

## Sesquicentennial Commemorative Issue



150th Anniversary

1842 - 1992

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#### EDITOR:

Amelia Martin

#### ASSOCIATE EDITOR:

Sarah Fitzjarrald McCullough

#### CONSULTING EDITOR:

Carolyn Pollan

#### **GUEST WRITERS:**

Teri Barber Sharum Mildred Stein

#### INDEXING:

Sarah Fitzjarrald McCullough

#### PROOF READERS:

Ruth Mae Brooks Pearce Brooks Warren McCullough

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COVER: Logo for 150th Anniversary Celebration of the incorporation of the town of Fort Smith. The Fort Smith Historical Society is honored to have *The Journal* selected to be an official souvenir publication of the celebration.

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Ray Baker Mayor

Dear Fellow Citizens:

Fort Smith, Arkansas is fast approaching the 150th Anniversary date of our incorporation as a city on December 24, 1992.

As we celebrate this 150th Anniversary Year with activities, events and celebrations, let us pause to reflect our heritage and what we have accomplished in the last 150 years as a city. Let us also look to the years ahead that promise a very bright and prosperous future as we move towards even more exciting times and accomplishments in the days, weeks, months and coming years.

For remember, "Life's Worth Living in Fort Smith."

1

Sincerely

Ray Baker Mayor

ST

## Fort Smith — Me Have Had It All!!

Sarah Fitzjarrald

The procedure for incorporating the town of Fort Smith began in October, 1840. Just in case you missed it, we offer the edited version (for brevity) as taken from the September issue, 1984, *Journal*, which contains the account taken from an 1884 *New Era* newspaper, edited by the often peppery and always Republican Valentine Dell.



Marker showing Crawford County, First County Seat, south side of the Arkansas River near Lavaca.

In October, 1840, Fort Smith was still a part of Crawford County (from which Sebastian County was formed in 1850)<sup>1</sup>. Two-thirds of the taxable citizens of Fort Smith made application to Crawford County to incorporate the town. Permission was granted and Nathaniel Gookin was appointed Alderman (Mayor), with A. Harris, C.A. Birnie, A.G. Mayers, Wm. J. McMillan and John Rogers as Councilmen.

November 1, 1840, was the date of the first city council meeting ever held in Fort Smith. Shelby Hogg was named clerk, assessor, collector and treasurer; with James L. Knapp as town constable.

Three days later the second meeting was held, at which time the pay of the constable was set at \$200 per year and a number of ordinances

were passed — licenses, keeping order, etc. Slaves had to have passes from their masters to be out after 10 p.m. or receive 10 to 39 lashes. Saloon license was \$2.50 a month.

On the 10th of November, Mayor Gookin tried his first case before a full council — four men who were charged with being drunk and disorderly — fine, one dollar (each?) and costs.

A city jail was ordered to be built, sixteen feet square and eight feet high. A citizens' patrol was organized to keep order, and an ordinance was passed prohibiting gambling between negroes and whites. (Gambling itself was not considered wrong among people of the same race.) Selling or giving whiskey to soldiers or slaves was prohibited.

At the next meeting on November 21st, two men were arraigned before "His Highmightiness the Alderman" and a full council on the charge of cutting Mr. Kelley's chin with a knife.

A.G. Mayers was taxed ten dollars for a billiard table till the first of January next.

On the 12th of January, 1841, council met and ordered an election two days later for an entire new council. The voting was to be done at A.G. Mayers' billiard saloon. At the same meeting, persons without visible means of support were to be arrested and fined \$50, or to work for the city at the rate of 50 cents a day.

The first municipal election in the city, held in the saloon, came off as ordered with no disturbance. On the 16th of January, the new officers were sworn in — Alderman (Mayor), Chas. A. Birnie; Councilmen — Joshua Tebbetts, Wm. F. Brown, David Brigham, James Campbell and Joseph H. Heard. Francis Redman was appointed constable.

Among other things, it was ordained to assess all property and levy a tax of twelve and one-half cents on one hundred dollars' worth of property.

On January 25th the council passed a Sunday law. Nothing could be sold on Sunday within the city proper without a fine of five dollars. However, they added the proviso that "wagons coming in from the country could have anything they wanted." That settled the

Sunday law. Hotel keepers were taxed five dollars for three months; saloon keepers, five dollars to April 1st from January 16th; dogs one dollar a year; sluts three dollars.

On February 1st, the council ordained a fine for carrying arms at \$5 to \$50, at the discretion of the Alderman; all males between sixteen and forty-five should work twelve days on the streets for the year 1841; that the clerk and assessor should receive a salary of \$125 a year; that persons failing to turn out to work the streets should be dealt with to the full extent of the law; and that councilmen failing to attend a meeting after having been duly notified should be fined \$3 each time.

On March 1st, 1841, the council assessed one percent on all goods brought here for sale, whether in stores, or on flatboats and steamboats, etc.; five dollars a day for all exhibitions in circus, theater, etc.; and saloon keepers to be fined from five to fifty dollars for allowing fighting or any kind of disorder in their houses.

On April 19th, 1841, Charles A. Birnie resigned the office of Alderman (Mayor). He was succeeded by C.M. Hudspeth, and John Carnall was appointed clerk and treasurer.

The small town was growing and prospering. In 1842 the first churches were built — the Union Church and the First Methodist Church.

The most significant event, however, was the enactment by the Fourth General Assembly of the State of Arkansas, granting, "That the town of Fort Smith, in the county of Crawford, shall be, and the same is hereby incorporated." It was approved on December 24, 1842 — 25 years, tacking one day, after Major Bradford and his 64 men arrived at Belle Point. Effective date of the act was January 1, 1843.

The town of Van Buren was also incorporated by the same assembly on the same date. Two years later, in 1845, both towns were incorporated (chartered) as cities by the Fifth General Assembly of the State of Arkansas, again on the same day.<sup>2</sup>

Because a copy of the 1842 enactment is the only documentation available attesting to the actual date of incorporation of the town of Fort Smith, our city officials have chosen to celebrate December 24th, the date it was signed, as our incorporation "birth date".

The small town had a lot going for it. The fort at Belle Point had proven an important stimulus for trade. The removal of the Indians living east of the Mississippi River to the territory of Oklahoma had benefited the town because of their need for goods and services, and it was sitting in the middle, and atop, a wealth of natural resources not yet even dreamed of.

But the greatest resource of any community, large or small, lies within its people themselves — their hard work, their innovative spirit and their charitable good will in welcoming newcomers of different creeds and color. This has been especially true of our town. As Guy Nichols, park ranger at the National Historic Site, puts it, "Fort Smith is a mixing bowl of culture."

There is a common thread woven through the history of all communities, a lineage of remarkably unique citizens who seemed to recognize a need and arose at the opportune moment. However, most remarkable has been the cooperation they received from our own fellow citizens. It has given us an edge, an advantage, not always found in other places.

First, let us consider old-fashioned southern hospitality and our:

#### **CHURCHES**

The first church service ever held in Fort Smith was held inside the fort by an Episcopalian missionary/chaplain. And the first church built in the town itself was the aforementioned Union Church (1842). There were no organized churches, so a Methodist minister and a Presbyterian minister preached on alternate Sundays. The Methodists left