important, it created the Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC), with two billion dollars for rescuing hard pressed banks, railroads, factories and farmers.

For the first time in history, the United States government assumed the responsibility of rescuing the economy by active intervention in business — but the depression continued.

Urgently demanding changes, the Country elected Franklin D. Roosevelt President, Arkansas elected Junius Marion Futrell Governor, and Fort Smith elected J.K. Jordon Mayor.

Relief, Recovery and Reform were Roosevelt's aims when he took office in 1933. "New Deal" was the name President Roosevelt gave to his program which included: (1) Relief for those in need, (2) recovery for business and agriculture, and (3) reform for certain economic and political practices.

The New Deal included more than 37 major federal agencies for these purposes. Although most of these affected Fort Smith in some way, those having possibly the most direct effect on Fort Smith were the FERA, CCC, WPA, Emergency Bank Act, PWA, NYA, FSRC and Social Security Board.

FERA, Federal Emergency Relief Administration, eventually paid out about \$3,000,000,000 for relief on public works, and came to the rescue of the Arkansas Public School system. CCC, Civilian Conservation Corps, employed 3,000,000 young men in forestry work, road building and flood control. Out of these two agencies grew the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in 1935. The NYA, National Youth Administration, was founded in 1935 to provide job training for unemployed youths and part-time work for needy students.

During 1931 and 1932, the first two years of the economic collapse, there was a lack of money and a strain on all financial institutions. Depositors, fearing collapse of the banks, were withdrawing funds, some to the point of creating bank failures. The growth in popularity of postal savings in Arkansas during this period signified that people favored security for their funds with the federal government.

An emergency act gave the President the power to regulate banks and to insure bank deposits up to \$5,000 (later \$10,000). Under this act, the President called for a "Bank Holiday", when all banking in the country was suspended, including federal reserve banks, credit unions and building and loan associations. Even the United States Treasury windows were ordered closed.

After examination, those determined to be financially sound, reopened, and all three Fort Smith banks reopened immediately, as did First Federal Savings and Loan. The latter institution, organized in 1920 by the "Maple Leaf" Woodman of the World fraternal organization, as the Maple Leaf Building and Loan Association of Fort Smith, was the first building and loan institution in the United States to be approved for membership in the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation. This organization is proud of its ability to come through the depression without any of its depositors missing a dividend.

The Van Buren Press Argus reported on March 10, 1933, that a Van Buren bank, hoping to dissuade depositors from closing their accounts, resorted to paying its panic-stricken customers with silver dollars. One gentleman, attempting to leave with fifty pounds of money, pushed the heavy burden back to the teller and walked out.

Under the threat of imprisonment for hoarding gold coins, the Emergency Banking Act also succeeded in making short work of calling up the precious metal that had gradually disappeared from circulation as people lost confidence in their economic future.

The PWA, Public Works Administration, was founded in 1933 to increase employment and purchasing power through the construction of useful public works.

PWA projects, though serving the same purpose of creating unemployment relief, unlike projects under other programs, were funded by a local revenue bond issue which was bought by the United States Government. With these funds, local agencies contracted directly with contractors for the jobs.



Of all federally funded projects completed in Fort Smith during the depression era, the two largest were funded through PWA. These are the Lake Fort Smith water supply system and the combination Upper District Sebastian County Courthouse and Fort Smith City Hall.

Fort Smith's old water works, built in 1921 using the Poteau River as a water source, was fast becoming inadequate. Taste of the water caused it to be facetiously called "Poteau Punch."

Efforts to locate a new source resulted in the rejection of the use of Lee's Creek because it involved water and land in Oklahoma. A substitute location on Clear Creek, near Mountainburg, was selected for this \$1,650,000 project. When completed in January, 1937, it included a dam across Clear Creek impounding a 650 acre lake; intake tower in lake and 27 inch supply line connecting tower and the filtration plant; 1200 acres of land which included the lake and land adjacent to protect the lake and sources of supply from pollution; and covering of Bailey Hill Reservoir and Crow Hill Reservoir in Fort Smith which were existing open water reservoirs. (See Volume 14, Number 2, September, 1990 issue of *The Journal for History of Fort Smith Water System*.)

The city park built adjacent to this project included a swimming pool, concession stand, caretaker's home, 12 cottages which would accommodate six to eight persons each, an administration building and a dining hall. A plaque on the bath house indicates the park project was built by the WPA and completed in 1936.

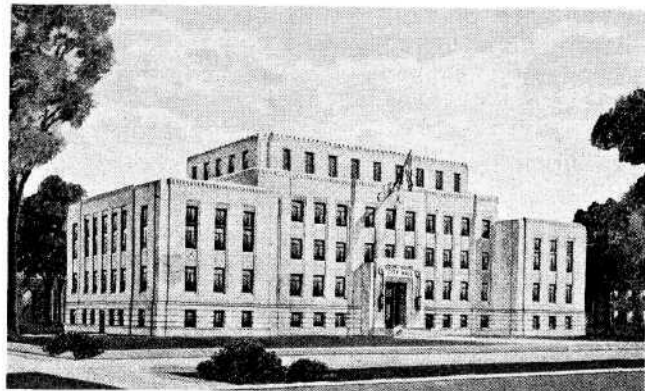
A.H. Ullrich, city chemist, was hired as Superintendent of Grounds, Buildings and Personnel, and J.W. Eadie and wife were appointed caretakers for concession house and swimming pool.

After completion of the park, it became a popular recreation place, and many residents of Fort Smith have fond recollections of hours spent there during the latter years of the depression.

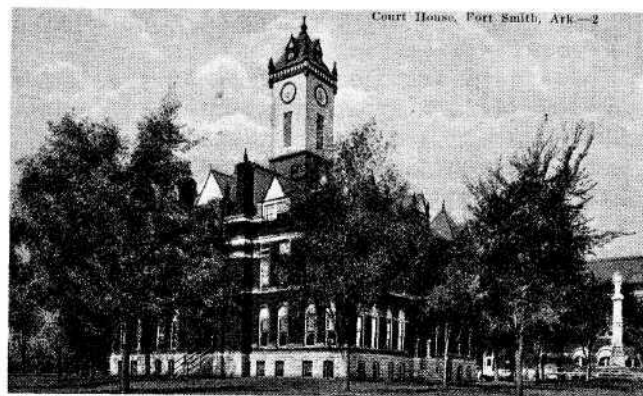
In 1973, Lake Fort Smith Park became an Arkansas State Park, and buildings long in need of repair are being restored. Restoration of five cabins and the recreation hall, which has been converted into a dormitory, have been completed. Available for rent from April 1 to mid-November, these are used by groups from the Girls' Club, Boys' Club, churches and schools, and family reunion groups.

On March 20, 1937, the cornerstone was set into the new courthouse and city hall located on the southwest corner of Rogers and South Sixth streets. Built of Indiana Limestone, the building stands on block 515 of the Old Military Reservation in the City of Fort Smith which was conveyed to the City on July 29, 1885 for the erection of public buildings and a county courthouse for the Fort Smith District of Sebastian County.

Plaques inside the Sixth Street entrance say the Manhattan Construction Company was contractor for the building and list names of county and city



**New Courthouse. Courtesy Fort Smith Public Library.**



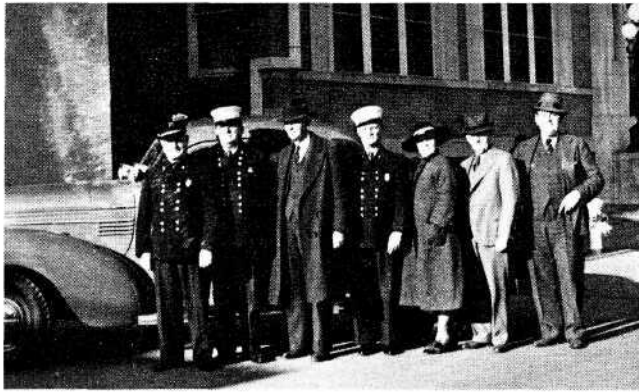
**Old Courthouse. Courtesy Fort Smith Public Library.**

officers in 1937, Courthouse Committee, and architects.

Founded in 1933 to carry out the plans of the National Recovery Act, the NRA, National Recovery Administration, required businesses who were cooperating with the Act to display the NRA symbol, a blue eagle. This symbol was viewed by many as "the mark of the beast" the book of Revelations in the Bible tells of, and many dire predictions were made that it was the sign of "the last days" and the end of the world was at hand.

By skillful planning and use of these government programs, "belt tightening," citizen and government cooperation and determination, Fort Smith not only weathered the depression, but came out the victor with a new water supply system, swimming pool, additional and improved parks, miles of paved streets, a new courthouse, extended sewers, storm sewers and water lines, new street lighting system on Rogers Avenue and around the courthouse, a softball league park, high school stadium and football field, new city bus system, paved Federal Highways 64-71 through the city, new fire stations, a police radio system, Farmers Market Place, a central bus station, firemen's drill tower, new fire fighting equipment, Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Twin-City Hospital, Old Fort Museum and a new city scales building among other things too numerous to list here.





Lowell Coomer delivering a 1936 Chrysler Coupe to the Fort Smith Fire Department. Persons in picture, left to right, are: Fire Chief Brun, unknown, Mayor J.K. Jordon, unknown, Commissioner Frances Buck, Commissioner H.S. Peck and Lowell Coomer. Courtesy of Tom Blake.

By February, 1931, city revenues had decreased to the point expenses and indebtedness could not be paid. Arrangements were made with the City National Bank to carry \$55,000 of City General Fund Warrants, said warrants to be stamped "Payable at City National Bank." Revenue due April 1 was to redeem the warrants. This type arrangement with City and other banks extended into the 1940's.

In early 1932, an unemployment registration held in Fort Smith showed 1,659 heads of families to be unemployed, and it was estimated that a second registration to be held on August 24 would bring the total to 3,000. Also, 2,600 unemployed families had been registered in the Greenwood District of Sebastian County.

Unable to meet needs of the unemployed, Fort Smith City Commissioners and Mayor Bourland, with the help of the Unemployment Relief Committee and Governor Harvey Parnell, obtained \$155,000 for food, clothing and shelter for the destitute.

Major and Mrs. O.T. Johnson, who had come to Fort Smith with the Salvation Army, established a dining room to serve one meal a day to people in need who were residents of Fort Smith. Most of the food served was prepared from government surplus commodities by volunteer cooks.

Mrs. Lucy Fuller, who served with the Salvation Army for fifty years, remembers they served lots of cabbage and beans.

In a separate service of the Salvation Army, transients received supper, breakfast and a bed, but in exchange for it, cut wood to give to the poor. Trees to be cut into fire wood were furnished by the Relief Employment Project which provided employment for many Fort Smith residents. For this project, the federal government paid for labor and the city furnished equipment for cutting and trimming trees on public property.

From the outset of the depression, the joint problems of food surpluses and hunger co-existed with drought in the midwest and surpluses in other areas of the country, but it was not until the fall of

1933 that a serious effort was made to resolve the problem of hunger through the use of surplus farm output.

There had been some effort made during the presidency of Herbert Hoover to provide farm commodities to feed the hungry, particularly in Arkansas, but President Hoover opposed such action and urged voluntary assistance sponsored by the Red Cross. In November, 1931, the Red Cross announced it had brought to a close its greatest peacetime assignment, the Drought Relief Program.

Under the FSRA, Federal Surplus Relief Corporation, and agencies developing from it, a number of programs developed, including school lunches, relief gardens, canning projects, food stamps and direct distribution of commodities to the needy from commissaries.

In 1936 the city and county jointly agreed to pay rent on a building at 513 South Ninth Street to serve as a WPA commissary for the distribution of surplus food commodities. Eligibility for food was determined by the social welfare department and the county welfare officer issued relief clients commodity orders for which they received surplus foods such as whole wheat flour, peanut butter, eggs, vegetables, fruits, canned meat, and salt pork, which by many was called "poor man's catfish."

To help relief clients make better use of unfamiliar foods received as commodities, the University of Arkansas extension service developed and distributed recipes using the foods.

People with money could take advantage of these sale prices advertised in the Fort Smith *Southwest American* in July, 1932: ladies' dresses, \$1.98 and \$2.95; ladies hats, 49¢; shoes, \$1.00 to \$4.95 per pair; men's handkerchiefs, 5¢ each.

Grocery prices, listed in the same paper, we can only dream of and wish for today: eggs, 9¢ a dozen; coffee, 25¢ to 35¢ per pound; large bottle of Van Camp catsup, 12¢; Swift Premium or Armour Star bacon, 17¢ lb.; Tuna, 1/2 lb., two cans for 25¢; dried beans, 5 lbs. 15¢; sugar, 10 lbs. 38¢; 24 lbs. flour, 49¢ to 65¢; a broom, 15¢; matches, 6 boxes, 18¢; and roast beef, 9½¢ lb.

A nickel would buy a six ounce bottle of soda pop, candy bar, ice cream cone or chewing gum.

According to Jimmie Barry and George Barham, the best factory made men's suits sold for \$15.00 each, and a custom tailored suit was usually \$25.00. Jimmy says he never did go for one of these high priced suits, but did get a \$15.00 one once.

To boost sales, the men's clothing stores invented the "Suit Club", a gimmick that probably saved them from bankruptcy. Club members paid \$1.00 each per week. Each week a drawing was held and someone would get a suit. George belonged to Mr. Louis Weinstein's club because Mr. Weinstein's tailoring skills could make any suit fit like a tailor made. One day, after about the third time George had paid his dollar into the Club, Louie W. excitedly rushed into the newspaper office where George worked, looking for George to announce to him he had won. Yep! George had a new suit for just \$3.00.

The Hoyt theater advertised admission 10¢ and 15¢. One person, when asked what they did for recreation during the depression said, "I can tell you one thing I didn't do. I didn't go to the show because I didn't have a dime." Christine Elmore was more ingenious. Every Saturday morning she set two neighbors' hair to get a dime to go to see a cowboy movie.

Don't think all movies were cowboy movies though. Sound movies started about 1927 and became popular immediately. Stars included Nelson Eddy, Jeannette MacDonald, Edward G. Robinson, Humphrey Bogart, and Lionel, John and Ethel Barrymore. Supernatural horror movies, such as *Dracula* and *Frankenstein*, created a sensation in the early 1930's. There were Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers too. He sang to her in swing time, "The Way You Look Tonight," in the movie that won an Academy Award in 1936.

These were the days, too, of orchestra leaders Paul Whiteman, Benny Goodman and Sammy Kaye. Oh, to Swing and Sway with Sammy Kaye. Many songs they made popular are still favorites today. How about "Love Letters in the Sand", "I'm Gonna Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter", "These Foolish Things Remind Me of You", "Winter Wonderland", and "Solitude" by Duke Ellington? That Boogie Woogie beat was all the rage too.

In 1932 most songwriters felt it their duty to cheer up America with songs like "Happy Days Are Here Again" and "Let's Have Another Cup of Coffee". But E.Y. Harburg and Jay Gorney faced the depressing facts and created "Brother Can You Spare a Dime?", the song that became the anthem of the depression.

Radio Station KFPW (Kind Friends Please Write) were sending over the airways these songs and others on records. "Sons of the Pioneers" were popular too. Not many people today know this group was made up of Bob Nolan, Tim Spenser and Leonard Slye. Leonard later changed his name to Roy Rogers and went on to movie fame. Bob Nolan continued writing songs about the west, i.e., "Tumbling Tumble Weeds" and "Cool Water".

KFPW also broadcast the first World Series ballgame between the Chicago Cubs and the New York Yankees, and who would miss Lum and Abner if they had a radio? Ella Allen had an amateur hour called "Popeye Club" that was broadcast. During the heatwave of 1936, KFPW broadcast the temperature every two hours during the daytime. In 1931 they carried the Razorback football broadcast. Another favorite was the mystery "Twilight Hour".

Convertible cars were in — especially ones with rumble seats, and for those who could afford it, driving up and down Garrison Avenue was a popular pastime. A drive across Garrison Avenue bridge to Oklahoma naturally included a stop midway to jump out of the car, spit in the river for good luck, then be on your way. That drive often ended at The Rockaway on Rogers Avenue for ice cream or a malt. The Rockaway was a popular place after football games too.

Miniature golf was coming into its own with courses all over town, including Hillcrest Park.

Hillcrest real estate development was the real estate development of the day, popular, but money shortage made property slow moving. Many houses and lots were repossessed from would-be buyers. A model house was built from *Ladies Home Journal* prize-winning plans and specs at 37 Vista on a big lot. It was two story brick, fully insulated, the very latest of everything. At \$8,000, it stood vacant for six months, finally selling to a man from Chicago named Calvin Mann.

Whittaker's swimming pool was a favorite place too. City records show that in 1930, the city agreed to fill this pool twice a week during summer. In exchange for this, all school children who had bathing suits could swim free.

There was no air conditioning, and on sweltering hot nights people slept outside on cots or pallets.

Andrews Field was the place for sports events, and in 1933 was the site for the first annual rodeo in Fort Smith.

When John R. Thompson came to Fort Smith High School as basketball and track coach in 1928, the school was on Grand Avenue in buildings that later became Darby Junior High School, but it was moved that year to the new high school building at 2301 North B Street. Ben I. Mayo was football coach, but in 1939 Coach Thompson became football coach too, when Coach Mayo vacated the job.

The Fort Smith football team was a powerful team. They won every game in 1928-29, and set a record of seventeen straight wins in 1932-33. In 1939, Coach Thompson's first year as football coach, the Grizzlies lost only to Pine Bluff.

Until 1936, when the high school stadium was built, the school system rented Andrews Field for sports practice and games.

The new stadium was built with PWA Funds, and the football field was sodded by NYA workers under the leadership of Coach Thompson. Manhattan Construction Company was contractor for the job.

Other schools in Arkansas were closing or paying teachers with script and struggling to stay open. In some places students were even paying tuition, but Fort Smith schools never closed. Financially, things were rough, but the school board managed to keep the schools open and pay Fort Smith teachers with money. The teachers voluntarily took salary cuts and larger work loads. Every effort was made to avoid firing any teacher, but no new teachers were hired to fill vacancies. When a vacancy did occur, a teacher already in the school system was transferred to fill it.

Teachers without college degrees were required to acquire six college hours every six years. One Fort Smith teacher, Ruth Danner, remembers that at the end of a year, she had only \$65.00 left. That \$65.00 paid her room, board and tuition for six weeks summer school at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. Students went to the library to read the daily newspaper because they did not have money to buy a paper of their own.



As money became more scarce, many other people, including city and county employees, voluntarily took salary cuts and accepted larger work loads.

Nationwide, employed people contributed one day's pay a month to relief funds, and "barter", "make-do", and "help your neighbor" became not only popular but necessary.

Mr. Croom, who owned a filling station on Towson Avenue near Mill Creek, had an employee who paid his rent by arranging with Mr. Croom for the Barbers, whose house he rented, to fill the gasoline tank of their automobile once a week at Mr. Croom's station. Mr. Croom deducted the cost of the gasoline from the employee's wages.

Mrs. Caldwell's husband was working for the Gas Company, A.E. Moore worked for the highway department and Lonnie Hope worked for the railroad. Mr. Fuller worked for the Solid Steel Scissors factory and made \$35.00 per week. Ina Lee Utley worked in the office at Dyke Brothers, and was paid \$6.00 per week. Usual price for the job she did was \$7.50 per week, but she was only sixteen and it was her first job so they paid her only \$6.00. Room and board, with two meals a day, cost her \$5.50 a week and she walked to work because bus fare was 5¢. A brother who was courting in Fort Smith gave her \$2.00 when he came up each week. With this, she had a 10¢ hamburger and 5¢ coke for lunch every day. These people were some of the lucky ones. They had jobs.

Other families, like the Taylors, moved into the house with another family to reduce living expenses. When there was no money to pay gas bills and service was shut off, wood or coal stoves were used, usually the same stove being used for cooking and heating. Stovepipes began to appear everywhere, even emerging through windows if no chimney was available.

In February, 1934, the minimum gas rate was 50¢ per month, with usage cost charged on a graduated scale.

Everyone who had room to plant a garden, did, often with seeds furnished by the government. Everything grown, if it could not be eaten immediately, was canned, shared with less fortunate neighbors, or given to the commissary for distribution to the needy.

In every neighborhood, some women assumed the responsibility of collecting food and clothing for neighbors in desperate need. One of these compassionate women was Mrs. Gabbert, Velma Barber's mother. Velma recalls going to neighbors asking them to pledge their next flour sack to make a diaper for a new baby soon to be born to a destitute neighbor family who had no clothes for the baby.

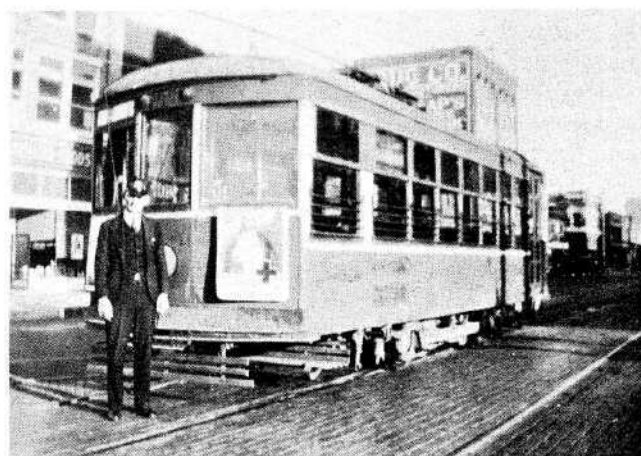
All flour came in reusable cloth bags — and were they used! For everything from dishtowels, sheets and quilt linings to underwear and baby diapers. The gift of one to a neighbor was a sacrifice.

Even more precious were sacks livestock and chicken feed came in. They were printed and highly prized for clothing, window curtains, table cloths and a multitude of other things. Every piece of them was used — even the scraps were pieced into quilts. It was as important when buying feed to select the right color sack as it was to choose the right kind of feed.

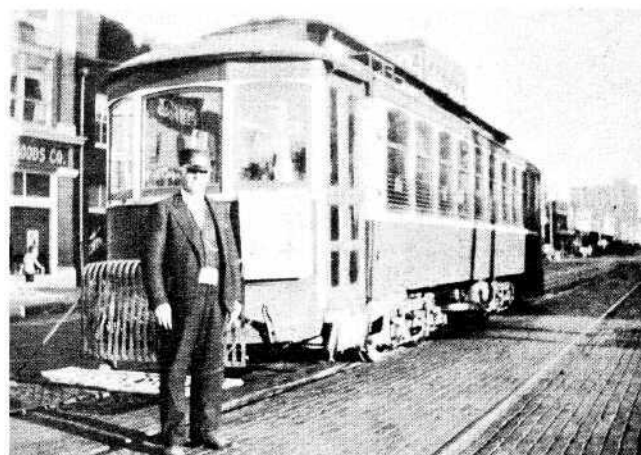
Home Demonstration clubs even had contests and gave prizes for articles made from feed sacks.

1932 saw the number of door to door peddlers increase, and the Chamber of Commerce announced hundreds of new businesses being started, as people were trying to find a way to make a living. Many of them were small businesses like cafes, filling stations and grocery stores. Unfortunately, city permit records show many of these closing soon after opening and owners requesting partial refund of permit fees.

Undoubtedly, the biggest loss to Fort Smith during the depression era was the loss of its streetcar system, which was owned by the Fort Smith Light and Traction Company.



**Motorman Frank Golden with Birney streetcar on November 15, 1933, the last day streetcars ran in Fort Smith before operation was discontinued. Courtesy Fort Smith Trolley Museum.**



**Motorman B. Webb with double truck streetcar on November 15, 1933. Courtesy Fort Smith Trolley Museum.**



Its demise was caused by a string of events, which, though not recognized at the time, began in 1913 when Henry Ford achieved his goal to produce a low priced car that many people in all walks of life could afford. In 1916, the Model T could be sold for a profit for less than \$400 and Ford sold over 15 million Model T's from 1908 to 1927.

Gradually, more and more automobiles ran in Fort Smith, providing convenient private transportation, thereby lessening the need for the streetcars.

Management changes created by the loss of revenue and increased cost of maintenance for the streetcar system, led to the use of one-man streetcars in an effort to cut labor costs. This in turn led to unionization of the streetcar employees and labor problems.

Licensing of the Black and White Taxicab Company in 1931 further reduced revenues from streetcar operations. Also, during this time of financial reverses, people who had money had a car or rode in a taxi. People who did not have money, walked.

Local and state pressure to complete unpaved sections of U.S. Highway 64-71 from Springfield, Missouri, through Fort Smith created the final blow to streetcars in Fort Smith.

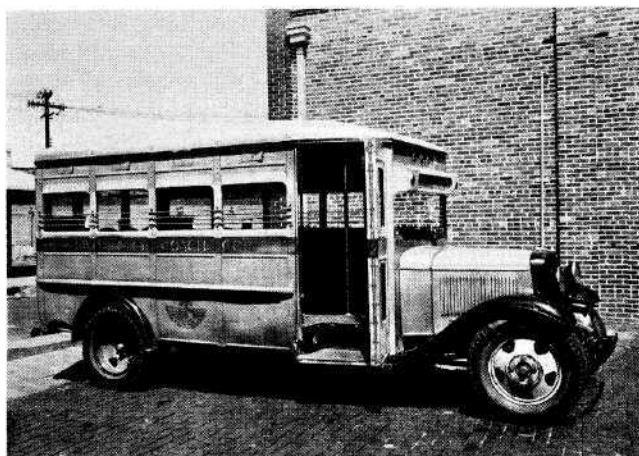
The route for the highway followed the streetcar route from Van Buren bridge down Midland Blvd. and North Eleventh Street to Texas Corner which is the junction of Garrison Avenue and Towson Avenue.

Ben Johnston, Highway Commissioner, advised the Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce board of directors on September 27, 1933, that the Bureau of Public Roads would not approve the project unless the rails, grades, and poles were out of the way—either removed completely or rebuilt to conform to highway specifications. On October 14, the city commissioners officially petitioned FSL&T to abandon streetcar operation in Fort Smith and Van Buren.

Already financially in trouble and operating its streetcars at a loss, FSL&T was unable to meet the demands for reconstruction. As a result, the company agreed to cease operation and remove its track as described, if federal financing could be secured for the paving project, but requested the city to accept tracks, paving and poles "as are" in other parts of the city, thereby relieving the company from further responsibility of any of the other track in Fort Smith streets.

Recognizing an opportunity, on August 15, 1933, R.K. Rodgers petitioned the city for a bus franchise for the city of Fort Smith. No action was taken at that time, but on October 25, 1933, the franchise was granted and the Twin-City bus system established to replace the streetcars.

Round-trip shoppers tickets good on busses between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. were available for 10¢.



**First City Bus to run in Fort Smith, October, 1933.  
Courtesy Fort Smith Trolley Museum.**

Discontinuance of streetcar service in most cities usually amounted to a conversion or substitution of motorbuses by the owners of the transit company. Cessation of streetcar service in Fort Smith was rather unusual to the extent that it marked the complete liquidation of the company. Institution of the bus service the following day marked the beginning of a new, entirely different and completely unrelated company.

All of the streetcar men were out of jobs, but a few of the younger carmen secured jobs as bus operators with the new company. Others went to work for OG&E electric service which bought Mississippi Valley Power Company and Fort Smith Light and Traction Company. Many of the older carmen simply retired when streetcar operation ended.

The federal government contributed \$5,000 to be used for the beautification of the right of way of Highway 64-71 through Fort Smith. Land owners along the route made land available for widening of the street and the Fort Smith Garden Club, the Federated Women's Club and other organizations aided in the project.

Throughout this whole depressing decade, the Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce planned and worked continuously to make more local business, attract new industry and tourists, and create more jobs in Fort Smith.

Fort Smith businessmen and residents were urged to shop in Fort Smith with the slogan "Keep business at home and employment up."

The Chamber backed building of a curb market in 1930 to help farmers sell their products, and the Retail Division created and promoted all kinds of special events and promotions. These included a Spring Festival in 1930 complete with a "Miss Spring", Miss Dorothy Finks, and her court. Christmas in 1932, an Eskimo Village, complete with igloos, a huge mailbox and other attractions were erected on the plaza at Texas Corner as headquarters for Santa Claus.

In 1933 the Chamber promoted the first Rodeo.

Despite bad business conditions, a number of new manufacturing companies located in Fort Smith, including among others, manufacturers of clothing, food products, bus bodies, glass, coal cutter bits, well buckets, paper boxes, and dry ice which revolutionized shipment of ice cream, fish, etc.

In 1935 the Fort Smith Stockyards were built.

The Chamber worked hard selling Fort Smith as a convention center. In 1930 alone, they booked thirty conventions for the city.

Development of a Fort Smith airport with re-establishment of passenger service and securing air mail service was promoted. This effort, in 1933, led to the leasing of ground in Moffett for an airport with the above services. The first air passenger service in Fort Smith had been the Trump Airways in 1931. Air time to Little Rock was 1 hour 10 minutes, and 1 hour to Tulsa.

It was also through action of the Chamber of Commerce that many offices of government projects were located in Fort Smith, including the five-state regional WPA offices, and the NYA office which was moved to Fort Smith from Russellville.

Efforts to secure a federal highway from Springfield, Missouri, to Dallas, Texas, through Fort

Smith were successful, a new bus line through Fort Smith was attracted, Good Will Delegation trips made, and extension of Railway Express delivery in Fort Smith secured.

The Chamber made a river navigation study and created a Trade Extension Committee as well as a Foreign Trade Council to obtain export trade for Fort Smith manufacturers and increase foreign trade.

Statewide results of the depression which have had long-lasting effects on Fort Smith, as well as the rest of the State, was the 2% State Sales Tax enacted in 1935 and the establishment of the Arkansas Department of Public Welfare.

Yes, there was a "Great Depression" in the United States and Fort Smith, Arkansas, in 1929-1940. Historians remember — and Fort Smith people remember the way it was — but what probably only local historians know is that Fort Smith emerged from the Great Depression era a victor, strengthened by adversity, larger by more than 2,000 people, equipped with public improvements that would have been impossible in a ten year span of time for a town of 36,540 people to do under normal situations, and on its way to new prosperity.

---

## BIBLIOGRAPHY, DEPRESSION ERA, FORT SMITH

### Personal Interviews:

Velma Barber (80 years old 4 Sept. 1982 - married in 1920)

Christine Elmore Allen

Jimmie Barry

Coach John R. Thompson

Ralph Mott, Architect

Henry Upchurch, Manhattan Construction Co.

Paul Kaelin

Stewart Condren, 1st Federal S&L

Ina Lee Utley

Sarah Fitzjarrald McCullough

Marlin Southern, Red Cross

Major Wynn and Mrs. Lucy Fuller, Salvation Army

Ruth Danner, retired school teacher

George Barham

Ronnie Gossage, State Park Service

Sherman Creekmore

E.A. Moore

Lonnie Hope

Fadjo Cravens

### Newspapers:

*Southwest Times Record*, Fort Smith

### Records:

Chamber of Commerce

Fort Smith City Commissioners

### Books:

Martin, Amelia Whitaker. *Physicians and Medicine*, pages 66-73, 160-166.

*Readers Digest, Favorite of Popular Songs*. The Readers Digest Ass'n., Inc., 1977.

*World Book Encyclopedia*, Vol. 1, pg. 924; Vol. 5, pg. 284; Vol. 7, pg. 67; Vol. 14, pgs. 169-170; Vol. 19, pgs. 115-116.

Poindexter, Ray. *Arkansas Airwaves*, pages 231-246.

### Articles:

Lambert, Rogers. *Hoover and the Red Cross in The Arkansas Drought of 1930*. Arkansas Historical Quarterly, Vol. 29, pages 1-19.

Murray, Gail S. *Forty Years Ago, The Great Depression Comes To Arkansas*. Arkansas Historical Quarterly, Vol. 29, pages 291-312.

Hicks, Floyd W. and Lambert, C. Roger. *Food for the Hungry; Federal Food Programs in Arkansas, 1933-1942*, Arkansas Historical Quarterly, Vol. 37, pages 23-43.

Rison, David. *Federal Aid to Arkansas Education, 1933-1936*. Arkansas Historical Quarterly, Vol. 36, pages 192-200.

Webb, Pamela. *Business as Usual: The Bank Holiday in Arkansas*. Arkansas Historical Quarterly, Vol. 39, pages 247-261.

### Directories:

Fort Smith City Directories; 1928-29, 1930, 1936, 1938, and 1940.

# New Courthouse Cornerstone

## March 20, 1937

On March 20, 1937, the cornerstone was set into the new combination Upper District Sebastian County Courthouse and Fort Smith City Hall which was funded through the federal Public Works Administration (PWA) program.

Virginia Gardner, secretary to R.P. Strozier, who was County Judge from 1933-1952, provided the Fort Smith Historical Society with the following list of the contents of the cornerstone.

An asterisk by an item indicates a copy of that item was attached to the list.

Limited space permits printing at this time only two of the documents: the "List of Those Having to do with the Construction of the New Courthouse" and "The Brief History on the Negroes of Fort Smith" compiled by Rev. B.F. Neal. Perhaps later more of the attachments can be published.

### **MATERIAL THAT WAS PLACED IN THE CORNERSTONE OF THE NEW COURTHOUSE 3/20/1937**

Edition of *Southwest-Times Record*

"Lake Fort Smith" Issue — Issued July 19, 1936

"The Story of the Oldest Bank in Fort Smith" — A Booklet

Brief History of the First National Bank

Brief History of the City National Bank

Brief History of Merchants National Bank

Brief History of Carpenters Union

Brief History of Hod Carrier Bldg. & Common Laborers Union #107

\*Brief History of Painters, Paper Hangers & Decorators Local No. 381

\*Brief History of Barbers Union #487

Brief History of Chauffeurs

Brief History of Scissor Workers Union

\*List of names of the 18 Labor Organizations

Facts about the work of the Old Commissary

Museum Assn. of Ft. Smith, Arkansas, and a message to future citizens (Compiled by Mrs. Lora Goolsby)

Brief History of St. Anne's & Immaculate Conception (Compiled by Sister Mary Ignateus)

List of Churches and date organized (59)

List of Banks (3)

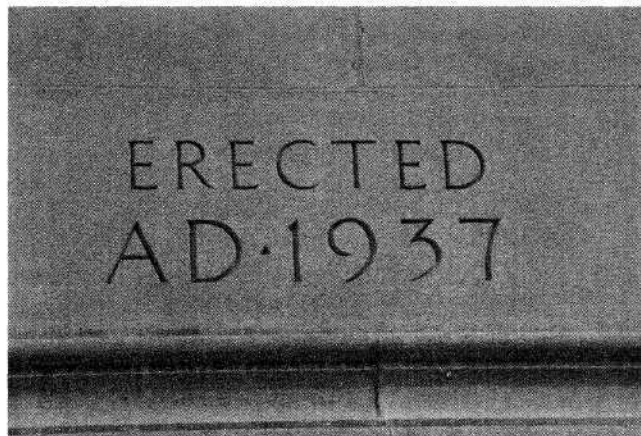
List of Number of Miles of Highways & Railroads in Sebastian County

Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors from 1851-1937

Sebastian County State Highway — Commission Members

"Fort Smith Progress" — Booklet

"Lake Fort Smith" — Booklet



New Courthouse Cornerstone, March 20, 1937.  
Photograph by Art Martin.

A copy of an order by John Carnall, dated Feb. 27, 1888, stating all Records lost from 1851 to 1882

Brief History of American Legion

Brief History of Spanish War Veterans

Brief History of Veterans of Foreign Wars

Brief History of Fort Smith Public Schools

Directory of the Fort Smith Public

Schools—(Booklet)

\*List of Physicians & Surgeons of Fort Smith (50)

\*List of Dentists of Fort Smith (23)

\*List of Hospitals (5)

\*List of Societies - Secret & Benevolent (16)

List of Societies & Clubs (14)

List of The Fort Smith Bar 1937 (80)

List of Labor Organizations (24)

\*Brief History of the Negroes of Fort Smith — (Compiled by Rev. B.F. Neal)

History of The Lutheran School 1852-1937

\*List of County Officials since 1851

\*List of Mayors since 1851

Brief Report by Joe Hardin, Road Commissioner

Application & Loan & Grant to Court House

Issue of "The Greenwood Democrat", issued March 18, 1937

Issue of Special Carl Bailey Edition of the Little Rock Labor Bulletin, issued March 19, 1937

Issue of *Fort Smith Tribune*, issued March 19, 1937

Issue of *Southwest American*, issued March 19, 1937

"Proceedings of the Masonic Grand Lodge"—(Booklet)

Issue of "The Elevator" - Issued December 14, 1887, was removed from the old box that was placed in the cornerstone of the Old Court House.



Brief History of Sparks Memorial Hospital  
 "Sparks" Follies of 1936" — Booklet  
 Brief History of Radio Station "KFPW"  
 "KFPW" Souvenir Program — (Booklet)  
 History of Fort Smith, Arkansas  
 Fifty Years Progress of Fort Smith-Radio Addresses  
 by C.F. Byrns.  
 Issue of *Fort Smith Times Record* — Issued March  
 19, 1937  
 History of St. Scholastica Convent & Academy  
 History of St. Edwards Hospital  
 "Clear Creek Water Project" — (Booklet)  
 List of Members of Quorum Court  
 List of Members of Courthouse Committee  
 List of County Officials and Deputies and  
 Stenographers & Assistants  
 A Masonic Apron donated by Robert C. Mack to the  
 Grand Lodge Officials of the Grand Lodge of  
 Arkansas, containing list of all Grand Lodge  
 Officers  
 Picture of Old Courthouse — (Courtesy of J.F.  
 McGraw)  
 List of Juvenile Officers from 1912  
 \*List of Architects, Attorney, General Contractor  
 and Sub-Contractors For New Court House,  
 P.W.A. State Officials  
 List of W.P.A. Officials for District #4  
 Present Day Coins — H.H. Carey  
 Issue of "Arkansas Gazette" Published in Little  
 Rock, March 20, 1937  
 Metal Monogrammed Key Ring by C.J. Hummel

#### **LIST OF THOSE HAVING TO DO WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW COURTHOUSE**

Fred S. Armstrong, Attorney  
 Bassham & Wheeler, Architects  
 E. Chester Nelson, Architect  
 N.C. Withrow, Government Inspector  
 J.L. Payne, Architect Inspector  
 Alexander Allaire, State Director PWA  
 W.W. Mitchell, Chief Engineer  
 Manhattan Construction Co., General Contractors

#### **Subcontracts**

Hunt Electric Company  
 Johnson Service Company  
 John Patton & Son Plumbing  
 Consolidated Cut Stone Company  
 Trucson Steel Company  
 Metal Door & Trim Company  
 Western Terracotta Company  
 Indiana Limestone Company  
 D.C. Snead Plastering  
 Arnosti Marble Company  
 Flour City Ornamental Iron Company  
 McClelland Company  
 Porter Mirror & Glass Company  
 Taylor Marble & Tile Company  
 Otis Elevator Company  
 Hummell Sheet Metal Company  
 Niedringhaus Company  
 Cutler Mail Chute Company  
 O'Shea-Hinch Hardware Company  
 Moline Furniture Company  
 Harry G. Barr Dampproofing  
 Southern Prison Company

#### **BRIEF HISTORY OF THE NEGROES OF FORT SMITH (Compiled by Rev. B.F. Neal)**

My Fellow-citizens, I hereby take this opportunity to speak a word in the behalf of the colored citizens of Fort Smith in the approach of this epoch making event which we are about to celebrate. Many of these statements are secured from the old citizens who were and are eyewitnesses of the growth and development of our city; therefore we consider them as actual facts.

A rough estimate of the colored citizens of Fort Smith 50 years ago was between 800 and 1000. Today they are estimated at about 5000.

Churches: There were two established Negro churches, namely; First Baptist, a log building located on North 4th Street and valued at about \$350.00 and Quinn Chapel A.M.E. Church, located on the corner of North 8th and H Streets. This was a frame building and was valued at approximately \$1000.00. Today we have showing the progress and development of the Negro in this city, the following churches:

Mount Moriah, a brick and stone structure, of which Rev. Neal Henderson is pastor, valued at \$10,000.00; Mission Point, a frame building, pastored by Rev. Norman McGill, valued at \$2500.00; Campbell Chapel, a brick and stone structure, Rev. W.L. Coffey, pastor, valued at \$10,000; Church of God, frame building, Elder W.H. Mitchell, pastor, valued at \$4,000.00; Church of Christ, frame building, Rev. Bowser, pastor, valued at \$2500.00; King Solomon Baptist, stone structure, Rev. S. King, pastor, valued at \$15,000.00; Seventh Day Adventist, frame building, valued at \$2,500; First Baptist, stucco, Rev. J.W. Cassey, pastor, valued at \$15,000; St. John Episcopal, frame building, Mr. Bowling, lay-reader, valued at \$2500.00; Mount Zion, C.M.E., brick structure, Rev. H.C. Crawford, pastor, valued at \$20,000.00; Ninth St. Baptist, stone structure, Rev. W.M. Erby, pastor, valued at \$55,000.00; Mallalieu M.E. brick structure, Rev. B.F. Neal, pastor, valued at \$80,000.00; Quinn Chapel, A.M.E., brick structure, Rev. E.J. Lunon, pastor, valued at \$60,000.00; and St. James Baptist, a brick structure of which Rev. Perry is pastor, and valued at \$25,000.00.

In addition to this we have erected a number of halls: Trent Building, a frame building valued at \$4,000.00; Odd Fellows Hall, another frame building, valued at \$6,000.00; K.P. Hall, a brick structure, valued at \$30,000.00; Josenberger's halls, one brick and the other stone, valued at \$40,000.00 and \$10,000.00 respectively; Rowell's hall, frame building, valued at \$3,500.00 and Masonic Hall, valued at \$5,000.00.

This goes to show that the Negro is an integral part of the city of Fort Smith and that he has proven himself an asset instead of a liability.

The Negro citizenry has always been and is even now proud of this city and many of them say that it could have been named the "City of Philadelphia" for truly it has been a "City of Brotherly Love", and can boast of the same over and above any city in the state. The schools have been excellent. The relationship has been most cordial. The question that now confronts us is: Has the city made greater physical

than spiritual progress? Has it grown more materially than spiritually? Has matter superseded heart?

To The Honorable County Judge, Quorum Court, and eminent citizens who conceived the idea and executed the same, of erecting this lasting monument, we extend our congratulations, and wish to assure you that we pledge our loyalty and ourselves to this shrine, and to this cornerstone which

represents the foundation of justice, equity and liberty, We pray that upon you shall be built a lasting structure of brotherhood and that no soul shall ever have cause to point to you with enmity, because of having received injustice. We pray that you may ever stand as a building for the people, of the people, and by the people.

(Signed) B.F. NEAL

## Sebastian County Judges 1851 to 1991

1851-52: James Clark	1874-78: C/G Perkins	1916-21: C. Holland
1852-54: Samuel Wilson	1878-82: R.B. Rutherford	1921-26: T.A. Norris
1854-56: S.M. Rutherford	1882-88: B.J.H. Gaines	1927-33: S.A. Lynch
1856-60: Charles Milor	1888-92: W.I. Blythe	1933-52: R.P. Strozier
1860-64: Wm. McAllister	1892-96: J.H. Holland	1953-70: Ben A. Geren
1864-68: John Howard	1896-1902: J.M. Spradling	1971-78: Glenn Thames
1868-72: C.P. Swift	1902-08: W.A. Falconer	1979-82: Robert E. Boyer (Resigned)
1872-74: Record incomplete, name of judge not available	1908-12: J.A. Harp	1982-83: David Hudson (Appointed)
	1912-16: Ezra Hester	1983- : W.R. "Bud" Harper

## 1991 State, County & City Officials

### STATE SENATORS FROM SEBASTIAN COUNTY

Travis Miles .....	785-2109
Bill Walters .....	996-2122

### STATE REPRESENTATIVES FROM SEBASTIAN COUNTY

B.G. Hendrix .....	785-2651
Carolyn Pollan .....	782-9014
Ralph "Buddy" Blair .....	452-4370
Jerry D. King .....	996-4025

### SEBASTIAN COUNTY OFFICIALS

County Judge: W.R. "Bud" Harper .....	783-6139
Assessor: Ronnie Raible .....	783-8948
Circuit Clerk: Peggy Watson .....	782-1046
Collector: Gary Grimes .....	783-1051
Coroner: A.J. Parish .....	646-9701
County Clerk: Doris Tate .....	782-5065
Prosecuting Attorney: Ron Fields .....	783-8976
Sheriff: Gary Grimes .....	783-1051
Treasurer: Marcy Porter .....	783-5646

### TWELFTH JUDICIAL AND CHANCERY DISTRICT CIRCUIT JUDGES

F.G. "Pete" Rogers .....	474-6332
John Holland .....	783-1103

### CIRCUIT/CHANCERY JUDGE

Don Langston .....	782-8667
--------------------	----------

### CIRCUIT CHANCERY JUDGE-JUVENILE DIVISION

Mark Hewett .....	783-0289
-------------------	----------

### CHANCERY/PROBATE JUDGES

Warren Kimbrough .....	782-3035
Harry Foltz .....	782-0394

### FORT SMITH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### ELECTED FROM WARDS

Position 1: Bernice Kizer .....	452-8420
Position 2: Nan Bartlett .....	783-3745
Position 3: Carter Hunt .....	646-4985
Position 4: Steve Lease .....	452-2532

#### ELECTED-AT-LARGE

Position 5: Rick Griffin .....	783-5191
Position 6: Ben Shipley .....	783-3181
Position 7: Ray Stewart .....	783-1540

### CITY OFFICIALS

Mayor: Ray Baker .....	785-2801
Municipal Judge: Les Evitts .....	783-0261
City Administrator: Stribling Boynton ..	785-2801
City Engineer: Van Lee .....	785-2801
City Clerk: Cindy Remler .....	785-2801
Chief of Police: Don Taylor .....	785-2801
Fire Chief: James Moore .....	785-2801
City Attorney: Jerry Canfield .....	785-2801

# James Keys Jordan

## Mayor of Fort Smith

### April 10, 1933 - April 7, 1941

Joanne Swafford



**James Keys Jordan. Courtesy Old Fort Museum.**

(If anyone can supply a better photograph of Mayor Jordan, please contact Fort Smith Historical Society or Mayor Ray Baker's office.)

James Keys Jordan — mayor of Fort Smith April 10, 1933 until April 7, 1941, served in a time of great change and upheaval in the city. Fort Smith, as well as the rest of the country, was caught in the grip of the "Depression". Due, in most part to the large number of Federal projects that were formed to provide employment, the city was able to survive and at the same time obtain numerous improvements that are still very much in use today.

Mayor Jordan was born in Lonoke County, Arkansas on October 10, 1886. The second child and first son to J.D. Jordan and Alice Garlington Jordan. He had one brother and four sisters. He was married to Bertha Willis, who he preceded in death on March 29, 1966 with burial in the National Cemetery. He and Mrs. Jordan resided at 221 North Greenwood Avenue for many years and he sold insurance when not active in community affairs. Mayor Jordan was a veteran of World War I, enlisting at Fayetteville,

Arkansas, and after training at Camp Pike served as a Private with the First Company, Thirteenth Battalion, United States Army.

James Keys Jordan was active in his community with membership in the First Baptist Church, where he served as deacon. He was a member of the Sebastian County Blue Lodge, the Grotto, the Western Arkansas Consistory, United Commercial Travelers, and was Lions Club Past President, American Legion Past President, District Commander American Legion, and served on the Quorum Court 1955 until 1966.

Serving with Mayor Jordan in his first term as Mayor were Commissioner No. 1 Earl Buck and Commissioner No. 2 W.H. Vaughn. Commissioner Buck passed away suddenly September 27, 1933 and on November 14, 1933, Mrs. Frances Buck was elected to succeed her husband in a special election. Mrs. Buck continued to serve the city until 1941. Commissioner Vaughn served until April 8, 1935, when H.S. Peck was elected and continued to serve for the rest of Mayor Jordan's administration.

An example of the power the mayor had at this time was shown at the first meeting of the new mayor and his commissioners. The mayor called it an emergency meeting, and abolished all the jobs for the city and fired the people who were employed. He then proceeded to establish the jobs he felt necessary to run the city and hired the people he wanted to have them.

Under Mayor Jordan and the commissioners, many changes were started that had a great interest for the growth of the city and continue to this day. The first known meeting was held to discuss the possibility of controlling the flooding on the Arkansas River. As the streetcar system was forced to stop its operation, a city bus system was introduced by R.K. Rodgers. Leigh Kelly and others leased land in Moffett, Oklahoma for a Fort Smith Airport. It was not until 1940 that the present airport was to be. The city introduced parking meters, sale of city license tags and leased Andrews Field to a Mr. Todd and the Amrita Grotto for the first rodeo.

With the use of Federal programs and their money, the present water system at Lake Fort Smith with its dam, lake, filter plant, and feeder lines were completed. The park and swimming pool that were built at the same time are now part of the Arkansas



State Parks System. This park was for many years the main swimming facility for the city and was used by many local people. Some of the other projects were: miles of city streets paved, sewer and water lines repaired, the high school (Northside) stadium and athletic field were built, improvements to Andrews Field's buildings and land, and the building of Sebastian County Court House and Fort Smith



Mayor J.K. Jordon and Beauty Queen Contestants at Lake Fort Smith July 22, 1937. Courtesy Helen Westbrook Mapstone.

City Hall-Jail building. A different type of project was the establishing of a local unit of the Housing Authority for the building of 200 units of low rent housing. Heartsill Ragon Courts were constructed and named for the man that was the first local commissioner. Federal and state money was used for the reconstruction and paving of Towson Avenue, 11th Street and Midland Blvd. that was part of Highway 64 and 71.

One of the problems the city faced was the large number of unemployed transients that needed a place to stay. The city leased a local hotel but that soon was filled. The federal government under one of its programs leased 80 acres on Wildcat Mountain and erected two large barracks that were filled most of the time. In later years the state leased the building for use by the Booneville Tuberculosis Sanatorium, and in 1958 the land reverted back to the city. It was later sold and a nursing home and retirement home is situated there now.

#### REFERENCES

1. *Southwest Times Record*, Centennial Edition, Section II
2. 1900 Census, Lonoke County, Arkansas
3. Record of Proceedings of City of Fort Smith
4. 1936 City Director
5. 1966 City Directory
6. Edwards Funeral Home

## Attorneys and Judges Memorial Service Held

Attorneys and judges from the 12th Judicial District who have died in the past five years were memorialized in a service April 26, 1991, at the Sebastian County Courthouse in Fort Smith. The Sebastian County Bar Association sponsored the event, which is held every five years.

Those honored were Fines Batchelor Sr., former prosecuting attorney for Crawford, Franklin and Logan counties; Lonnie Batchelor, a municipal court judge in Van Buren; Jack Daily, a trial lawyer; Sam Goodkin, an attorney in private practice; James Gutensohn, former prosecuting attorney for Sebastian and Scott counties and assistant U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Arkansas;

Thomas Harper Sr., a trial lawyer who represented former Arkansas Gov. Orval Faubus; Clyman Izard, an attorney who has also been a banker and court reporter; James Langston, a municipal court judge in Fort Smith; Jack Rose, an attorney who worked with labor unions when coal mining was a major industry in this area; Bruce Shaw, a partner in the law firm of Hardin, Barton and Shaw; Richard Shaw, a defense lawyer; C.R. Starbird, a Crawford County attorney from Alma who was active in community affairs; and H.K. Westmoreland, a lawyer who developed a claims service that specialized in Social Security and coal miners' black lung claims.

# Memories of Helen Olive Jones Harper

Lorna Dickson Schultis



John H. Jones and his sister and brother, Anna Rowlands and Owen Jones, early 1900's.

My grandparents came from Wales and settled in the United States in Waukesha, Wisconsin. My grandfather was a stonemason in Cardiff, Wales, but wanted to settle in the United States. Gradually all the family emigrated toward Wisconsin. Relatives and friends all had farms and let the relatives work these farms to save money to buy their own farms. Emporia, Kansas, was my grandpa's choice for farming. He had three large farms there. They had six children but all died from diphtheria except Papa (my father), Aunt Anna and Uncle Owen. Papa talked of another little sister that was so smart at six years old they couldn't keep her in the first grade.

Instead of Grandpa living on any of these farms he rented them out to sharecroppers; he built his home in Emporia. The house is still standing — beautiful and well kept. He built the house of solid walnut—even the rafters. The furniture was made from walnut and some was made in Wales. He also ordered walnut from Wales for furniture to be made here

because he liked it better than American walnut. I have two pieces of that furniture, a candle or lamp stand and a parlor chair.

Papa married young, but it was not a successful marriage and he left for California. He was a very stylish young man for my cousins bragged about how nice he looked in his evening clothes. He worked for the Pacific and Great Northern Railroad as a Conductor.

He got into politics while in California but wanted to go to Oklahoma to work on Indian affairs. He was suited for this job and thought he would get it, but they thought a native son should get it. He was interested in the plight of the Indians. He decided to start a newspaper and called it the *Oklahoma Review*. This was his opportunity to write of Indians.

His folks were in Emporia all this time. When he returned for a visit he met Mama. Her name was Bertha Mae Ashley, the daughter of an architect and builder. She was fourteen years younger than Papa. Grandmother wouldn't hear of them dating since he was a divorced man and so much older. So, he sold his newspaper and moved back to Emporia to open a general merchandise store, and Mama went to work for him. They were finally allowed to marry and they moved to Topeka to open a music, fine china, and book store. They moved out to the "Ramsey Place" about 1893. (This house is also still standing. Our local weatherman, Corey Barron with Channel 5, has a brother that lived there or rented there for a while.)



John H. and Bertha Ashley Jones in 1894.

Grandpa wanted to have them settled down near him and suggested they move out to one of the farms near Emporia. They moved there when I was a baby. Mama had never worked that hard in her life. They had 160 acres in cultivation and worked them with horsedrawn plows. There were bunks for 16 men that worked during planting and harvesting. All the cooking and work were too much. The doctor told my father "You can keep your farm or your wife, but not both." They had an auction and sold out. They sold almost everything so they would have enough money to start in something new. Mama said farm eggs were 3 cents a dozen and roosters and hens were 8 and 15 cents each. Grandpa was real disappointed they were leaving. Papa decided they had to make it on what they had from the auction in order not to have to ask Grandpa for help.

We moved from the farm to Sedalia, Missouri, where Papa went to work for the Santa Fe Railroad. On the way to Sedalia we stopped by to see an aunt in Columbia. When we got there I was very sick with scarlet fever and spinal meningitis. There we were, all five of us, visiting with those people until I was well enough to travel. (This aunt's daughter smoked a corn cob pipe. I thought this was really strange.) As I started to get well, my aunt asked what I wanted to eat. I loved her graham bread with peanut butter. Then she said she wanted to buy me a pair of shoes... "What color would I like?" I said "Red!" I can still remember sitting in my high chair, eating my peanut butter and graham bread and looking at my red shoes. I was three years old.

The first time they almost lost me was when I was a baby. They were leaving the farm to take some things into town for the folks and decided to take the spring wagon. There was only one horse that worked with the buggy; her name was Bessie. They teamed her with Tom for the wagon. Tom was afraid of trains. When we got into town Dad had us all get out of the buggy when he heard a train coming, just in case Tom bolted. After the train passed, and Tom didn't bolt, they started gathering us into the buggy, but I was missing! They finally found me between the front and back wheels of the wagon. If the buggy had moved at all I would have been crushed. They said it was the first time Tom had stayed still for a train.

Papa wanted a job as conductor with the railroad since that is what he did on the West Coast. But he was made a brakeman. There were no unions or set hours then and he sometimes had to work several shifts. He had been on for three shifts when he fell between the trains and was injured. There was no compensation; they just replaced him. That's when he came to Fort Smith hoping to get to work for the Fort Smith and Western Railroad as a Clerk.



**J.H. Jones Family**

**Left to right: J.H., Orlin, Helen Olive, Bertha Mae and Ralph.**

We lived in a rooming house when we first came to Fort Smith. The Railroad people convinced the Widow Saltenbury to let us room at her house even though she specified "no children". She offered no food, just rooms. We ate at the People's Cafe next to her house. The money from the auction went a long way. A little bit of money went a long way in those days. Our meals at noon were 15-cent bowls of soup. Sometimes we got dessert or bought cinnamon rolls at Gramlich Bakery for 10 cents a dozen.

When a house still couldn't be found, the Railroad built one for us on some of their property in the 200 block of North 8th Street. This house had a bathroom inside and gas lights. They moved this house to Wheeler Avenue when they planned to build the Kansas City Southern Station on the 8th Street property. Mama didn't like living on Wheeler. The neighbor that lived next door had lots of children and would get drunk, torture and kill chickens on his back porch with much noise. Mama decided to get us away from this "business" and we moved to a house at 314 North 5th Street. The fire station is there now.

Our 5th Street house had the big old potbellied stove Papa had brought from the farm. It had a wide silver rim all the way around where we'd warm our feet in the morning while we waited for Papa to fix our breakfast. When we moved over the restaurant, Papa decided to put gas in this stove. Once when he was lighting it, he said "Bertha, this thing is gonna blow up sometime." Sure enough, when he reached in once more to light it he came back out with eyebrows, eyelashes and hair singed. Mama said "Well, why in the dickens did you light the darn thing anyway?"



Before Papa started his job with the Railroad, he met a Mr. Butterfield that worked for the newspaper and was offered a job delivering newspapers to the businessmen in town. He worked for both the newspaper and the railroad for three years. Then Mr. Butterfield suggested he let my older brother Orlin deliver the papers in his little red wagon. Papa agreed Orlin could do just as good a job and was finally out of the newspaper business.

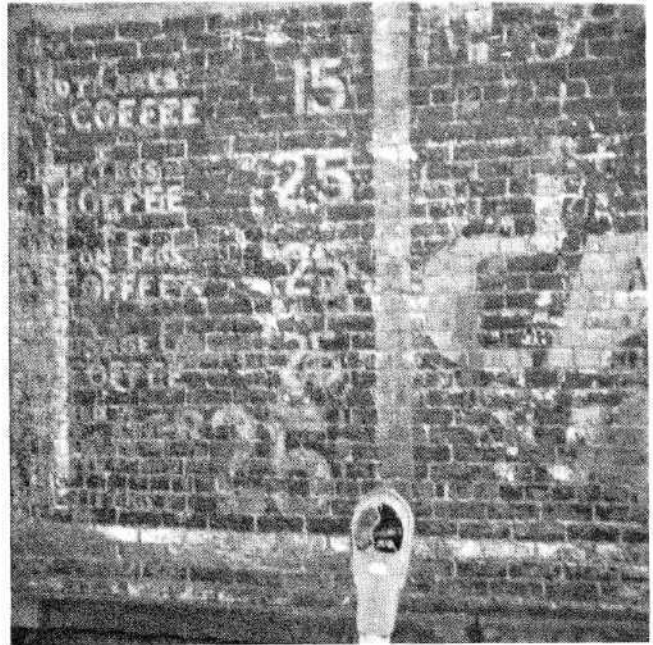
Then a lady suggested to Papa that the town needed a good sandwich place. Al Belt (newspaper man and saloon keeper) offered him half his building at 423½ Garrison. Papa set up his sandwich business there. He would open at 4:00 in the afternoon and stay open until all his sandwiches were sold, which was usually midnight. He might have as much as \$200 on him so he always rode home in a hack. He didn't want to be robbed! He added a carryout fish market to the sandwich business, also pickled pigs' feet, spare ribs, and beans. He called it Casey's Sandwiches.

I do think it funny that Papa was the first one to introduce sandwiches to Fort Smith! He bought all his bread products from Gramlich Bakery on 9th Street next to Central Presbyterian Church (Brunwick Architectural Firm now). And according to Swift and Company records, he bought more meat from them than any other restaurant in Fort Smith.



**Restaurant at 5th and Garrison**

With a growing family, Papa thought he could make more money if he had a restaurant. Mr. Belt owned the property at 421 Garrison where the Labor Union had their offices. When they moved out, Mr. Belt had it remodeled into a home for us. It was beautiful! KWHN is there now. Papa opened his cafe at 501 Garrison. This used to be the House of Lords Saloon. An Englishman came here to open that saloon and chose the name.



**Jones Cafe Sign, North 5th at Garrison  
(Before Restoration)**

It was a very attractive building. But Papa's profits weren't what he thought they were going to be. His overhead was much more and he had to attract people to come in and eat reasonably. He painted a sign on the side of his building advertising his food. This has been repainted in recent years and has always been visible at 5th and Garrison since it was first put there by my father.

Garrison Avenue was just like Old Timer's Day in Van Buren every day the weather was good. Every shop had an awning out front and the merchants put some of their wares outside under the awnings. This helped the public know what was for sale inside. You also had protection from the elements as you walked from store to store. And Papa advertised on the outside of his building about his prices and the food he offered. He especially wanted to lure the Saturday night shoppers inside to eat. Mr. and Mrs. Tucker of Tucker Duck and Awning ate at Papa's restaurant every night.

Saturday night specials evolved since the stores stayed open until 10:00. The newspaper men also came in for the Saturday night meals. There would occasionally be banquets, too. I would sometimes be asked to play for these and still have the notes and cards sent to me in appreciation. I rode the streetcar to Van Buren for my music lessons at Mrs. Nicholson's Conservatory. Then Mrs. Cleo Blythe, my school teacher, suggested I take from her sister, Mae. So I started going to her house on 21st Street for my lessons.

There were teachers I dearly loved in school. They were so good to me. My first teacher at Belle Grove School was a sweet little Jewish lady named Minnie Pahotski. Next was Cora Riggs, but I had a "set-in" with her. One day in school I was coughing and couldn't stop. She said, "Olive (I was called Olive in grade school.), quit that coughing!" I just couldn't quit or answer so she took me to the front of the class and popped me a good one. I looked up at her and said, "Oh, I'm so glad you did that. You knocked that fly right out of my throat!" The class just roared. But I really did have a fly in my throat. She was my teacher several times because teachers taught whatever class needed them and switched around from year to year. My very favorite teacher was Cleo Blythe. She was partial to me. Cleo went to high school to teach Latin and I had her there as my Latin teacher. She was very disappointed when I married my Junior year of high school. I hadn't really planned to. This boy was wanting me to and I didn't even date. But when Mama was gone to be with her folks (they were sick) he was pestering me to marry him. I kept saying "No" but his mother came to me and said if I didn't he was going to kill himself. I asked my older brother what I ought to do, and he said I'd better marry the boy. And I did. When Mama came home and I had to tell her, she really cried and I did too.

I was in all the musicals in school. I always had an important part and just loved it. Fred Nimby always had the lead in our shows. He had a beautiful voice. Mr. Kuse wanted me to perform in a play he was producing at the Opera House. There were six of us in a group and I was head of the group with speaking parts and singing.



Helen in play at Opera House

When I was fourteen years old Hazel Trobridge and I took our dolls to the show at the Opera House because they would let you in at no charge if you wanted to sit in the balcony. Can you imagine fourteen-year-olds of today doing something like that? Hazel's father had a tobacco store across from the Opera House.

City fathers planned to build a depot at First Street and wanted Papa to fix a nice place for people to eat and stay. So at 103 and 105 Garrison Papa redecorated 48 rooms and could seat about 50 people at a time in the restaurant area. He redid the whole building and had fine furniture and red carpet runners in the halls. The third floor of the Artelee Hotel was mostly for family and young ladies the Matrons (ladies employed by the Railroad to accompany young girls traveling by rail) would bring. The Matrons were Effie Brinley and Jennie Stevens. Papa had a franchise with the railroad for the men to stop there for their meals. If they tried to charge their meals and not pay, the railroad would just take it out of their pay.

When the circus would come, the circus cars would park on the siding by the hotel and as far as you could see would be circus cars and circus people. You really got used to sleeping with the whistles and sounds of trains.



105 Garrison



103 Garrison



The big fire came in and the back of the Hotel caught on fire. Paul Howell and Mr. McDaniel closed their Pharmacies (Howell had Sterling and McDaniel had Palace, I think) and came to help fight the fire. The back stairs were gone.

There was lots of liquor and gambling at that time in Fort Smith. Indians would come across the river to frequent the drinking establishments. One particular Indian was really mean. When he would come into the restaurant Mama would let Papa know. Papa would put on his coat and go to the Indian with a pleasant "Hi, would you like to take a walk?" And out the door they'd go. This same Indian came into the Depot when Harper was working (this was before we were married) and used the spittoon as a urinal. Harper made him clean it up... and lived to tell about it!

When the depression hit it was hard to even keep open, but Papa managed. As long as he lived he walked to the slaughter house to buy soup bones to make soup. The reason was the kids on Coke Hill were so poor and hungry. Papa made huge pots of soup with lots of vegetables. He would serve his customers then give gallons of soup and leftover bread to the many children that came by every night. No one knew of this. He walked to buy the soup bones himself because it was cheaper and only he knew of his plans to feed the Coke Hill children.

My father was struck by an automobile driven by J.H. Stone and dragged almost a block before they could get Stone to stop the car. He was standing in a safety zone when he was struck. It was a Ford pickup that hit him. He lived only a few hours after being struck. Mother stayed in business a little while but by that time nobody wanted to stay in that part of town. That's when my brother and Mama opened the JayB Luncheonette at 66 South 6th.

Papa was a politician all his life. He worked for and with politicians and was friends with Fort Smith leaders and businessmen. He was proud and smart. You never saw him step out without his Derby hat, white shirt, black tie, and black suit. He always bought black suits.

Papa would get mad with me and bawl me out, but would end up patting my head and saying "Don't pay any attention to your old Dad. He's just an old crony." So I never minded him getting on to me because I knew he would still not really be mad at me for long.

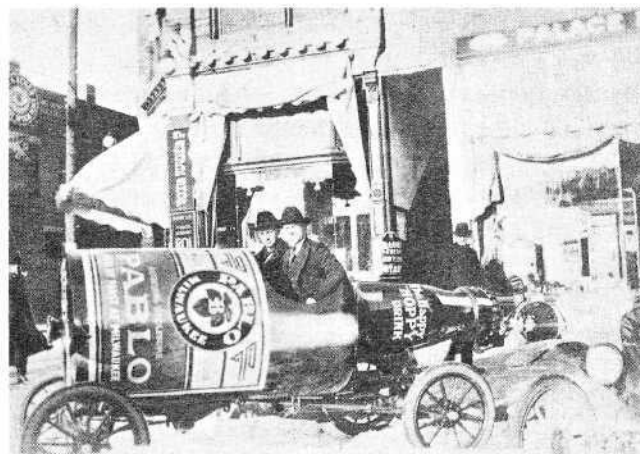
I could eat at the restaurant as a "customer" and was treated really nice. But wasn't allowed to treat my friends. Mr. Houdini came in on the train once and was in the restaurant. He told Papa "I very seldom see anyone I think is remarkable. But your wife is one of the most remarkable people I've met." Of course, Papa wasn't going to let her go. And she didn't want to anyway! Dad worshipped her. Each of us kids thought she was the universe because Papa made her the special one in the family. But they did argue... working together all the time.

We had a cousin with us for a while, Joseph Chamberlin. Grandpa and Grandma raised him when his parents both died. Grandpa made him study the dictionary to broaden his knowledge. The entrance to the kitchen was hidden by a big sideboard. That's where Mama and Papa would go for their "arguments". They always thought they couldn't be heard but we knew better. Joseph said he learned more words listening to their arguments behind the sideboard than he ever did from the dictionary!

Mama had a wonderful mind and remembered everything she learned in school. She could still do trigonometry and recite Shakespeare as long as she lived. She was valedictorian of her class.

My mother was my pal. She was the sweetest person, everyone loved her. I would go everywhere with her and would rather have her with me than a girlfriend.

Mama was well thought of in the business community. Mama was a perfect size 36 blouse. When the Boston Store would get in a shipment Katherine Bertina, buyer for the store, would call and have Mama come at night to try on the samples to be sure they were sized right. Ben Pollock was the manager.

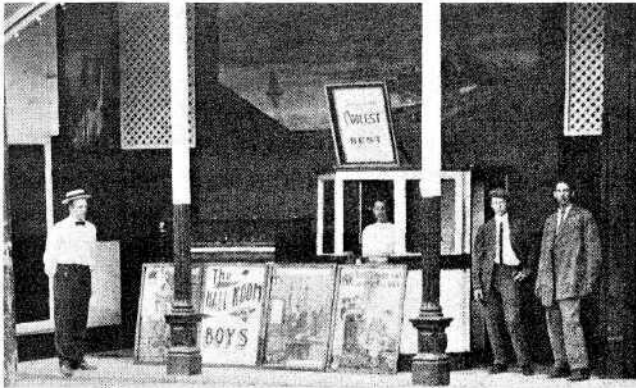


Ralph Ashley Jones in front of Palace Drug



Orlin Jones at Sterling Drug before the Army





**Orlin outside Yale Theater with some of his paintings**

My brothers were never idle when growing up. Ralph worked at Palace Drug and Orlin at the Sterling Drug. Orlin was an artist and painted pictures of the stars and coming attractions at the Yale Theater.

When my brothers were teenagers they were in the Army. Orlin was in Officers Training and Ralph was a mess sergeant. After the war Ralph worked as a chef in large restaurants. Orlin opened a nightclub in Oklahoma City called the Hobnob. He ran that for several years and then returned to open a confectionary next to the Artelee Hotel. This also helped Papa's business. He had that until my father died in 1934. Then he and Mama opened the JayB. When Mama died in 1950, he put in a nightclub and kept it a few years before he went broke. City National took it over; then it caught on fire and burned down. He died shortly after that at the Fayetteville Hospital (Veterans) from Lupus. He died one day short of his 60th birthday. My other brother died a couple of years after Orlin from emphysema. They told him then it was from cigarette smoking.

Ralph had five children, but his wife Bobbie got mad and left with the children. He never found them. When Christmas would come, Ralph would come and put his head in Mama's lap and cry like a small child and say, "Mama, I can't find my children." He loved them so. Orlin never had any children of his own.

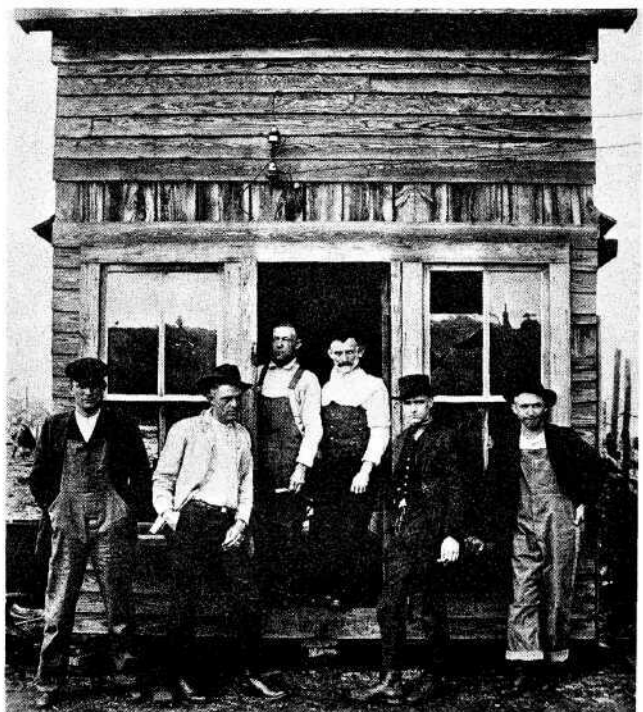
Harper was a customer in my parents' restaurant. I was a widow with two small babies. Harper would say, "Mrs. Jones, can I hold the baby?" She'd say, "Yea." He'd say little more to me than "Smile!"... and I would. Then after about a year he hit me with a snowball and I knew he loved me. Doris was the baby and when people would ask her, "How long have your folks been married?" she would say, "Well, let's see, I was a year and a half old when they married..."



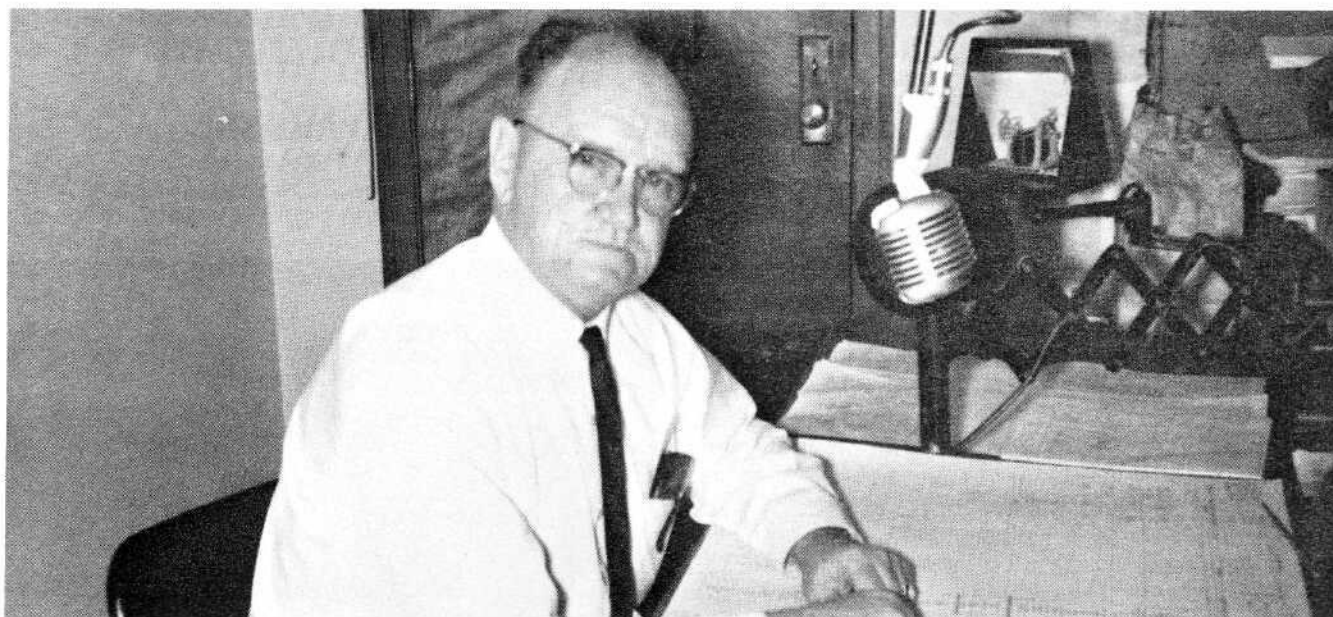
**Helen with Helen Mae, 1916**

Harper had just been transferred to Fort Smith when I met him. He started at Denning Yards — a switching yard across the river, when he was sixteen. Then he was sent to Conway before being transferred to Fort Smith.

Harper retired in 1966 after 48 years of service with the Railroad.



**Harper at 16, second from right, dark shirt and top hat, at Denning Yard.**



**William Raymond Harper on his last day as dispatcher, 1966**



**W.R. Harper at desk in Missouri Pacific Railroad Office**

My father, John Paul Hugh Jones, was born in 1860, died in 1934. He married Bertha Mae Ashley in 1891. Children born of that union were:

1. Jay Orlin b. 1894 m. Helen Hildegard Kirschke
2. Ralph Ashley b. 1895 m. Bobby Nadine Shouse, 5 children
3. Helen Olive b. 1897 m. 1915 div. 1920, m(2) 1922.

Children:

Helen Mae b. 1916 d. 1989, m. Art O'Neal 1941, three children, seven grandchildren. Helen taught in a special school in North Little Rock. Art was with Lyon's Machinery in Little Rock.

Doris Cecile b. 1920 d. 1985, m. Lee W. Parker, one child and one grandchild. Doris was the first woman executive with the American Cotton Exchange in Memphis. Her husband was an engineer on the Mississippi.

Children of W.R. Harper (d. 1987):

Betty Faye b. 1924 m. Carl Griggs in 1948. One child and two grandchildren. Betty is retired from the telephone company and Carl is retired Fire Chief and County Emergency Coordinator.

William R. "Bud" Harper, Jr. b. 1931 m. to Dr. Joan Harper, Principal at Mansfield School; two children, one grandchild. Bud is Sebastian County Judge.

*Taken from three separate interviews with Helen starting in March 1990 and ending in June 1990.*

*Lorna Schultis*



**W.R. and Helen Olive Jones Harper  
65th Wedding Anniversary**



# Ranger Battalions Association

## Biennial Reunion, Fort Smith, Arkansas

### 10-13 October 1991

Brig. Gen. William O. Darby of Fort Smith, Arkansas, was the famed organizer and commander of the 1st Ranger Battalion and later the assistant division commander of the 10th Mountain Division during World War II.

Col. Darby, at the age of 34, was killed in action in Italy on April 30, 1945, just two days before the entire German Field Command in Italy surrendered. At the time of his death, papers for his promotion had already been sent to Washington, and he was promoted to Brigadier General posthumously. General Truscott, the originator of the idea for the Rangers and then commander of the Fifth Army, said, "Never had I known a more gallant, heroic officer." General George S. Patton, Jr., said, "He was the bravest man I knew."

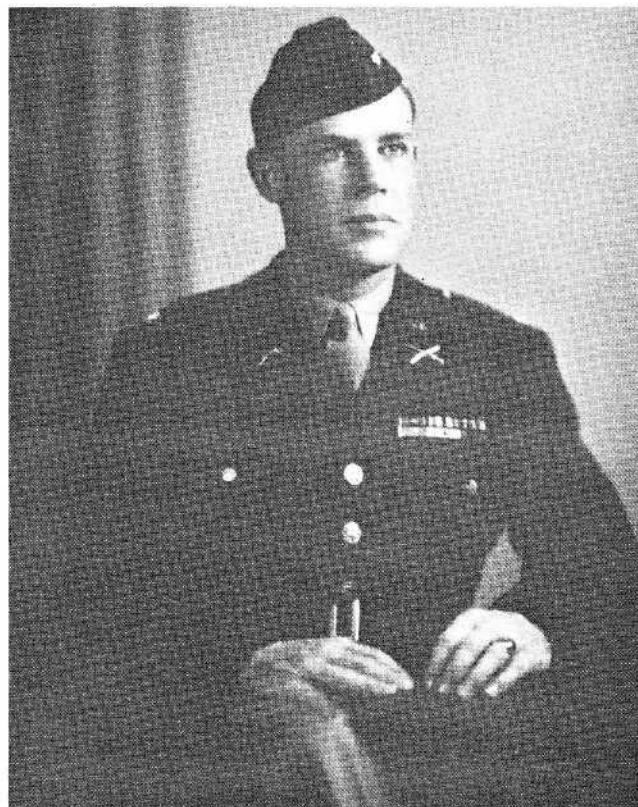
Gen. Darby is buried in the Fort Smith National Cemetery. In his honor, the street on which his boyhood home is located has been named General Darby Street, and his home located at 311 General Darby Street is headquarters for the Darby Foundation and a museum open to the public.

Sacrifices at Cisterna by Darby's Rangers and liberation of the city by U.S. forces led to the twinning of the two cities: Fort Smith, Arkansas, the home of General Darby, and Cisterna, Italy.

The following is a history of the American Ranger:

The history of the American Ranger is a long and colorful one with a proud heritage that dates back over 200 years. That heritage has always been based on courage, daring, and deeds of men who sacrificed personal safety for their fellow Rangers and the defense of their country. Small groups of men began to move out from the settlements to scout the surrounding territory for signs of enemy movement and to provide early warning. Reports of these groups include words such as: "This day, ranged 9 miles." Thus the Ranger was born.

In 1756 Major Robert Rogers organized and trained nine companies of American colonists who fought during the French and Indian War. The exploits of "Rogers Rangers" remain legendary today. The 19 standing orders used by "Rogers Rangers" are still taught and followed by Ranger trainees. The tradition continued in the American Revolution with "Morgan's Riflemen" and "Marion's Partisans". Both units used hit-and-run tactics and expert marksmanship to harass the British. The tactics and techniques of these early Ranger units were later used by "Mosby's Raiders" who wreaked havoc behind enemy lines during the Civil War. Thorough reconnaissance, followed by violent aggressive action, continued to mark the success of Ranger operations.



Brigadier General William O. Darby

Ranger battalions in World War II were first formed to conduct commando raids and to spearhead combat operations. Lt. Col. William O. Darby gathered 2,000 volunteers and put them through a grueling training program in northern Ireland to form the initial battalions. "Darby's Rangers" spearheaded the invasion of North Africa, the 7th Army landings at Gela and Licata during the Sicilian invasion, and saw fierce combat at Anzio. The 2nd and 5th Ranger Battalions participated in the D-Day landings at Normandy. The scaling of the cliffs by the 2nd Ranger BN at Pointe Du Hoc is still considered one of the most daring operations ever conducted. The 6th Ranger battalion distinguished itself in the Pacific Theater with the heroic rescue of the allied POW's at Cabanatuan in the Philippines. Army Rangers draw their official motto - "RANGERS LEAD THE WAY" - from the actions of Rangers at Omaha Beach. As the situation on Omaha Beach became critical, the commander of the 29th Infantry Division stated that the entire force must advance inland or die. He then turned to the commander of the 5th Ranger Battalion and directed: "RANGERS LEAD THE WAY."



While Rangers draw their motto from the exploits of "Darby's Rangers", lineage is also drawn from "Merrill's Marauders" who fought against the Japanese in the China-Burma-India Theater of operations. Organized into three combat battalions under the command of Major General Frank D. Merrill, these experienced jungle fighters penetrated deep into enemy territory and fought five major and thirty minor engagements, defeating the veteran soldiers of the Japanese 18th Division. The high point of the Marauders' combat operations was the capture of the Myitkyina airfield, the only all-weather airstrip in northern Burma. The unit was awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation for this action. These Ranger units were deactivated at the end of World War II.

The need for a special brand of warfare quickly resurfaced during the Korean War. A total of eighteen Ranger companies were formed. Seventeen of these companies were Airborne Ranger units formed and trained at Fort Benning. Of these, seven Ranger companies were committed to combat and fought with distinction. The Airborne Ranger Company concept was carried forward into the Vietnam War where Ranger companies were again called upon, this time performing long range reconnaissance missions to pinpoint enemy strong-points.

In 1974, the late General Creighton Abrams, then Chief of Staff of the Army, ordered the formation of the modern day Ranger Battalions. He directed the following:

"THE RANGER BATTALION IS TO BE AN ELITE, LIGHT AND THE MOST PROFICIENT INFANTRY BATTALION IN THE WORLD: A BATTALION THAT CAN DO THINGS WITH ITS HANDS AND WEAPONS BETTER THAN ANYONE... WHEREVER THE RANGER BATTALION GOES IT MUST BE APPARENT THAT IT IS THE BEST."

Toward that end, the 1st Ranger Battalion was activated at Fort Stewart, GA on 31 January 1974, and the 2nd Ranger Battalion was activated at Fort Lewis, WA on 1 October 1974. Both Battalions trained to the standards established by General Abrams. The success of that training became evident on 25 October 1983 when the Rangers from the 1st and 2nd Battalions again "LED THE WAY" by conducting an Airborne Assault to seize Point Salinas airfield and to rescue American students on Grenada.

As a result of the demonstrated effectiveness of the Ranger Battalions, the Department of the Army activated Regimental Headquarters on 1 July 1984 and 3rd Ranger Battalion on 2 October 1984. On 20 December 1989, Rangers were again called upon to conduct a simultaneous low level Airborne Assault onto Torrijos-Tocumen and Rio Hato airfields in the Republic of Panama spearheading the drive to restore freedom and democracy to the people of Panama during operation "JUST CAUSE". In 1991 elements of the 75th Ranger Regiment deployed to Saudi Arabia in support of operation "DESERT STORM". As in the past, the Regiment stands ready to execute its mission to conduct special operations in support of United States policies and objectives.

RANGERS LEAD THE WAY!

The General William O. Darby Foundation is offering for sale a limited edition 11 by 14 inch commemorative plaque of honor for veterans of Desert Storm, World War II, Korea or Vietnam. It is a brass-framed sculptured flag with a window for placing the picture of the veteran being honored. Price \$29.95 plus \$2.50 shipping. May be purchased by mail or at the Darby Foundation, P.O. Box 1625, 315 General Darby Street, Fort Smith, AR 72902.

## Book Notes

*Adventure Tales of America, A Cartoon History of the United States: 1492-1877*, Volume 1, Arkansas Edition, by Jody Potts, Ph.D. Published by Signal Media Corporation. Hardback. Available in book stores in September, 1991, or from Educators Book Depository, 1207 East Second Street, Little Rock, AR 72202. Price \$20.00 plus \$3.92 handling charge and tax.

In 1986 a delightful new book, prepared as an Arkansas Sesquicentennial project, was written. Called *Adventure Tales of Arkansas, A Cartoon History of A Spirited People*, it presented Arkansas history in a way it had never been presented before. Both educational and fun, it was based on the Right Brain/Left Brain concept. Through this strategy, by concentrating on the left side of the brain through words, numbers, logic and reason, the student complements what is taking place on the right side through pictures, humor, emotion and metaphor. Learning thus becomes faster and more memorable.

This book was used as a fifth grade text book in Arkansas schools. Glowing student evaluation

proved its value as a text book in the elementary schools.

Based on the same principle of Right Brain/Left brain, *Adventure Tales of America*, while suitable for all ages, has been written as a text book for eighth grade students.

C. Fred Williams, professor of History, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, provided the text for *Adventure Tales of Arkansas*, while Jody Potts, Ph.D., Adjunct Professor of History, Southern Methodist University and Creative Thinking Consultant, Lively Mind Seminars, has written the text for *Adventure Tales of America*. Dr. Potts was also Creativity and Design Consultant for *Adventure Tales of Arkansas*.

Illustrations for both books were done by Foy Lisenby, Ph.D., Professor of History, University of Central Arkansas, and Jerry D. Poole, Ph.D., Professor of Art, University of Central Arkansas.

Do not be misled by the fact this is a textbook — it is a text book like you have never read before — not only educational, but fun reading for all ages. Put it on your "must read" list today.

# Westark Community College

## News and Photographs

### UNIVERSITY CENTER

Beginning with the 1991 school year, three bachelor's degree programs and five master's degree programs will be offered through the Westark Community College's University Center. Bachelor's degrees offered are in Elementary Education, Business Administration, and Computer and Information Science. Master's degrees include Business Administration, Elementary Education, Secondary Education, Special Education and Vocational Education.

These are degree programs of high quality, to be offered by solid, accredited institutions, with courses to be taught by highly qualified faculty.

The University Center allows students to earn four-year and graduate degrees from other colleges and universities while attending classes on the Westark Campus.

Construction on the new 82,000 square-foot three-story University Center building is on schedule with completion date to be the summer of 1992.

— • —

### SEASON OF ENTERTAINMENT ELEVEN WESTARK COMMUNITY COLLEGE 1991-1992

Thursday, October 17..... Rosilee Walker Piano Recital  
Tuesday, October 22..... "Gypsy"  
Music Theatre Associates  
Friday, November 1..... "Macbeth"  
National Shakespeare Co.  
Tuesday, November 19..... Westark Jazz Band  
Fall Concert  
Tuesday, December 3..... Fall Choral Concert  
Tuesday, December 10..... Wind Ensemble Fall Concert  
Friday, February 7..... Laurence Luckinbill as "Lyndon"  
JUSTARLUCK Productions  
Tuesday, March 3..... Wind Ensemble Spring Concert  
Monday, March 16..... "The All Night Strut"  
Arkansas Repertory Theater  
Tuesday, April 14..... Al Hirt and Westark Jazz Band  
Thursday, April 23..... Spring Choral Concert

— • —

### OTHER DATES TO REMEMBER

January 13, 1992..... Spring Classes Begin  
April 3, 1992..... Miss Westark Pageant

— • —

### WESTARK INSTRUCTORS HONORED

Three Westark Community College instructors, John Deaton, Sharon Winn and Henry Rinne, have been named recipients of the Lucille Speakman Excellence in Teaching Awards at the College.

The awards are presented by the Westark Faculty Senate, which selects up to three members of the teaching faculty each year. Nominations are made by members of the faculty and students.

Chemistry teacher John Deaton holds a bachelor of science from Henderson State University and a master of science degree from the University of Arkansas. He has taught at Westark 26 years.



John Deaton.  
Photo courtesy  
Southwest  
Times Record.



Sharon Winn.  
Photo courtesy  
Southwest  
Times Record.

Sharon Winn taught at Westark from 1963 to 1970, then returned in 1977. She teaches classes in office administration, such as keyboarding, machine transcription, word processing and general business. She holds an associate of arts degree from Westark, a bachelor of arts in business education and a master's degree from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma.



Henry Rinne.  
Photo by Steve Smith.  
Courtesy *Southwest Times Record*.

Henry Rinne, on the Westark faculty since 1979, has taught humanities, art history, introduction to philosophy, and various music courses, directs the wind ensemble and has been instrumental in the development of the Westark Jazz Band. He holds both a bachelor and a master of music degree from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

Previous winners are, by year:

1986-87: Don Bailey, Brenda Cantwell and Anita Hammack

1987-88: Mike Cooper and Nancy Zechiedrich

1988-89: Linda Gibbons and David Meeks

1989-90: Martha Efurd, Jim Houston and Gene Wells — • —

#### ENDOWED CHAIR ESTABLISHED

Mrs. Hill Williams of Fort Smith has donated \$250,000 in honor of her late husband to establish "The Hill Williams Distinguished Chair of Business" at Westark Community College. This is the first endowed chair at the College.

Hill Williams was a business, community and church leader in Fort Smith until his death in 1989 at the age of 92. He was the owner of Williams Manufacturing Co. and was a member of several civic clubs and a deacon emeritus of First Baptist Church.

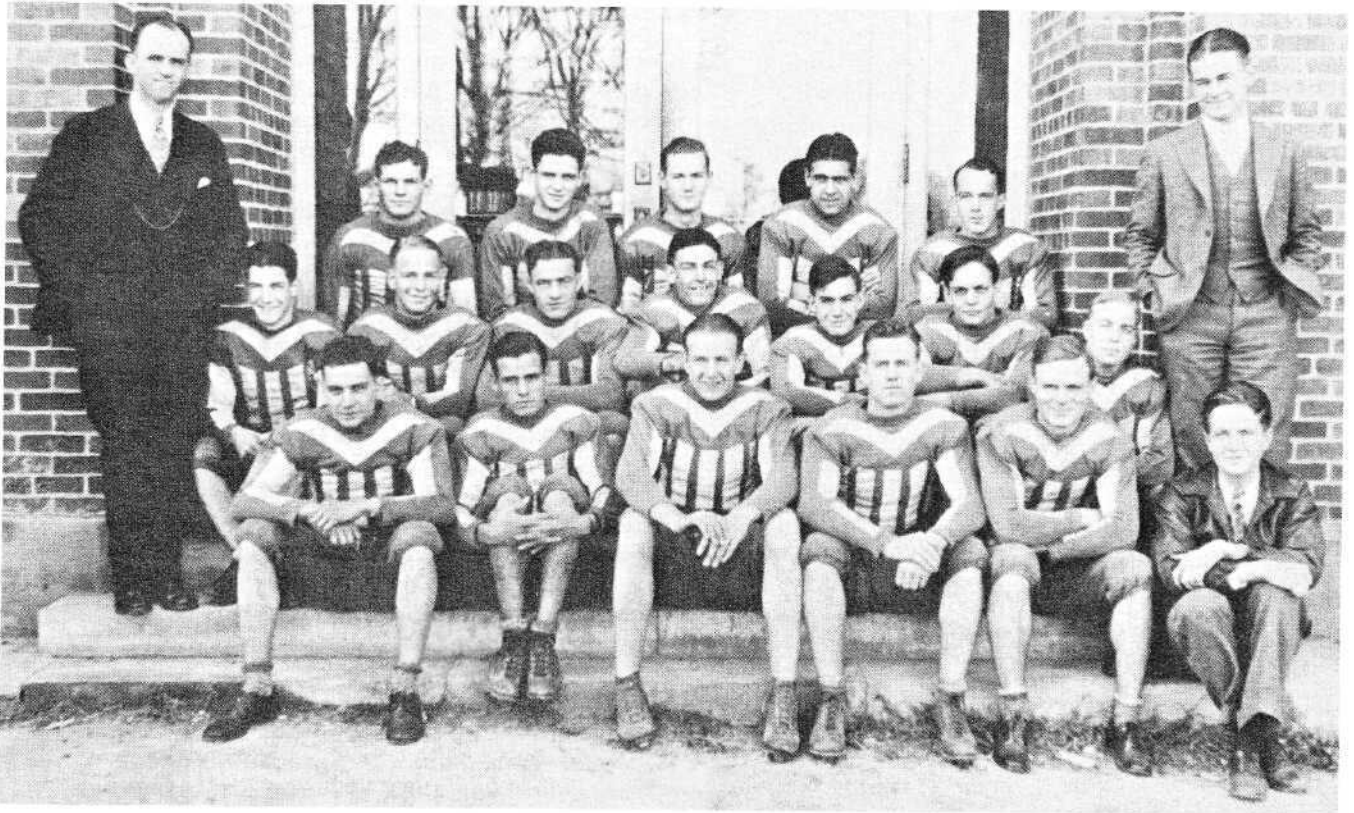
Mrs. Williams has been a contributor to Westark for several years. In 1989 she established the Hill, Bess, and Don Williams Endowment in memory of her husband and son Don. The proceeds of this endowment are used for scholarships for worthy students and to purchase instructional equipment. She has also contributed to Westark's Learning Assistance Center. — • —



Westark Jazz Band, December 1990, directed by Don Bailey. In a letter to the editor of the *Southwest Times Record*, Jerry Akins of Fort Smith said, "This organization is second to none. If you haven't seen Westark Jazz, I can't describe it. If you have, I don't need to." Photo courtesy of Westark Community College.



## PICTURES FROM WESTARK'S PAST



**Fort Smith Junior College 1931 Football Team.**

Back row, left to right: Quinton "Quinnie" Harback, Lavon "Lanky" Wallet, Leon Castling, Vincent "Narcissus" Narisi, and Fred Wilburn. Middle row: Coach Ben Mayo, Gilmer "Gilmo" Dixon, Bill "Airdale" Adair, Dale Stanford, Hal "Mac" McKnight, Aldo "Aldy" Molinari, Quince "Doc" Galloway, and Coach Kerth. Front row: Harry Robinson, Claude Wilson, Maxie Scott, Karl Peters, Farrel Thomas, and Eddie Redding, student manager. Photo courtesy Westark Community College.



**1930 (first) Graduating Class of Fort Smith Junior College.**

Left to right: Nellie Mae Barrow, Mary Louise Stough, Leona Marsh, Harold Mott, Judson Greer, Virginia Hawkins, Margaret Whittlesey, Harold Pinckney and Margaret Carpenter. Photo courtesy Westark Community College.

# Fort Smith Folks Get Things Done

Hugh Hart Pollard

(We are indebted to Hugh Hart Pollard for the following column which appeared in the Little Rock, Arkansas Gazette on May 12, 1991. Mr. Pollard is a regular columnist for the *Gazette*. He is also C.E.O. of the Brooks-Pollard Company of Little Rock.)

Every city around can learn something from Fort Smith.

For example, the Chamber of Commerce in Norman, Oklahoma, recently filled up a bus with top business, education and political leaders and zipped over to see how the second largest Arkansas city gets things done.

The Oklahoma City Chamber just made a trip to Fort Smith on a similar mission.

What they found was a city in Arkansas that's truly like no other for a variety of reasons.

Unfortunately, because it is 2½ hours from Little Rock, many only know the city by name and reputation. Here are a few reasons why Fort Smith is one of the most successful cities in the State:

**FORM OF GOVERNMENT.** It has an elected mayor with veto power, four elected directors from districts and three at large. The city is managed by an experienced administrator similar to Little Rock's city manager. This combination explains why local taxpayers feel they get a fair hearing.

**REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER.** Fort Smith has become the medical center for a 200-mile area of western Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma. Its health care providers offer complete state of the art technology ranging from magnetic resonance imaging to major trauma facilities rivaling or surpassing larger metropolitan areas. There are more than a thousand medical and surgical beds now available.

**PUBLIC SCHOOLS.** The Fort Smith district has always ranked among the state's finest. With an international flavor usually associated with California — a unique blend of white, black, Hispanic and Asian students — a phenomenal rate of 75 percent of the students go on to college.

**HIGHER EDUCATION.** Westark Community College is the fifth largest of the state's 56 post-secondary institutions and has been cited for its teaching excellence and responsiveness to the community needs by the Carnegie Foundation and the Arkansas Business Council. It has an enrollment

of 5,000 students with an additional 10,000 continuing education students plus degree programs on its campus from the University of Arkansas, Arkansas Tech and the University of the Ozarks.

**GROWTH.** The area population, now about 300,000, has grown impressively for the four-county area since 1980: Sebastian (Fort Smith), up 29 percent; Crawford, up 43 percent; LeFlore County, Oklahoma, up 26 percent; and Sequoyah County, Oklahoma, up 31 percent.

**INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE.** In addition to approximately 200 industries, Fort Smith is nurturing four national headquarters, Arkansas Best Corporation, Hiram Walker & Sons, Baldor Electric Company and Beverly Enterprises.

At the same time, the city's three major banks, First National Bank, City National Bank and Merchants National Bank, take great pride in working together to attract new industry while battling ferociously for deposits and loans from employees once they arrive.

**PUBLIC SUPPORT.** But the big news is the community's support of progress on the ballot. The referendums it has approved since 1985 include a school millage, a millage for Westark and a host of city issues ranging from libraries, streets, fire and police to a community swimming pool.

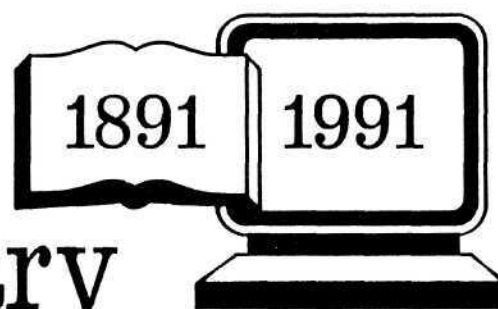
Like all growing cities, Fort Smith has its challenges. There's no air transportation between Little Rock and Fort Smith and poor service to the East and Midwest (but they're working on it).

And they have an unemployment rate of 9 percent, above the state and national average (and they are working extremely hard on this).

Fort Smith is a great example of what happens when its Chamber leadership takes full responsibility for its local actions and never puts the blame for failure on anyone else. They communicate openly with local government, education, business and the general public.

Rather than let events drive them, Fort Smith folks seem to make things happen — usually for the better.

# Fort Smith Public Library



• *One Hundred Years of Service* •

The library is celebrating 100 years of service to the community. The Centennial kick-off began with a banner raising ceremony on Thursday, April 11, and will end with a celebration on Saturday, October 26th. Judy Howard designed the winning logo in the Centennial Committee's Logo Contest. The new logo reflects the continuity of service to the community combined with a progressive outlook for the future. The Williams Agency in conjunction with Channel 5 produced a video commemorating the library's 100 years. Bur Edson narrates the video which presents the history of the library from its beginnings in 1891 until the present.

In this, its Centennial year, the Fort Smith Public Library offers the following services:

## **ONLINE LIBRARY INFORMATION EXCHANGE (OLLIE)**

The library's computerized catalog and circulation system has replaced the card catalog and manual check-out system.

The online catalog allows patrons to search for an author, title or subject using keywords. It is easy to use and will show whether a book is checked out and, if so, its due date.

## **COMPACT DISCS**

### **Electronic Atlas of Arkansas**

An atlas with comprehensive coverage of Arkansas including physical, human, economic, and historical geography contained on a compact disc.

### **Grolier's Electronic Encyclopedia**

The entire text of the most current edition of the Academic American Encyclopedia on a compact disc.

Search and retrieval software enables users to select and find quickly a word, article or combination of words for which they are searching.

### **IBM PC SIG**

CD of public domain software that runs on IBM compatible computers. Library patrons may make copies of software for no charge.

### **Infotrac**

A computerized version of Magazine Index, an index of 364 popular magazines from 1985 to the present. Articles indexed by subject including personal names and company names and by author of articles.

### **Moody's**

CD of annual reports and other business information for publicly-held companies.

### **Interlibrary Loan Service**

Interlibrary loan (ILL) is offered to library patrons over 16 that have a valid library card. The library uses OCLC, an international computer network of over 10,000 libraries, from which both books and magazine articles may be borrowed.

### **Bookmobile**

Bookmobile visits area nursing homes and retirement centers and has stops at outlying areas of the community.

### **Musical Compact Discs**

Friends of the Library have donated money to buy a circulating music CD collection, and a carrel with 2 CD players, a VCR and a stereo for the public to use.

### **VCR Tapes**

Library has approximately 400 video tapes of classic movies, travel, children's movies, how-to, gardening, cooking, etc.

### **Children's Programs**

Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - Toddler Time

Tuesdays 2:00 p.m. - Story Hour Fianna Hills Baptist Church

Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - Story Hour FSPL

### **Summer Reading Program**

Over 1200 children participated this last year. Participants get their name in a book and coupons from Burger King.

### **Genealogy Room**

Staffed genealogy room with excellent collection.

### **Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped**

Repository for Library of Congress "books on tape". Free mail-out service. Patron must have doctor's letter indicating physical or visual handicap.

### **Center for Limited Perception**

Center for those whose physical, mental or visual handicap prevents them from doing normal activities. Contains selection of magnifiers and other visual aids, large print books and catalogs of aids for the handicapped. The Center also has games and kits designed to share memories and stimulate discussion in a group setting. Games and kits such as these are available to nursing homes, churches and adult day care centers for use with their clients.



### Home Service

Friends of the Library volunteers take books to home-bound individuals in the community.

### Vietnamese Collection

Due to the receipt of two grants, the library has been able to purchase a collection of over 1000 Vietnamese books. The selection of books includes fiction, dictionaries, cookbooks, how-to, martial arts, children's and biographies.

### Young Adult Collection

Library has received a grant to convert a room in the basement of the library into a "teen room" and to buy books, magazines, cassettes and compact discs especially for teenagers.

### AUTOMATED ARCHIVES

Automated Archives is a genealogical research system that has the power to search multiple volumes of research material in a matter of minutes. Books and documents are stored on a compact disc. Each disc holds thousands of pages of text. The library has seven discs:

Disc 0 - Family Histories and NY Long Island  
1880 Census

Marriage Disc 1 - Louisiana - marriages from  
1739-1924

Marriage Disc 2 - Illinois - 19 counties 1762-1879  
Indiana - 52 counties 1800-1901  
Kentucky - 67 counties 1780-1900  
Tennessee - 45 counties 1717-1907  
Ohio - 39 counties 1789-1863

Marriage Disc 3 - Alabama - 32 counties 1807-1902  
Georgia - 82 counties 1786-1896  
South Carolina - 54 sources  
1600-1890

Marriage Disc 4 - North Carolina - 98 counties  
Virginia - 59 counties 1660-1926  
Maryland - 23 counties 1655-1886

Marriage Disc 5 - Texas - 84 counties 1814-1909  
Arkansas - 13 counties 1820-1949  
Missouri - 62 counties 1766-1893  
Mississippi - 82 counties 1799-1925

Disc 6 - Social Security Death Records -  
Surnames A thru B

Other Social Security discs will be available soon.

---

## Letters From Our Readers

Franklin Wilder, former member of the Board of the Fort Smith Historical Society, has written a long letter sharing his memories of Westark Community College in its early years when it was Fort Smith Junior College.

Mr. Wilder also corrects an error in the story of Westark published in Volume 15, No. 1, April 1991 issue of *The Journal*. Hugh Hardin was the nephew and not the son of G.C. Hardin. We understand that Hugh lived with G.C. Hardin and was mistaken by some to be his son. Mr. Wilder says that Mr. Hardin also had another nephew, Clib Barton, who was his law partner (Hardin & Barton) from 1930-50.

We appreciate Mr. Wilder's calling this error to our attention so we could print this correction.

\*\*\*\*\*

Just today I received the latest edition of *The Journal* and read every word of every article. It is an outstanding publication, and you and your staff are to be congratulated for your tireless efforts in putting this together.

I was especially interested in the article regarding Westark Community College, formerly Fort Smith Junior College. After reading the article, I reached for my copy of the 1940 yearbook, the *Numa*, and thumbed thru it reliving lots of good memories. When I think of Fort Smith Junior College, I always think of J.W. Reynolds who was a force in the early operation of the College and a person very popular with all of the students. I too was a student there in 1939-40. Incidentally, his mother was Mrs. Reynolds who taught me in the 2nd grade at Rogers School. I never did know her given name. She was a very sweet lady and also very popular with her students.

I feel that Mr. Reynolds should have been mentioned in this article for he was truly a part of the

growth of this institution. I understand that he was a part of the faculty for many years after I was there.

If the library would be interested in having this yearbook, please let me know and I will ship it to you as a donation.

Thank you again for your good work.

Jack McNeil, P.O. Box 707, Parkin, AR 72373

(Editor's note: We appreciate Mr. McNeil's letter and regret that space did not allow including the name of Mr. Reynolds and many, many others who have meant so much to Westark.)

\*\*\*\*\*

I recently received a copy of the April 1991 edition of the organization's *The Journal*. It was an impressive issue to me because of the articles on the Westark Community College and the Narisi Brothers (cousins of the Lovoi).

I ask to become a member of the Society and am enclosing the subscription form and my check.

Why the interest? I was born and reared in Fort Smith and three of my four sisters, Mrs. Mary Ann McMahan, Mrs. Antoniette Hindman and Ms. Augustina Lovoi, reside there. There is a brother who lives in Houston, TX. I attended Fort Smith Junior College when many of its classrooms were in the Grizzly Stadium, in the school years '38-'39-'40. There was one disappointment in the article re Westark, there was no mention of J.W. Reynolds, who was Assistant Dean while I was there (in my opinion, he actually ran the place).

Paul S. Lovoi, 1751 E. 63rd St., Tulsa, OK 74136

(Editor's note: Mr. Reynolds must have been an extremely outstanding person to have made such a lasting impression on his students that they still remember him with such pleasure.)

# In Loving Memory

## MILTON L. BIRKETT

Milton L. Birkett, 72, of Fort Smith died April 16, 1991, in a Fort Smith hospital. He was a proofreader for *The Journal* and the husband of the secretary of the Fort Smith Historical Society. He was a retired telecommunications director at Sparks Regional Medical Center and member of Southside Baptist Church where he was a member of the choir. He was a 32nd-degree Mason, an active amateur radio operator, member of Belle Point Lodge, the Consistory, the UCT and Noon Exchange Club and formerly in the photography business.

He is survived by his wife, Pat; a son, David of Los Angeles; a sister, Lee Rostad of Lennep, Montana; and two brothers, Bob of Barling and Bill of Billings, Montana.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Lung Association or Southside Baptist Church, 2400 Dodson Avenue, Fort Smith, AR 72901.

## ALPHONSO TRENT JR.

Alphonso B. Trent Jr., 69, of Van Buren died Thursday, June 27, 1991, in his home. He was a retired cook, a member of New Hope Baptist Church and an Army veteran of World War II. (See Volume VIII, No. 1 and Volume IX, No. 1 of *The Journal* for other information on the Trent family.)

Burial was at U.S. National Cemetery under the direction of Rowell-Parish Mortuary.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara; two daughters, Gloria Rainey of Fort Smith and Barbara Elaine of the home; two sons, Alphonso III and Ray Howard, both of the home; his stepmother, Essie Mae of Fort Smith; one grandchild and one great-grandchild.

## CHANCEY KNIGHT

Mary Frances "Chancey" Knight, a sustaining member and long-time supporter of the Fort Smith Historical Society, died June 17, 1991, in a Fort Smith hospital. She was a member of St. John's Episcopal Church and the Fort Smith Art Center.

She is survived by her husband, Dr. William E. Knight; two step-daughters, Carol Blanchard of Annapolis, MD, and Linda of Springfield, VA; one sister, Grace Dupreast Vick of Little Rock; three grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to St. John's Episcopal Church or Project Compassion, P.O. Box 3489, Fort Smith, AR 72903.

## EVANGEL TATUM

Evangel Tatum, 80, a faithful supporter of the Fort Smith Historical Society and a member of a pioneer Sebastian County family, died June 7, 1991, in her home. She was a bookkeeper for Arkansas Valley Trust Co., and member of the First Baptist Church, R.S.V.P. and A.A.R.P.

She is survived by three sisters-in-law, Mary Jewell Tatum of Huntsville, Alice Tatum of Owasso and Nell Tatum of Fort Smith; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Memorial contributions may be made to the First Baptist Church Building Fund.

## RAY PILES

Ray S. Piles, 78, of Fort Smith died February 27, 1991. He was a minister for Primitive Baptist Church in Fort Smith and for Little Flock Primitive Baptist Church in Mansfield and owner of Piles Piano Co.

He is survived by his wife, Wilma; two daughters, Linda Godwin of Fort Smith and Judy Jacobs of Atlanta, GA; a sister, Sue McFarlin of Fort Smith; three brothers, Archie of Fort Smith, Dowell of Yuba City, CA, and W.A. of Dallas; four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Memorial contributions may be made to Fort Smith Primitive Baptist Church.

## ALFRED FITZGERALD

Alfred H. Fitzgerald, 84, died February 25, 1991, in a Fort Smith hospital. He was retired from Fort Smith Public Schools and member of Oak Cliff Baptist Church and Charleston Masonic Lodge No 155. Burial was at Garden of Memories Cemetery under the direction of Smith Mortuary of Charleston.

He is survived by his wife, Mavis; one son, Alfred Jr. of Garden Grove, CA; two sisters, Veda Grubb of Fort Smith and Retha Shively of Modesto, CA; three grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

## OREAN WILCOX

Orean "Spink" Wilcox, 69, of Fort Smith died March 12, 1991, in her home. She was a teacher and librarian for Fort Smith Public Schools and member of the Methodist Church. Burial was at Greenlawn Memorial Cemetery in Springfield, MO.

She is survived by her husband, Vernon; a daughter, Karen Parker of Richardson, TX; a son, Charles of Denver; and four grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association.

#### ORA BLACKARD MOORE

Ora Blackard Moore, 92, died March 9, 1991, in Fort Smith. She was a retired school teacher, member of the Goddard United Methodist Church and a life member of the National Education Teachers Association and Arkansas State Education Teachers Association. She also was the past Worthy Matron of Harmony Chapter Order of The Eastern Star of Fort Smith, and member of the Ladies Auxiliary to the V.F.W. and the DAV.

She is survived by seven nieces, Nora M. Treat and Wana Faye Orr, both of Fort Smith, Okla Mabray and Geneva Daily, both of Muldrow, and Vera Dollar, Mary Raney and Wilma Ward, all of Sallisaw; and four nephews, Maynard Blackard and Jack Sagely, both of Muldrow, C.B. Blackard of Fort Smith and Joe Sagely of California.

#### HURSHAL MACKEY

Hurshal Mackey, 88, died February 17, 1991. he was a retired teacher, having taught for 17 years in Sebastian County schools, and a retired farmer. He was a 32nd-degree Mason, member of the Black Diamond Lodge No. 549 F&AM in Bonanza, the Harmony Chapter Order of the Eastern Star and Rye Hill Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife, Reba; three daughters, Norma Gibbs, Ramona Bridges and Rohena Caperton, all of Rye Hill; five grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

#### VELMA WILBOURN

Velma Wilbourn, 89, of Fort Smith died March 26, 1991. She was a retired school teacher and a member of Park Hill Church of Christ.

She is survived by a daughter, Velma Allison of Fort Smith; three grandchildren, Sharon Fell of Bedford, Indiana, David Allison of Pocola, and John Allison of Fort Smith; four great-grandchildren; four cousins and three nieces.

#### SYLVESTER WILLIAMS

Sylvester Williams, 39, of Little Rock, formerly of Magnolia and Fort Smith, died July 9, 1991, in a Little Rock hospital. He was a classroom teacher with the Fort Smith School District for 14 years and the Little Rock School District for two years. While in Fort Smith, he was minister of music for the Antioch District Consolidated Association, music director for the Imperial Choir, member of Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday Planning Committee and chairman of the music department and a youth advisor for the Fort Smith NAACP. He was named Outstanding Young Man of America in 1983. He was a graduate of Arkansas Baptist University, Ouachita Baptist University and the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.

He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Williams of Magnolia; two sisters, Velma Edwards and Mildred Morgan, both of Magnolia; four brothers, James Fred, Veodis and Roy Chester, all of Magolia, and Lee M. of Dallas; six aunts and five uncles.

#### MILDRED SHERMER

Mildred E. Shermer died March 25, 1991, in a Fort Smith nursing home. She was a retired teacher for Fort Smith Public Schools and member of First United Methodist Church, the Retired Teachers Association and Delta Kappa Gamma. She is survived by several cousins.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Methodist Nursing Home or to Memory Gardens of Muldrow.

#### JAMES A. GUTENSOHN

James A. Gutensohn, 81, of Fort Smith died March 2, 1991. He was a former prosecuting attorney and former assistant U.S. District Attorney. He was a member of Central Presbyterian Church, Arkansas Bar Association, Belle Point Masonic Lodge No. 10, 32nd-degree Mason, Fort Smith Shrine Club and Amrita Grotto. He was also a Navy veteran of World War II. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn; two daughters, Joan Gutensohn Davis of Fort Smith and Gena Gutensohn Walker of Shawnee Mission, KS; a sister, Alberta Duncan of Portola Valley, CA; a brother, John of Whittier, CA; four grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Memorial contributions may be made to Central Presbyterian Church of Fort Smith.

#### GUY LINDEL FLETCHER

Guy Lindel Fletcher, 64, of Van Buren died June 6, 1991. He was a concession stand operator at the Sebastian County Courthouse vending facility for the blind and a Presbyterian.

He is survived by his wife, Rozetta; two stepsons, Randall and Mitchell Brown of Van Buren; his mother, Alta of Fort Smith; three sisters, Phyllis Gamble and Bonnie Sutton, both of Fort Smith, and Stella LaJune of Conway; two brothers, Fred of Broken Arrow, OK, and Chester of Pleasantville, TN; four stepgrandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

#### REV. JAMES NELSON

The Rev. James E. Nelson, 95, died May 11, 1991. He was a retired minister and a member of First Missionary Baptist Church and Shady Grove Masonic Lodge No. 28. Burial with Masonic graveside services were held at Washington Cemetery under the direction of Rowell-Parish Mortuary.

He is survived by a daughter, Mamie Austin of Los Angeles; a foster daughter, Helen Cade of Fort Smith; two sisters, Nellie and Lucille Cole, both of Baton Rouge, LA; 20 grandchildren and 60 great-grandchildren.



# Poets and Poetry

Sarah Fitzjarrald

## ELOISE EVANS BARKSDALE

Eloise Evans Barksdale was born and reared in Dardanelle, Arkansas. She was co-founder, with May Gray, of the Roundtable Poets of Fort Smith in 1963, which became the first branch of the Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas.

She was educated in Dardanelle public schools; Central College at Conway, Arkansas; University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, Arkansas (Chi Omega sorority); and Arkansas Polytechnic College at Russellville, Arkansas. She taught Public School Music in the Dardanelle schools. She was also correspondent for the *Arkansas Democrat* as news and feature writer.

She married William D. Barksdale, city editor of the *Fort Smith Times Record*, in 1930. The couple have two sons. (Mr. Barksdale is now deceased.)

Eloise has served as book reviewer for the *Southwest Times Record* (1963-65); organist and substitute organist for a number of churches in Fort Smith (1960s-early 1970s); and teacher and substitute teacher in the Fort Smith elementary schools.

Among her many accomplishments she was winner of a book award, "Remembering is Music", given by the Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas in 1968, and was also named "Poet of the Present" by the PRA at the National Poetry Day Observance in 1968. Her work has been published in numerous magazines, newspapers and anthologies since 1938.

She is listed in the *Arkansas Pioneers and Allied Families*, Vol. 1; *Who's Who of American Women*; *Who's Who of the South and Southwest*; and *International Who's Who of Poetry*.

Her history related memberships include Daughters of the American Revolution; Colonial Dames of the XVII Century; The Hite Family of Virginia Association; and Yell County Historical and Genealogical Association.

Barksdale is also a member of the First United Methodist Church of Fort Smith; Chapter F, P.E.O.; Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas; National League of American Pen Women and Arkansas Native Plant Society.

Her hobby is collecting, identifying and growing wild flowers.



Eloise Evans Barksdale

### THE INCREASE

I reached for a thread -  
it dangled beyond my crippled grasp.

I waited - and watched -  
the sun goldened its length,  
the moon shadowed its strength.  
For how many moons?  
For how many suns?  
How did Job measure Time?

I reached beyond my grasp one day  
and touched the gleaming thread!  
It was strong - quick - alive - and  
winding it around and around my wrists  
I pulled myself toward Life.

*Royalty Award of prize-winning entries in International Who's Who in Poetry Anthology, 1973.*

# News and Opportunities

## FORT SMITH HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1991-1992 OFFICERS AND NEW BOARD MEMBERS

1991-92 officers and new members of the board of the Fort Smith Historical Society elected at the annual meeting on April 25, 1991, are:

### OFFICERS

President ..... Wallace Floyd  
Vice-president ..... Thelma Wray  
Recording Secretary ..... Pat Birkett  
Membership Secretary ..... Jo Tillery  
Treasurer ..... Mary Lou Jacobsen

### NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Dorothy Hosford ..... Dibby Reutzel  
Emily Lovick ..... Paul Schaefer  
Mark Parker ..... Gordon Yearty  
Dorothy Williams (unexpired term of Jim Tuck)

Fort Smith Historical Society board member Jim Tuck has announced his transfer to Grand Canyon National Park, effective July 28. In his letter of resignation from the board, Jim said, "I'll miss all the wonderful things about Fort Smith — especially the people I've been privileged to work with. This has been an exciting three years for me. Please accept this letter of resignation from the board of the Fort Smith Historical Society and my thanks for the open arms I received when I arrived. The very best wishes for growing success in the work the Society does." Jim will be a staff assistant to the park superintendent. Jim has been a hard working effective board member and will be greatly missed. We wish him the best always and much success in his new job.

### BUCKLE UP: IT'S THE LAW

Seat belt use in Arkansas became MANDATORY on Monday, July 15, 1991.

### 12,300 STUDENTS IN FORT SMITH SCHOOLS

By Matt Maile, *Southwest Times Record*

The Fort Smith Public School System, with 12,300 students, represents the third largest district in Arkansas.

With 29 schools and 817 teachers, administering the district takes on tremendous proportions. City records show the school district consumes an annual \$32 million budget.

### CITY KEY

Dignitaries visiting Fort Smith can take a little bit of the city's history back home with them — or at least a copy of it.

Mayor Ray Baker has announced that iron copies of an antique key from the Fort Smith National Historic Site will be given to visiting dignitaries and specially recognized local citizens.

Dignitaries have previously been granted a "pardon from hanging by the neck until dead" from the city that was signed by the mayor.

We will still grant some pardons, but the key to the city, which is known as the "key to the frontier", will replace the pardon in most cases.

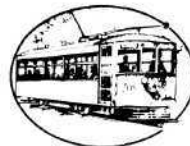
A pattern of the original key was made by Robert Arnold, master pattern maker at Didion Mid-South, formerly known as North American Foundry Co., and the company is donating the time and materials necessary to make the keys.

## FORT SMITH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

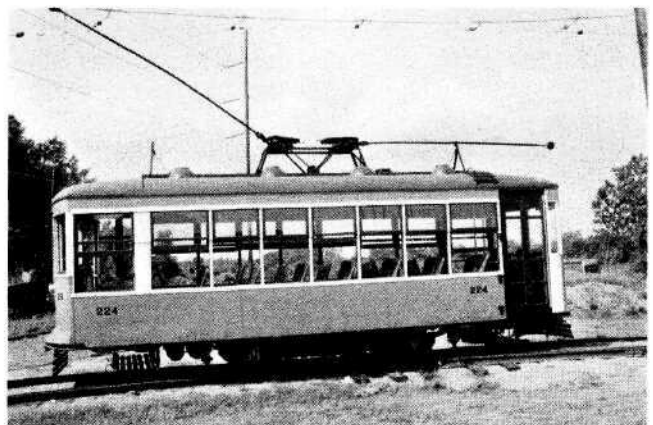
Fort Smith National Historic Site Superintendent Jim Tuck has announced his transfer to Grand Canyon National Park, effective July 28, 1991.

The Fort Smith National Historic Site welcomes new Park Ranger Lisa Garvin from Biscayne National Park. Together with Chief Ranger Mardell Plainfeather and fellow ranger Guy Nichols, Lisa will continue the park's tradition of service to the public and the resource.

A new sales item is on the shelf at the national historic site and the Old Fort Museum. It is a replica of a United States Deputy Marshal's badge worn by United States Marshals during Judge Isaac C. Parker's term as Federal Judge for the Western District of Arkansas. Although no badges have been documented as being worn specifically by one of Parker's marshals, this was one of several styles common during that era. The badges are brass, and sell for \$9.45.



## FORT SMITH TROLLEY MUSEUM



Great news!! Right on schedule, restored Streetcar #224, which last ran in Fort Smith 58 years ago, was dedicated and put into daily operation on track

May 19, 1991. Revenue operation began May 20. The car is running daily through the tourist season, weekdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Fare is \$1.00 for adults, \$.50 for children. Buy tokens and board at the Old Fort Museum, 320 Rogers Avenue.

During the first two months of operation, more than 5,000 persons rode the car and the traffic is averaging around 100 persons per day.

In honor of the dedication, Fort Smith Mayor Ray Baker issued the following proclamation:

#### **A PROCLAMATION OF A SPECIAL EVENT**

*On the occasion of the dedication of Streetcar #224 on Sunday, May 19, 1991 in Fort Smith, Arkansas.*

*I, Ray Baker, Mayor of the City of Fort Smith, Arkansas, do hereby proclaim Sunday, May 19, 1991, as Streetcar Day in Fort Smith, Arkansas.*

*I salute the work of the Fort Smith Trolley Museum and the dedicated work of Dr. Art Martin and Bradley Martin along with many others in working to see this project become a reality in our city.*

*I join with all our citizens in the excitement over this part of our historic past being restored and running again in Fort Smith.*

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set forth my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Fort Smith, Arkansas, to be affixed this 19th day of May, 1991.*

**Ray Baker, Mayor**

The trolley dedication program included a welcome by Fort Smith Streetcar Restoration Association president, Art Martin; remarks and reading of special proclamation by Fort Smith Mayor Ray Baker; remarks by Trolley Museum board member and State Representative, Carolyn Pollan; a special trolley song, transcribed music and words written by Fort Smith resident Mildred Stein, sung by Ann Barron of Harrison, Arkansas; a ribbon cutting and free rides.

At the Old Fort terminal of the track, visitors were welcomed by the Director of the Old Fort Museum, Suzanne Kenagy.

Entertainment was by the Arcadian Night Hawks, a local "big band" playing music from the 20's and 30's, the River Blenders barbershop choral group, and a skit by the King Opera House Players.

Future plans include extending the track to run beside the National Cemetery from the end of the track at the Trolley Museum to the junction of Garland Street, rebuilding the historical mural done by John Bell and his students which was destroyed by the tornado March 21, 1991, and continued restoration of car #205, that was discovered at the Paul Alexander home at Mulberry, until it can join #224 in operation on track.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### **OLD FORT MUSEUM**

The Old Fort Museum announces the election of a new President of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Sam Wang. The new Director is Dr. Suzanne Kenagy.

#### **COMING EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM**

July 25-September 2 — GRANDMA'S ATTIC exhibit

September 13 — opening of the BELLE STARR — HER LIFE & TIMES exhibit, reception 5-7 p.m., Old Fort Museum

September 14 — Outlaws' Masked Ball

October 10 — lecture and reading by novelist Dr. Speer Morgan on Belle Starr, 7 p.m., Old Fort Museum

October 11 — world premiere of play "Belle Starr— By Herself", by Ray Coleman, 8 p.m., at the Fort Smith Little Theatre, sponsored by the Old Fort Museum

October 31 — museum trip to Santa Fe departs

November 29 — SANTA'S WORKSHOP exhibit of vintage toys opens

Trolley tokens may also be purchased at the museum.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### **FORT SMITH ART CENTER**

August 4 — Opening

Main Gallery - Barry Thomas, Little Rock - Oil  
Bay Window Gallery - Floye Chism, Fort Smith - Mixed Media

Gallery One - Cheryl and Larry Buell, Winslow - Pottery

Photographic Alliance Gallery - A member of the group will exhibit this month.

Permanent Collection Gallery - Pieces from the Art Center's permanent collection will be featured.

August 25 — Exhibits Close

September 1 — Exhibit Opening

Main Gallery - Gloria McMahan, Russellville - Oil  
Bay Window Gallery - Helen Howerton, Tulsa - Watercolor

Gallery One - Old Fort Woodcarvers, Fort Smith  
Photographic Alliance Gallery - Judy Franklin, and Gus & Kathi Thompson

Permanent Collection Gallery - Pieces from the Art Center's permanent collection will be featured.

September 29 — Exhibits Close

October 6 - Exhibit Opening

Main Gallery - Charles Peer, Siloam Springs - Mixed Media

Bay Window Gallery - "Small Works on Paper", Arkansas Artists Registry

Gallery One - Vircy Williams, Fort Smith - Mixed Media

Photographic Alliance Gallery - David Allison and Chris Marcus

Permanent Collection Gallery - Pieces from the Art Center's permanent collection will be featured.

October 27 — Exhibits Close



November 3 — Exhibit Opening

Main Gallery - 15th Annual Photography Competition - for entry forms, contact the Art Center, 423 North 6th, Fort Smith, 72901

Bay Window Gallery - Norma Tombouliau, Lincoln - Sculpture

Gallery One - Meredith Long, Fort Smith - Mixed Media

Photographic Alliance Gallery - Jurors for the Photo Competition

Permanent Collection Gallery - Previous "Best of Show" winners from the Photography Competition

November 24 — Exhibits Close

December 1 — Exhibit Opening

Main Gallery - Annual Christmas Card Competition - area elementary and junior high students design a Christmas card.

Bay Window Gallery - Christmas Gallery, with gifts for everyone on your list.

Gallery One - David Harris, Hot Springs - Mixed Media

Photographic Alliance Gallery - A member of the group will exhibit this month.

Permanent Collection Gallery - Pieces from the Art Center's permanent collection will be featured.

December 22 - Exhibits close, and the Art Center closes for the Christmas holidays.

Hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 9:30-4:30

Sunday, 2:00-4:00

Monday, closed

\*\*\*\*\*

## FORT SMITH SYMPHONIC SCHEDULE

October 5, 1991, 8 p.m.

"On Freedom's Shores"

December 7, 1991, 8 p.m.

"Fireside Christmas"

February 1, 1992, 8 p.m.

"Enchanted Evening"

April 4, 1992, 8 p.m.

"A Classical Sampler"

May 9, 1992, 8 p.m.

Party at the Pops

An Evening at the Movies  
with special guests, The Lettermen

May 30, 1992, 8 p.m.

Big City Lights Symphony Ball

An evening of dining and dancing in support of the Fort Smith Symphony. Call the Symphony office to reserve your tickets.

Ticket sales cover only about one-third of the cost of the concert season. Persons making contributions to the Symphony are recognized in the concert program and receive other benefits, some of which are: Save 20-50% off single ticket prices; receive first priority on the best seats in the house; lost ticket insurance; avoid long lines, tickets are mailed to you; save \$2.00 on individual tickets you purchase for family and friends; wheelchair patrons receive a special "2 for 1" offer for a companion, etc.

---

## Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce New Address

New Location ..... 612 Garrison

Mailing Address ..... P.O. Box 1668  
Fort Smith, AR 72902

Telephone and Fax remain the same:

Telephone ..... 501-783-6118

Fax ..... 501-783-6110

---

## Fort Smith Woman Turns 100

Mittie Vineyard of Fort Smith was 100 July 21, 1991. She was the third of seven children born to William and Mattie Vineyard of Witcherville. Her grandfather fought in the Civil War.

She began teaching school at the age of 18 with only an eighth-grade education. She then attended Greenwood High School and the University of Arkansas. She graduated from Texas Women's University and returned to Fort Smith where she taught until she was 62.

She lives at home with her sister. They prepare their own meals and enjoy gardening.



Mittie Vineyard. Photo courtesy  
Southwest Times Record.

# Genealogy

ARKANSAS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
1991 FALL GENEALOGICAL CONFERENCE  
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25 AND 26  
HOLIDAY INN — FORT SMITH CIVIC CENTER  
700 ROGERS AVENUE, FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS

Conference Fee (including luncheon): Before  
October 4 - \$15. After October 4 and at door - \$20.

For reservations, mail your check/money order to:  
Fall Genealogical Conference, c/o Jan Eddleman,  
Route 1, Box 178, Hackett, AR 72937.

Please include a S.A.S.E. for registration con-  
firmation and make your own hotel reservation with  
Holiday Inn.

\*\*\*\*\*

OZARKS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY'S  
11TH FALL CONFERENCE

October 4-5, 1991

University Plaza Hotel, Springfield, Missouri  
Registration fee \$20 if postmarked by September  
18, \$25 thereafter. Make check payable to Ozarks  
Genealogical Society, Inc. Mail to same, c/o  
Conference Registrar, P.O. Box 3494, Springfield,  
MO 65808.

\*\*\*\*\*

Please note the new address for:  
THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF  
THE DESCENDANTS OF CHARLEMAGNE  
P.O. Box 5259, Titusville, Florida 32783-5259

\*\*\*\*\*

1920 FEDERAL CENSUS RECORDS

On March 1, 1992, the 1920 Federal Population  
Census will be opened to the public. At that time,  
microfilmed copies will be available for research at  
the National Archives Building in Washington, DC,  
the eleven regional archives across the nation, and  
through the National Archives' microfilm rental  
program.

The 1920 schedule will include: address; name;  
relationship to head of household; sex; race; age;  
marital status; if foreign born, year of immigration to  
the U.S., whether naturalized, and year of natural-  
ization; school attendance; literacy; birthplace of  
person and parents; mother tongue of foreign born;  
ability to speak English; occupation, industry, and  
class of worker; home owned or rented; if owned,  
whether free or mortgaged.

The National Archives Trust Fund Board has  
published three catalogs to assist you in locating  
and retrieving data from the first thirteen censuses:  
Federal Population Censuses 1790-1890, \$2. order #200032  
1900 Federal Population Census, \$2. order #200031  
The 1910 Federal Population Census, \$2. order #200009

For more specific information on the microfilm  
holdings of the Archives, the following specialized  
catalogs are available:

American Indians, \$2. order #200027  
Black Studies, \$2. order #200011  
Central States, \$2. order #200036  
Chesapeake/Mid-Atlantic, \$2. order #20003  
Diplomatic Records, \$5. order #200029  
Genealogical & Biographical Research, \$2. order #200013

Immigrant & Passenger Arrivals, \$2. order #200012  
Military Service Records, \$5. order #200028  
National Archives Microfilm Resources for Research, \$5.  
order #200044

New England, \$2. order #200039

The South and Southwest, \$2. order #200035

The West, \$2. order #200038

These catalogs contain detailed descriptions of  
the records and roll-by-roll lists for each publication.  
Each catalog also includes a \$2 coupon that can be  
used as credit toward the purchase of microfilm. To  
order, send a check or money order (payable to  
National Archives Trust Fund Board) to:

National Archives CATALOG  
P.O. Box 2580, Patomac Station  
Alexandria, VA 22301

\*\*\*\*\*

HAROLD B. SIMPSON HILL COLLEGE  
CONFEDERATE RESEARCH CENTER  
P.O. BOX 619, HILLSBORO, TEXAS 76645  
PHONE: (817) 582-2555

Extensive holdings of Civil War research materials,  
with emphasis on Confederate military history,  
including:

All important reference books on the war, including  
*The Official Records*, *Southern Historical Society  
Papers*, *The Confederate Veteran*, and *Confederate  
Military History*.

Over 3500 books, brochures and pamphlets on the  
Civil War. Capsule histories of all 3,200 Confederate  
regiments and special units, as well as Confederate  
ships.

Microfilm: Index of each Confederate state;  
service records; information file on Texas'  
Confederate soldiers, etc.

Original letters, documents, maps and photo-  
graphs, magazine and newspaper clippings and  
subscriptions to 55 magazines in the field of  
Southern and Military history.

Brochure states that research fees are very  
reasonable.

The museum would like to have information on  
your Confederate ancestor such as his name, city  
and cemetery of his grave, company and regiment  
and any personal information about him including  
death date.

Also, if you have Confederate Civil War letters,  
pictures, diaries, journals, etc., the Confederate  
Research Center would like to have copies of these  
items.

Mail items — Attn: Peggy to above address.

\*\*\*\*\*

UNITED CONFEDERATE VETERANS

All of the applications for the United Confederate  
Veterans organizations are in the library of the  
Adjutant General at Jefferson Barracks in New  
Orleans, Louisiana, but they do not answer letters.  
Plan to do your own research, have a friend help, or  
hire someone to research for you. (From *Frontier  
Research*, Tenth Anniversary Issue.)

\*\*\*\*\*

THE BALLEW FAMILY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA printed its 10th anniversary issue of the *Ballew Family Journal* in the Spring of 1991. For membership application write to The Ballew Family Association of America, 2711 Leslie Drive, N.E., Atlanta, GA 30345.

\*\*\*\*\*

We have received from Marguerite Gilstrap a copy of her book "Our Gilstrap Grandparents". It is the history of the family of Frances Abigail (Fanny) Voes

and Jessie Gilstrap, who were married July 5, 1877. Born in Washington County, Arkansas, they were descended from colonists who came to America in the middle of the 18th century, fought in the Revolution, and whose grandchildren began moving west early in the 1800's.

A few copies are still available at \$5.00 each. Order from Marguerite Gilstrap, 1311 Delaware Ave., Apt. 848, Washington DC 20024.

---

## Inquiries

Can anyone help me? Need to locate relatives of D'MAYO MARKS, Fort Smith photographer circa 1898. Would also like to contact anyone who has photographs made by him. Amelia Martin, Fort Smith Historical Society, c/o Fort Smith Public Library, 61 South 8th Street, Fort Smith, AR 72901, or call 501-783-1237.

\*\*\*\*\*

Need marriage license or bond for a COMFORT CURNUTT and RANSOM PATTY about 1854. Lana S. Ary, 3670 East Woodlark St., Lancaster, CA 93535. Phone 805-945-4782.

\*\*\*\*\*

Need information on FRANK and BELL LEWIS who lived in Diamond Township, Sebastian County near the town of Huntington when the June 8, 1900 census was taken. They were married ca 1882. Bell's sister Lula married Frank's brother Thomas. Peggy Lewis Kennedy, 4564 Monahans, El Paso, TX 79924. Phone (home) 915-757-1570, (office) 800-627-0918.

\*\*\*\*\*

I am trying to locate some form of death records or cemetery records for my ancestors: FANNIE M. REECE REED, d. January 17, 1919 at Ozark, AR; JOHN T. REED, d. after 1932 at Ozark, AR and ALCY E. (ELIZABETH) BAUCOM TRIPP, d. June 6, 1956 at Ozark, AR. Barbara Reed Thompson, 1243 Gavin Drive, Marysville, CA 95901.

\*\*\*\*\*

Please accept the enclosed check as payment for my membership in your historical society. I have enclosed some family group sheets.

I am studying the following surnames in the Fort Smith area: BAKER, FARRIS, OVERTURF, RICHISON/RICHARDSON, SHERFIELD/SHEFFIELD, WILKINS, and would like to correspond with descendants of the following who lived in Crawford and Sebastian Counties, AR: John WILKINS (1838) and Mary RICHISON (1846), George W. RICHISON/RICHARDSON (1822) and Sarah BAR/BARROW (1828), Elisha BAKER (1850) and Elizabeth "Lizzie Beth" (1861) [her later married names were ORNDORFF/ORNDOFF and FARRIS]. Susan M. (Oliver) Lugar, 7333 East 63rd Place So., Tulsa, OK 74133-1110. Phone 918-254-6372.

\*\*\*\*\*

I am looking for MILLINER relatives who are now or have previously lived in the Fort Smith area. Cecil L. Milliner, 3815 Gundry Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90807.

\*\*\*\*\*

E.L. MECHEM, P.O. Box 97, Rm. 11403, 500 Gold SW, Albuquerque, NM 87103, writes sending a biography of his father, Edwin Mechem, who was a deputy U.S. Marshal in the Poteau area after Judge Parker had left the bench, and copies of some letters written by Edwin Mechem and C.F. Byrns. We will share this information with you in a future issue of *The Journal*.

We appreciate Mr. Mechem's thoughtfulness in sending this to us, and encourage other readers to send us family histories and copies of photographs, letters or other documents which deal with Fort Smith history.

\*\*\*\*\*

Looking for any information pertaining to the SHARP family from 1857 to the 1880's. Our SHARP family entered Arkansas from Mississippi in 1857, first to Independence county and secondly to the Perry/Conway county areas, John and Altha A. Sharp and thirteen children. One was W.J. Sharp (William Jack), my paternal great grandfather, who had six children, five in Arkansas and one in Mississippi. Silas, b. in Mississippi, is my direct family line. His second son was named Martin and figures prominently into the Little Rock and Fort Smith area history. J.C. Hanks, 1785 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20036.

\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you for your response to my letter. I am enclosing \$10.00 for membership dues in the Society. I hope this includes the cost of a copy of your most recent issue of *The Journal* (April 1991)... I am researching the surnames of SPENCER and LEMASTER in the Sebastian, Crawford and Logan County area.

I am especially looking for a newspaper article or court records for a homicide trial of William Thomas Spencer held in the summer of 1933 or 1934. The trial was held in Greenwood in the Sebastian County Courthouse for an incident at Moore's Rock (2 miles north of Lavaca). Michael Spencer, 1305 East Denny Way #310, Seattle, WA 98122. Phone 206-328-2342.



# 1891 Newspapers

**FORT SMITH ELEVATOR**

**June 12, 1891 - December 25, 1891**

**Extracted from microfilm at the Fort Smith Public Library by Mary Lou Jacobsen.**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**June 12, 1891**

George Sengel, Martine Theurer and James Dodson each won a gold medal in the National Tournament of Sharpshooters at St. Louis Wednesday. It is impossible to keep a Fort Smith man down.

— • —

The festive burglar was abroad in the land Tuesday night. The residence of Sam Redding on Eleventh street was visited and Sam was "touched" for a gold watch. At Mr. Henning's a silver watch was secured.

— • —

Mr. Ed McNally and Miss Margaret Dwyer were married on Wednesday morning last at the Catholic church by Rev. I. Smythe. Both the bride and groom are life long residents of Fort Smith and have many friends here who wish them much joy and happiness in their new relations.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**June 19, 1891**

**FORT SMITH COMMERCIAL COLLEGE**

And School

**PHOENETIC SHORT - HAND**

Students can enroll now — For Catalogue write  
Geo. M. Neale, Fort Smith, Ark.

— • —

Eggs for hatching. From pure bred brown Leghorn fowls. 50 cents for 13. H.R. Wier, 713 Pine Street

— • —

The modern Beauty and the Beast. He calls her beauty before they marry, and she calls him beast after.

— • —

The LeGrande Hotel burned last Thursday night about 11:30, parties passing the LeGrande Hotel discovered fire issuing from the linen room on the first floor. An alarm was turned in but owing to the delay in notifying the fire department, the flames had gotten a good headway before the laddies arrived. Chief Little instructed the firemen to direct their attention to saving the adjoining buildings as he saw it was useless to try and save the hotel. The building burned rapidly and in an hour the inside was completely wrecked and the walls began to topple over. The store building owned by Mrs. Emma

Johnson and occupied by Federstein and Ayers with a stock of general merchandise was badly damaged by falling walls. The stock of goods was saved in a damaged condition. The LeGrande was built at a cost of \$22,000 and was owned by Messrs. Samuel A. McCloud and W.J. Johnson. There was an insurance of \$10,000 on the building and \$1250 on the furniture which was owned by Louie Berdell. This was the worst fire Fort Smith has had in a number of years. We have not learned what will be done about rebuilding the hotel.

— • —

The excursion of the steamer John Mathews to Wilson's Rock last Sunday was a delightful affair and thoroughly enjoyed by those who went. The excursion boat left the wharf at the foot of Garrison Avenue at 10 returning about 6:30. The excursion will be continued throughout the summer.

— • —

## **DYING OF RABIES AFTER SEVEN YEARS**

Seven years ago, Henry Oliver of Excelsior, this county, now about 21 years of age, was bitten by a mad dog. A few days ago, hydrophobia developed, and reports say he is now in deplorable condition. His reason has left him, he barks and whines like a dog, and at times raves like a mad man. His recovery is dispaired of. The unfortunate young man was recently married.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**June 26, 1891**

Gov. Hogg of Texas had three bright children, two girls and one boy whose names are, respectively, Ima Hogg, Ura Hogg, and Moore Hogg. Those names were bestowed by the Governor himself.

— • —

## **FOR RENT**

Four room house on DuVal Street near Towson Avenue, \$8. per month.

No. 708 Eleventh Street, five or six rooms, \$10. a month.

No. 310 Garrison Avenue, \$30. per month.

No. 310 Fitzgerald Street, nine rooms, one of the best finished houses in the city.

Rooms over 9 and 11 North Ninth Street, very convenient.

Two houses on Lexington Avenue at \$7. and \$10. a month.

Call on Carnall Bros.

— • —

## TO BE HUNG TUESDAY

Boudinet Crumpton will be hung on Tuesday next for the murder of Sam Morgan Nov. 3, 1889, near Muskogee, Creek Nation. The condemned appears to realize his approaching end and converses freely on the dreadful ordeal through which he must pass. He maintains his innocence, and says his life has been sworn away by designing men. Says he is ready to go and doesn't care how quickly it is over. He is but 22 years old, and a splendid specimen of physical manhood.

(A graphic description of the hanging can be read in the July 3rd 1889 issue of the *Elevator*—it was too long to extract.)

The Frisco Railroad Company has filed a \$60,000,000 mortgage in the office of the circuit clerk in the Fort Smith District, which would indicate that some valuable improvements on the line are likely to be made in the near future.

## THE BRIDGE CASE

Since the decision by Judge Parker in the bridge case, the matter has been the theme of conversation in all quarters. It is a heavy blow to the interest of Fort Smith, and while no one questions the legality of the decision, there is much dissatisfaction expressed. It does seem unjust to a general public that a ferry charter must stand in the way of progress and civilization, and yet such is the case. The public on both sides of the river can view a magnificent wagon and foot bridge, but if anyone desires to cross the Arkansas, they must wait their turn on the ferry boat, and put their teams through the sand bars and up the steep banks. All laws giving charters should be wiped out. As the case now stands the bridge cannot be used probably until congress meets, when the charter can be amended so lands can be condemned for approaches.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

July 3, 1891

THE DEVLIN SHOE STORE

Manufacturers and Dealers

BOOTS, SHOES, LEATHER AND FINDINGS

\$3.00

JAMES MEANS' SHOES!

The Best in America for the Money  
Fort Smith, Ark.

The Indian Journal of the 25th says the Dalton gang is reported as being in the Verdi Gris bottoms about seven miles below the Frisco bridge. An old man and his boys who claim to know them well say they have seen them there several times of late and that their horses are completely worn out.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

July 10, 1891

Work on Hendrix College at Conway has been delayed some on account of brick not being furnished promptly.

## ATTENTION HOUSEKEEPERS

There is an abundance of fruit and sugar is cheap. Why not put up sufficient quantity for two years? There may be a failure in fruits next year. You can get glass jars, extra rubbers and tops and tin cans at John Vaughan's.

About the busiest place in Fort Smith at this present time is out at the Canning and Food Package factory. About 200 hands are at work and every department is going with a rush. Corn is being canned now, and an enormous lot of it will be put up. A visit to the factory will be time well spent. It is one of the institutions of which Fort Smith is justly proud.

Mrs. C.S. Smart and family, Mrs. Dr. Moulton and family and Miss Mattie Crockett are spending the heated term at Manitou Springs.

President Harrison is quite a walker, and is very fond of such exercise. Just now, however, he's probably more interested in knowing whether he will be called on to run.

It is earnestly desired by the Chamber of Commerce of this city that there shall be a good delegation go to the World's Fair Convention at Little Rock, August 6. The importance of having Arkansas properly represented at Chicago can hardly be estimated and it is hoped that a representative body will go from this city.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

July 24, 1891

## THE FIREMANS' TOURNAMENT

A Great Time Expected -

Preparations Almost Completed

The date for holding the Annual Meeting of the Arkansas Firemen's Association comes on apace, and almost before we are aware of it, the 4th of August will have arrived and with it the grand Tournament which will eclipse anything of the kind ever held in the state. Realizing these facts the committee on arrangements have been unusually active the past week and now assure that everything is in readiness for the event. All the principal cities of the state will be represented by their fire departments and a royal good time is promised to all who come. In addition to races, competition for prizes, parades, eight or ten bands, and innumerable other attractions, arrangements are being made to give one of the most expensive and attractive display of fire works ever seen in the state. The pieces are being made to order and the gentleman who has charge of this portion of the entertainment promises something out of the usual order of things in this line. Come to Fort Smith August 4, 5, and 6 and you will never regret it.

### CONTRACT LET

Monday afternoon the bids for building the Trinity M.E. Church were opened and the contracts for the different portions of the work let as follows: for the foundation, Sam Berry \$848. for the cut stone, Jacob Sethold \$875. for the super structure Fred Schanter and E.G. Slavin \$6,800. The above figures do not include the heating or furniture. Indiana stone and Fort Smith vitrified brick will be used. The building is to be completed by the first of December and will be dedicated by Bishop John P. Newton. The total cost when completed will be \$10,750. This will be one of the handsomest church buildings in the city.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**July 31, 1891**

George W. Maledon was united in marriage to Miss Nellie W. Cook in Fairview addition last Saturday night by Rev. Vance.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**August 7, 1891**

**CHEROKEE ELECTION**

Mays re-elected beyond question.

— ● —

The rainfall in this city last week averaged 7½ inches. All this water fell within a space of five days and the older inhabitants can hardly recall the time when a greater amount of rain fell within the same space of time.

— ● —

The Chamber of Commerce rooms present quite an artistic appearance, since the walls have been so profusely decorated with pictures of our public buildings and places of interest. Short Bros. recently presented the Chamber with most excellent views of Belle Grove school house, the two court houses, the opera house and Baer Memorial Temple, the bridge and an interior view of the cotton compress, a picture of Garrison Avenue, etc. The pictures have been neatly framed and now adorn the walls of the room. Mr. B.Z. Greenaway also presented the Chamber of Commerce with a very handsome view of South Sixth street, including both of the court houses, which he had framed. These pictures with the handsome group of pictures presented by Edwin Gould add much to the attractiveness of the room.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**August 21, 1891**

The old fashioned way of putting a cabbage leaf in the top of one's hat on a hot day was a good one, and should be revived. It costs nothing and is a great protection against sunstroke.

— ● —

**"GUS, THE NEWS BOY" IN IT**

Gus McCullough, the news boy, is in jail for forgery and his case looks very serious. Gus forged the name of Lee Sandels to a bond given to the Kansas City Star and allowed a debt of \$145 to accrue to it. As soon as the matter came to light, Gus was arrested and landed in jail where he will likely

remain until the sitting of the next Grand Jury. Gus is a light mulatto, who was born and raised here, his father being a brother of Gen. Ben McCullough and his mother a handsome mulatto girl, once owned by the lamented Uncle Jerre Kannady. Gus is an energetic young fellow, and by his industry had attained a very good reputation, which he has ruined by a simple stroke of his pen.

— ● —

Short Bros. of this city agrees to present the farmer bringing in the first bale of cotton to this market with one dozen fine \$5 cabinet photographs of himself, his family or his best girl. Don't forget this offer.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**August 28, 1891**

**HARLAN THE TAILOR  
FORT SMITH, ARK**

Our Fall and Winter Suitings, Trouserings and Over-Coatings are now ready for your inspection. Our styles are the noblest made. Call and take a look.

— ● —

**WANTED** — A good servant girl by a small family. Must understand housework and some cooking. Good wages paid. Apply to S. Fellner.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**September 4, 1891**

The two story residence of Harry L. Monroe has been moved from over near the Catholic Cemetery to his lot on the corner of Fifteenth and Sycamore.

— ● —

James Stilts was found wandering around loose in the house of Mr. Rogers, on Tenth Street, Saturday night and was taken in charge. He is a regular cowboy and does not look much like a burglar. He was under the "influence" to some extent and was fined \$25.

— ● —

The German Bank has leased the Breen building, corner South Sixth Street and Garrison Avenue, and will move into it about October 1st or as soon as the work of setting it up can be completed.

— ● —

Tom Hocott is at home again after spending two months at the Law School at A.I.U. at Fayetteville, Ark., where he took a very successful examination, and is now prepared to transact any and all kinds of business entrusted to his care. He can be found at Jo Johnson's office where he will make his headquarters for the present.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**September 11, 1891**

**WANTED** — Position as music teacher in school; or a class of 15 or more pupils in Arkansas or Territory. Long experience, best methods. Address "TEACHER", 517 Fitzgerald Street, Fort Smith.

— ● —



## BIG SHOW COMING

Ringling Bros. World's Greatest Rail Road Shows. Three Ring Circus and Elevated Stages, Museum, Menagerie, Roman Hippodrome and Roman Gala Day Sports and Spectaculars is billed to appear in Fort Smith, September 30. Owing to arrangements made by the American Showman's Pooled League this will be the only large Rail Road show that will visit Fort Smith this year. Be in town early and see the magnificent free street parade. Don't forget the date, Sept. 30.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**September 18, 1891**

The city is macadamizing the Hotel Main alley with rocks broken by city prisoners and Commissioner Beck is making a splendid job of it.

— ● —

The cornerstone of the Trinity M.E. Church was laid on Tuesday last under the auspices of the Masonic Fraternity. The ceremonies were both interesting and impressive. Judge I.C. Parker was the orator of the occasion and delivered a beautiful and instructive address to the assembled multitude.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**October 2, 1891**

## DEATH OF DR. J.H.T. MAIN

Dr. John Hanson Thomas Main, one of the oldest and most respected citizens of Fort Smith, died Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock after a short illness occasioned by nervous prostration. His death took place at the old family residence where he had lived for two score years. He was in his 78th year. Dr. Main was born in Frederick County, Maryland, Nov. 13, 1812. He came to Fort Smith 54 years ago and resided here continually ever since. May 5, 1848, he was united in marriage with Isabella, daughter of Joseph Armorer, in this city. Of this union one child was born, Lillie, the wife of Dr. W.W. Bailey. Dr. Main was a prominent Mason and had held several exalted positions in that order. Funeral services will take place today at 2 o'clock with Masonic honors. We shall give more extended notice of Dr. Main's life in our next week's issue.

— ● —

## A LIBRARY IS PROSPECT

The Fortnightly Club had a meeting at Mrs. Lyman's Tuesday and it was resolved to ask for a charter for the Fortnightly Public Library. A committee was appointed for the purpose of drawing the necessary papers and looking after the work. Stock at \$5 per share is to be subscribed. Judge Parker, Capt. Echols, Judge Rogers and others have promised their assistance and there is no doubt but that Fort Smith in a short time will have a good public library, something that has been needed for a long time.

— ● —

**(HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY, FORT SMITH PUBLIC LIBRARY, FROM THE FORT SMITH HISTORICAL SOCIETY)**

— ● —

Gen. Powell Clayton of Eureka Springs, was in the city Sunday, the guest of his brother, W.H.H. Clayton.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**October 16, 1891**

The Crawford County quorum court appropriated \$6000 to build a jail at Van Buren.

— ● —

If you have money to deposit in a bank, no matter how small or large an amount, nor in what way you wish to deposit it, or banking business of any kind to transact, first visit the German Bank, at 508 Garrison Avenue. We will pay 4 percent interest on deposits left with us six months or longer.

— ● —

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

The tailors of Fort Smith have adopted the J.T.U. of A. label to be used on all work after October 12, 1891. The color of this label is white and will be found in the inside pocket of the coats, on the back straps of vest and the waist band of the trousers. THIS LABEL IS A GUARANTEE OF FIRST CLASS WORK made by Union labor and not swindlers. All purchasers of custom clothing desiring full value for their money should patronize only such tailors as use this label.

Any counterfeiting of the label will be prosecuted according to law.

(Signed) Journeymen Tailors Union of America

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**October 23, 1891**

## THE U.S. COURT AND GEO. MALEDON

The United States court opened in Fort Smith last week with many cases on the docket. This court has the most extensive jurisdiction of any in the United States. More prisoners are tried and convicted here of serious offenses than at any other court in this country and more people are hanged here than at any other place in the Union. Here also resides the most noted executioner in America, George Maledon, who has hanged more people than any other man now in the business and never did a "bad job". Maledon seems to take pride in his profession. Launching a man into eternity appears to have no more effect on his nervous system than castor oil on a graven image.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**November 13, 1891**

Don't forget the Business Men's Jubilee at the Opera House Tonight.

— ● —

## AN ASSIGNMENT

Last Friday at noon, the large music and stationary house of Bradley, Black and Co. closed its doors, and an assignment was made to Gus A. Gill, President of the German Bank. The assets are amply sufficient to meet the liabilities and creditors of the firm will doubtless be paid in full. The failure is regretted by all and general sympathy is expressed for the individual members of the firm.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

### November 20, 1891

A quiet wedding took place on Twelfth Street last Thursday evening at the home of Mr. M.N. Ayers, the consenting parties being Mr. H.H. Hoover and Miss Carrie Ayers, both of this city. Rev. J.A. Kincaid performed the ceremony. The wedding was a quiet affair only a few intimate friends being present. Mr. & Mrs. Hoover have gone to housekeeping in their newly furnished house at \_\_\_\_\_ (number illegible) Twelfth Street.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

### December 11, 1891

Dr. G.W. Smith left Wednesday for New York. Some time ago the Doctor was stricken with facial paralysis. He has in great measure recovered but hopes, by a visit to some of the leading physicians in New York, to obtain a complete restoration. He will be absent about thirty days when he will return to resume his large practice. He goes by Lexington, Ky., where he will pay a visit to his daughter who is attending school there. The *Elevator* joins Dr. Smith's many friends in the wish that he may return sound and well.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

### December 18, 1891

(The December, 1891 issue carries brief histories of some of the businesses and biographical sketches of business leaders from Fort Smith and surrounding area communities, including pictures of some of the leaders. The information is too long to extract for the *Journal*, but we are printing here the names of Fort Smith and Van Buren businesses and leaders which are included. Readers interested in the information published on leaders from Hackett City, Greenwood, Mansfield, Huntington and Indian Territory, check the *Fort Smith Elevator* microfilm for this date at the Fort Smith Public Library.)

J.D. Van Winkle & Co., Merchant

P. Devlin & Sons Manufacturers and Dealers of fine footwear

Wright & Robinson, Abstractors

J.H. Smythe, Jeweler

W.J. Echols & Co., Grocers and Cotton Factors

J.N. & C.R. Cummings, exporters of hardwood lumber and log

W.H. Cole, Wholesale and Retail Drugs

R.C. Bollinger, Piano & Musical Instrument Store

S. (F.?) Shouse, Place Drug Store

J. (W.?) Williams, President; W.J. Echols, Vice President; A.G. Williams, Sec & Treas; Williams-Echols Dry Goods Co.

Gannaway Bros., Druggists

L.C. Hinds, Variety Store

Caldwell & Weems, Central Drug Store

P.R. Davis & Son, Wholesale Grocers

R.M. Fry, Esq.

John B. Nedry, J.P.

Reynolds, Foster & Co., Wholesale Grocers and Cotton Factors

George Tilles, Mutual Life Ins. Co., New York

James E. Clark, Mutual Life Ins. Co. of New York

Prof. W.D. Botefuhr, Conservatory of Music

Klein & Fink, Jewelers

Chas. M. Cooke, Mayor

T. Hadden Humphreys, City of Fort Smith

Tobias Kelly & Son, Wholesale and Retail Dealers in Fresh Meat

Drake Hardwood Lumber Co., Mr. L.E. Whybark, manager

Chamber of Commerce (The Chamber of Commerce, an organization that has done so much to advertise Fort Smith and Western Arkansas, was organized a little more than four years ago.)

Tony Marre, Holiday Goods, Candy and Fruits

Samuel Edmondson, J.P.

Hon. James B. Gann/Gass(?), City Engineer

Tom O'Leary, Saloon and Restaurant

George W. Johnson, Jeweler

John Worner, Merchant (Van Buren)

J.G. Miller and C.W. Jones, Lumber Mill and factory (V.B.)

J.W. Roach, J.P. (V.B.)

W.A. Briscoe, Groceries & Confectionary (V.B.)

J.T. Key, Van Buren Wagon Shop

J.T. Clark, Photographer (V.B.)

Crawford County Bank, Robert S. Hynes, D.W. Moore and Jesse Turner (V.B.)

John Kerwin (formerly of Fort Smith) Manufactures and Deals in saddlery and harness (V.B.)

F.G. Kerr, Pharmacy (V.B.)

Palace Drug Store, A.V. Hays (V.B.)

Citizens Bank, B.J. Brown, L.H. Southmayd, W.H.H. Shibley, F.G. Kerr, George R. Wood, William Bowlin, J.D. Ha(illegible), F.E. Cooper, and R.J. Miller (V.B.)

H.C. Pernot, Merchant and Picture Framer (V.B.)

J.G. Miller, Manufacturer and Dealer in Building Materials

D.J. Young, Manufacturer of bricks and owner of Fort Smith Steam Bottling Works, president of Fort Smith Mining and Smelting Co., and connected with a number of other businesses

Ayers & Company, Hardware dealers

Lunsford Bros., Blacksmiths

J.H. Baker, Insurance

Hon. Jacob Yoes, United States Marshal, Western District of Arkansas

Samuel Peters, Feed and Wagon Store

Taylor & Powell, liquor dealers, succeeded J.R. & W.J. Satterfield

Ed A. Thomas and M.F. Smith, Plumbing Co.

A.M. Smith & Co., Wall Paper, artists supplies, window shades, etc.

John Haupt & John Sharron, liquor, beer and wine

John Kennedy, J.P. and Chief of Police, Fort Smith

J.M. Kelleam, M.D. (biography and photograph)

B.Z. Gannaway & Son, John M. Gannaway, Photographers

Frank Bollinger, Commission and Wholesale business in fruits and produce

B.B. Burney, Tailor

Dr. Harrison, Physician

Dr. Miller, Physician

John C. Smith, Grocer

Armbruster & Kruehl, manufacturer of carriages,  
 buggies, surreys, etc.  
 Cons S. Wilson  
 Arkansas Telephone Co.  
 Dr. Harrison, President and Treasurer  
 W.S. Harrison, Vice-president  
 K.B. Harrison, Secretary  
 Instrument invented by Dr. Harrison and  
 manufactured in Fort Smith  
 Hon. John Carnall  
 Messrs. Pendergrast and McShane, The Arcade  
 J.S. Meek, Fort Smith Cotton Warehouse manager;  
 Ketcham Iron Company, W.N. Ayres, President;  
 J.C. Stalcup, Secretary, Treasurer and  
 Superintendent  
 C.R. Jones, Liquor  
 Gibson & Wood, Grocers  
 W.S. Waddle, City Bakery  
 Lewis Walton, Loan Bank  
 W.C. Ballinger, Mercantile  
 J.C. Atkinson, Hardware  
 Fleming and Weaver, Life Insurance  
 A.J. Ingle, Manufactures wagons and wagon parts,  
 blacksmith, etc.  
 James Hoey, Lumber Yard, building supplies  
 J.R. Gant, M.D.  
 R.H. Adair, Secretary Chamber of Commerce  
 C.F. Speaker, Carpenter and furniture repairing  
 F.M. Masters, Fort Smith Electric and Electro-  
 plating works  
 J.H. Jones, Grain, hay and feed  
 Hon. Wm. M. Fishback  
 W.B. Hendrix & Co., Groceries  
 R.J. Abbott, flour, feed, seeds, grain, etc.  
 M.W. Burke, Border City Machine Shop  
 S.M. Rutherford, Deputy Sheriff  
 Fort Smith Water Company  
 C. Tilles & Co., Gen. Merchandise and Cotton Buyer  
 Judge Thomas Boles  
 E.H. Stevenson, M.D.  
 G.W. Barnes  
 Lyman & Sherlock, Real Estate and Abstract  
 business  
 W.F. Braden, Gin and Mill  
 A.E. Kimmons, D.D.S.  
 J. Lee Grace & Co., Drug Store  
 Isaac C. Parker, Federal Judge  
 Edgar E. Bryant, Circuit Judge  
 Col. Ben T. DuVal  
 Jo Johnson, Attorney  
 Humphry & Warner, Attorneys  
 Hon. Wm. H.H. Clayton, District Attorney, Western  
 District of Arkansas  
 Hon. James R. Forester, Lawyer  
 Hon. James Brizzolara

T.P. Winchester, Attorney  
 J. Warren Reed, Esq., Attorney  
 Col. Thomas E. Ward, Attorney  
 Hon. H.T. Kerr, Attorney  
 Alfred H. Boles, Attorney  
 George A. Grace, Attorney  
 Hon. L.B. Cady, Attorney  
 Hon. Thos. M. Barnes, Attorney  
 R.E. Jackson, Attorney  
 John H. Pitchford, Attorney  
 Col. Campbell Leflore, Attorney  
 Judge R.T. Powell, Attorney  
 Hon. (J.?) L. Brown, Attorney  
 D.B. Whittaker, Toy and Notion Store  
 Col. James G. Byers, Attorney  
 Barkeley Neal, Attorney  
 J.P. Collier & Co.  
 Hon. John F. Williams, Sheriff  
 Hon. Thos. C. Davis  
 Judge M.D. Vance  
 C.B. Gannaway, Chemical Analyst  
 Tung Woo, Laundry  
 Carnall Bros., Real Estate  
 C.J.F. Hoffman  
 H.C. Hoffman  
 Boyd, Hall, Shelby, Insurance  
 E. Ballman, Manufacturer of furniture  
 W.H. Evans, owner of Hotel Main  
 Merchants Bank  
 J.E. Mayers Co.  
 Commercial College  
 Border City Ice & Coal Co.  
 John Schaap, Wholesale Druggist  
 Henry Kuper & Son  
 W.A. Black, Piano & Organ Dealer  
 Marshall & Phillips, Insurance  
 Jno. P. Maledon, Groceries  
 L.E. Payne, Druggist  
 B.A. Uptmore, Cigar Manufacturer  
 J.K. Jones, Liquors, cigars, etc.  
 Will Wirsing, Guns and Ammunition  
 H.G. Boesser, Watches, Clocks and Jewelry  
 John H. Barber, Liquor, tobacco, etc.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**December 25, 1891**

**CONTEST CLOSED**

Mrs. C.P. Wilson and Miss Fannie Wheeler are the  
 winners. The *Elevator* Contest for the most popular  
 married and young lady closed on Wednesday night  
 at 10 o'clock and the votes were counted by Messrs.  
 Geo. Sengel, W.J. Johnston, and Mr. Rogers. The  
 successful candidates were Mrs. C.P. Wilson and  
 Miss Fannie Wheeler. Winners received monetary  
 awards, but the microfilm of the newspaper was  
 blurred at this point and illegible.



Gill, Gus A., 43  
 Gilstrap, Jessie, 39  
 Gilstrap, Marguerite, 39  
 Golden, Motorman Frank, 9 por  
 Goodkin, Sam, 16  
 Gorney, Jay, 8  
 Gossage, Ronnie, 11  
 Gould, Edwin, 42  
 Grace, George A., 45  
 Grace, J. Lee, 45  
 Graduating Class of Fort Smith Junior College, 1930, 28 por  
 Grant, J.R., 45  
 Gray, May, 34  
 Greenaway, B.Z., 42  
 Greene, Ben A., 14  
 Greer, Judson, 28 por  
 Griffin, Rick, 14  
 Griggs, Carl, 23  
 Grimes, Gary, 14  
 Gutensohn, James, 16  
 Gutensohn, James A., 33  
 Hall, K.P., 13  
 Hammack, Anita, 27  
 Hanks, J.C., 39  
 Harback, Quinton "Quinnie", 28  
 Harburg, E.Y., 8  
 Hardin, G.C., 31  
 Hardin, Hugh, 31  
 Hardin, Joe, 12  
 Hardin, Barton and Shaw, law firm, 16  
 Harlan The Tailor, 42  
 Harp, J.A., 14  
 Harper, (W.R. Sr.), 22 por  
 Harper, Betty Faye, 23  
 Harper, Helen Jones, 2, 17  
 Harper, Joan, 23  
 Harper, Thomas, Sr., 16  
 Harper, W.R. "Bud", Jr., 2, 14, 23  
 Harper, W.R. and Helen Olive Jones, 23 por  
 Harper, W.R. Sr., 23  
 Harper, William Raymond, 23 por  
 Harris, David, 37  
 Harrison, Dr., 44, 45  
 Harrison, K.B., 45  
 Harrison, President, 41  
 Harrison, W.S., 45  
 Haupt, John, 44  
 Hawkins, Virginia, 28 por  
 Hays, A.V., 44  
 Henderson, Rev. Neal, 13  
 Hendrix, B.G., 14  
 Hendrix, W.B., 45  
 Henning, Mr., 40  
 Hester, Ezra, 14  
 Hewett, Mark, 14  
 Hicks, Floyd W., 11  
 Hill, Harold B. Simpson, 38  
 Hindman, Antoinette, 31  
 Hinds, L.C., 44  
 Hirt, Al, 26  
 Hocott, Tom, 42  
 Hoey, James, 45  
 Hoffman, C.J.F., 45  
 Hoffman, H.C., 45  
 Hogg, Gov., 40  
 Hogg, Ima, 40  
 Hogg, Moore, 40  
 Hogg, Ura, 40  
 Holland, John (J.H.), 14  
 Hoover, H.H., 44  
 Hoover, Herbert, 4, 7  
 Hope, Lonnie, 9, 11  
 Hosford, Dorothy, 1, 35  
 Houdini, Mr., 21  
 Houston, Jim, 27  
 Howard, John, 14  
 Howard, Judy, 30  
 Howell, Paul, 21

Howerton, Helen, 36  
 Hudson, David, 14  
 Hummel, C.J., 13  
 Humphrey & Warner, 45  
 Hymphreys, T. Hadden, 44  
 Hunt, Carter, 14  
 Hynes, Robert S., 44  
 Ignateus, Sister Mary, 12  
 Ingle, A.J., 45  
 Izard, Clyman, 16  
 Jackson, R.E., 45  
 Jacobsen, Mary Lou, 1, 35, 40  
 Johnson, Ben, 1  
 Johnson, Emma, 40  
 Johnson, Jo, 42, 45  
 Johnson, Major and Mrs. O.T., 7  
 Johnson, W.J., 40  
 Johnson, George W., 44  
 Johnston, Ben, 1, 10  
 Johnston, W.J., 45  
 Jones, Bertha Ashley, 17 por  
 Jones, Bertha Mae, 18 por  
 Jones, C.R., 45  
 Jones, C.W., 44  
 Jones, Doris, 22  
 Jones, Helen, 20 por, 22 por  
 Jones, Helen Mae, 22 por, 23  
 Jones, Helen Olive, 18 por, 23  
 Jones, J.H., 18 por, 45  
 Jones, J.K., 45  
 Jones, Jay Orlin, 23  
 Jones, John H., 17 por  
 Jones, John Paul Hugh, 23  
 Jones, Orlin, 18 por, 19, 21 por, 22 por  
 Jones, Owen, 17  
 Jones, Ralph, 18 por, 22  
 Jones, Ralph Ashley, 21 por, 23  
 Jones Cafe Sign at 5th at Garrison, 19 il  
 Jordon, Alice Garlington, 15  
 Jordon, J.D., 15  
 Jordon, J.K. (Mayor), 7 por, 16 por  
 Jordon, James Keys (Mayor), 2, 15 por  
 Kaelin, Paul, 11  
 Kannady, Jere, 42  
 Kelleam, J.M., 44  
 Kelley, Gordon, 1  
 Kelley, Leigh, 15  
 Kelly, Tobias, 44  
 Kenagy, Suzanne, 36  
 Kennedy, John, 44  
 Kennedy, Peggy Lewis, 39  
 Kerr, F.G., 44  
 Kerr, H.T., 45  
 Kerth, Coach, 28 por  
 Kerwin, John, 44  
 Ketcham Iron Company, 45  
 Key, J.T., 44  
 Kimbrough, Warren, 14  
 Kimmons, A.E., 45  
 Kincaid, Rev. J.A., 44  
 King, Jerry D., 14  
 King, Rev. S., 13  
 Kirschke, Helen Hildegard, 23  
 Kizer, Bernice, 14  
 Klein & Fink, 44  
 Knight, Mary Frances "Chancey", 32  
 Kuper, Henry, 45  
 Kuse, Mr., 20  
 Lambert, C. Roger, 11  
 Lambert, Rogers, Hoover and the Red Cross, 11  
 Langston, Don, 14  
 Langston, James, 16  
 Lease, Steve, 14  
 Lee, Van, 14  
 Leflore, Campbell, 45  
 Lewis, Bell, 39  
 Lewis, Frank, 39  
 Lewis, Lulu, 39  
 Lewis, Thomas, 39

Lisenby, Foy, Ph.D., 25  
 Little, Chief, 40  
 Long, Meredith, 37  
 Looper, Floy, 1  
 Lovick, Emily, 1, 35  
 Lovoi, Augustina, 31  
 Lovoi, Paul S., 31  
 Luckinbill, Laurence, 26  
 Lugar, Susan M. (Oliver), 39  
 Lunon, Rev. E.J., 13  
 Lunsford Bros., 44  
 Lyman, Mrs., 43  
 Lyman & Sherlock, 45  
 Lynch, S.A., 14  
 Mack, Robert C., 13  
 Mackey, Hurshal, 33  
 Maile, Matt, 35  
 Main, Dr. J.H.T. (John Hanson Thomas), 43  
 Maledon, Geo., 43  
 Maledon, George W., 42  
 Maledon, Jno. P., 45  
 Mann, Calvin, 8  
 Mapstone, Helen Westbrook, 16  
 Marcus, Chris, 36  
 Marion's Partisans, 24  
 Marks, D'Mayo, 39  
 Marre, Tony, 44  
 Marsh, Leona, 28 por  
 Marshall & Phillips, Insurance, 45  
 Martin, Amelia, 1, 2, 3, 11  
 Martin, Art, 36  
 Martin, Bradley, 36  
 Masters, F.M., 45  
 Mathews, John, 40  
 Mayers, J.E., 45  
 Mayo, Ben I., 8, 28 por  
 McAllister, Wm., 14  
 McCloud, Samuel A., 40  
 McCullough, Gen. Ben, 42  
 McCullough, Gus, 42  
 McCullough, Sarah Fitzjarrald, 1, 2, 11  
 McDaniel, Mr., 21  
 McGill, Rev. Norman, 13  
 McGraw, J.F., 12  
 McKnight, Hal "Mac", 28 por  
 McMahan, Gloria, 36  
 McMahon, Mary Ann, 31  
 McNally, Ed, 40  
 McNeil, Jack, 31  
 Means, James, 41  
 Mechem, E.L., 39  
 Mechem, Edwin, 39  
 Meek, J.S., 45  
 Meeks, David, 27  
 Memories of Helen Olive Jones Harper, 17-23  
 Merchants Bank, 45  
 Merrill, Major General Frank D., 25  
 Merrill's Marauders, 25  
 Miles, Travis, 14  
 Miller, Dr., 44  
 Miller, J.G., 44  
 Miller, R.J., 44  
 Milliner, Cecil L., 39  
 Milor, Charles, 14  
 Missouri Pacific Engine #6514, 4 il  
 Mitchell, Elder W.W., 13  
 Mitchell, W.W., 13  
 Molinari, Aldo "Aldy", 28 por  
 Monroe, Harry L., 42  
 Moore, A.E., 9  
 Moore, D.W., 44  
 Moore, E.A., 11  
 Moore, James, 14  
 Moore, Ora Blackard, 33  
 Morgan, Sam, 41  
 Morgan, Speer, 36  
 Morgan's Riflemen, 24  
 Mosby's Raiders, 24  
 Mott, Harold, 28 por

Mott, Ralph, 11  
 Moulton, Mrs. Dr., 41  
 Murray, Gail S., 11  
 Narisi, Vincent "Narcissus", 28 por  
 Neal, B.F., 14  
 Neal, Berkeley, 45  
 Neal, Rev. B.F., 2, 12, 13  
 Neale, Geo. M., 40  
 Nedry, John B., 44  
 Nelson, E. Chester, 13  
 Nelson, Rev. James, 33  
 New Courthouse, 6 il  
 New Courthouse Cornerstone, 12 il  
 Newton, Bishop John P., 42  
 Nichols, Guy, 35  
 Nimby, Fred, 20  
 Nolan, Bob, 8  
 Norris, T.A., 14  
 O'Leary, Tom, 44  
 O'Neal, Art, 23  
 O'Neal, Doris Cecile, 23  
 Old Courthouse, 6 il  
 Oliver, Henry, 40  
 Orndorff/Orndoff and Farris, Elizabeth  
 "Lizzie Beth", 39  
 Overturf family, 39  
 Pahotski, Minnie, 20  
 Parish, A.J., 14  
 Parker, Judge Isaac C., 35, 41, 43, 45  
 Parker, Lee W., 23  
 Parker, Mark, 1, 35  
 Parnell, Governor Harvey, 7  
 Patton, General George S. Jr., 24  
 Patty, Ransom, 39  
 Payne, J.L., 13  
 Payne, L.E., 45  
 Peck, H.S., 7 por, 15  
 Peer, Charles, 36  
 Pendergrast and McShane, 45  
 Perkins, C.G., 14  
 Pernot, H.C., 44  
 Perry, Rev., 13  
 Peters, Karl, 28 por  
 Peters, Samuel, 44  
 Piles, Ray, 32  
 Pinckney, Harold, 28 por  
 Pitchford, John H., 45  
 Plainfeather, Mardell, 35  
 Poindexter, Ray, 11  
 Pollan, Carolyn, 1, 14, 36  
 Pollard, Hugh Hart, 2, 29  
 Pollock, Ben, 21  
 Poole, Jerry D., Ph.D., 25  
 Porter, Marcy, 14  
 Potts, Jody, 25  
 Powell, R.T., 45  
 Raible, Ronnie, 14  
 Redding, Eddie, 28 por  
 Redding, Sam, 40  
 Reed, Fannie M. Reece, 39  
 Reed, J. Warren, 45  
 Reed, John T., 39  
 Remler, Cindy, 14  
 Restaurant at 5th at Garrison, 19 il  
 Reutzel, Dibby, 1, 35  
 Reynolds, J.W., 31  
 Reynolds, Foster & Co., 44  
 Richison, Mary, 39  
 Richison/Richard family, 39  
 Richison/Richardson, George W., 39  
 Riggs, Cora, 20  
 Rinne, Henry, 26, 27, 27 por  
 Rison, David, 11  
 Roach, J.W., 44  
 Robinson, Harry, 28 por  
 Rodgers, R.K., 10, 15  
 Rogers, Floyd "Pete", 14  
 Rogers, Judge, 43  
 Rogers, Major Robert, 24  
 Rogers, Mr., 42, 45

Rogers, Roy, 8  
 Roosevelt, Franklin D., 5  
 Rose, Jack, 16  
 Rowlands, Anna, 17  
 Reutzel, Charles, 1  
 Rutherford, R.B., 14  
 Rutherford, S.M., 14, 45  
 Saltenbury, (Widow), 18  
 Sandels, Lee, 42  
 Satterfield, J.R., 44  
 Satterfield, W.J., 44  
 Schaap, John, 45  
 Schaefer, Paul, 1, 35  
 Schanter, Fred, 42  
 Schultis, Lorna Dickson, 1, 2, 17, 23  
 Scott, Maxie, 28 por  
 Sengel, George, 40, 45  
 Sethold, Jacob, 42  
 Sharp, Altha A., 39  
 Sharp, John, 39  
 Sharp, Martin, 39  
 Sharp, Silas, 39  
 Sharp, W.J. (William Jack), 39  
 Sharron, John, 44  
 Shaw, Bruce, 16  
 Shaw, Richard, 16  
 Sherfield/Sherfield family, 39  
 Shermer, Mildred, 33  
 Shibley, W.H.H., 44  
 Shipley, Ben, 14  
 Short Bros., 42  
 Shouse, Bobby Nadine, 23  
 Shouse, S. (F?), 44  
 Slavin, E.G., 42  
 Slye, Leonard, 8  
 Smart, Mrs. C.S., 41  
 Smith, A.M., 44  
 Smith, Dr. G.W., 44  
 Smith, John C., 44  
 Smith, M.F., 44  
 Smith, Steve, 27  
 Smythe, J.H., 44  
 Southern, Marlin, 11  
 Southmayd, L.H., 44  
 Speaker, C.F., 45  
 Speakman, Lucille, 26  
 Spencer, Michael, 39  
 Spencer, William Thomas, 39  
 Spencer/Lemaster families, 39  
 Spenser, Tim, 8  
 Spradling, J.M., 14  
 Stalcup, J.C., 45  
 Stanford, Dale, 28 por  
 Starbird, C.R., 16  
 Stein, Mildred, 36  
 Stevens, Jennie, 20  
 Stevenson, E.H., 45  
 Stewart, Ray, 14  
 Stilts, James, 42  
 Stone, J.H., 21  
 Stough, Mary Louise, 28 por  
 Streetcar #224, restored, 35 il  
 Strozier, R.P., 12, 14  
 Stubblefield, Joel, 1  
 Swafford, Joanne, 1, 2, 15  
 Swift, C.P., 14  
 Tate, Doris, 14  
 Tatum, Evangel, 32  
 Taylor, Don, 14  
 Taylor & Powell, 44  
 Thames, Glenn, 14  
 Theurer, Martine, 40  
 Thomas, Barry, 36  
 Thomas, Ed A., 44  
 Thomas, Farrel, 28 por  
 Thompson, Barbara Reed, 39  
 Thompson, Gus, 36  
 Thompson, John R., 8, 11  
 Thompson, Kathi, 36  
 Tillery, Jo, 1, 35

Tilles, C., 45  
 Tilles, George, 44  
 Todd, Mr., 15  
 Tomboulion, Norma, 37  
 Trent, Alphonso, Jr., 32  
 Tripp, Alcy E. (Elizabeth) Baucom, 39  
 Trowbridge, Hazel, 20  
 Truscott, General, 24  
 Tuck, Jim, 1, 35  
 Tucker, M/M, 19  
 Turner, Jesse, 44  
 Ullrich, A.H., 6  
 Union Railroad Station, Fort Smith, 4 il  
 Upchurch, Henry, 11  
 Uptmere, B.A., 45  
 Utley, Ina Lee, 9, 11  
 Van Winkle, J.D., 44  
 Vance, M.D., 45  
 Vance, Rev., 42  
 Vance, Thos. C., 45  
 Vaughan, John, 41  
 Vaughn, W.H., 15  
 Vineyard, Mattie, 37  
 Vineyard, Mittie, 37, 37 por  
 Vineyard, William, 37  
 Voes, Frances Abigail (Fanny), 39  
 Walters, Bill, 14  
 Waddle, W.S., 45  
 Walker, Rosilee, 26  
 Wallet, Lavon "Lanky", 28 por  
 Walton, Lewis, 45  
 Wang, Sam, 36  
 Ward, Col. Thomas E., 45  
 Watson, Peggy, 14  
 Webb, Motorman B., 9, 9 por  
 Webb, Pamela, 11  
 Weinstein, Louis, 7  
 Wells, Gene, 27  
 Westark Jazz Band, 27 por  
 Westmoreland, H.K., 16  
 Wheeler, Fannie, 45  
 Whittaker, D.B., 45  
 Whittlesey, Margaret, 28 por  
 Whybark, L.E., 44  
 Wier, H.R., 40  
 Wilbourn, Velma, 33  
 Wilburn, Fred, 28 por  
 Wilcox, Olean, 32  
 Wilder, Franklin, 31  
 Wilkins, John, 39  
 Wilkins family, 39  
 Williams, A.G., 44  
 Williams, Bess, 28  
 Williams, C. Fred, 25  
 Williams, Don, 27  
 Williams, Dorothy, 1, 35  
 Williams, Hill, 27  
 Williams, J. (W?), 44  
 Williams, John F., 45  
 Williams, Mrs. Hill, 27  
 Williams, Paul, 1  
 Williams, Sylvester, 33  
 Williams, Vircy, 36  
 Willis, Bertha, 15  
 Wilson, Claude, 28 por  
 Wilson, Cons. S., 45  
 Wilson, Mrs. C.P., 45  
 Wilson, Samuel, 14  
 Winchester, T.P., 45  
 Winn, Sharon, 26, 27 por  
 Winters, Charles, 3, 4  
 Wirsing, Will, 45  
 Withrow, N.C., 13  
 Woo, Tung, 45  
 Wood, George R., 44  
 Worner, John, 44  
 Wray, Thelma, 1, 35  
 Wright & Robinson, Abstractors, 44  
 Wynn, Major, 11  
 Yearty, Gordon, 1, 35  
 Yoes, Jacob, 44  
 Young, D.J., 44  
 Zechiedrich, Nancy, 27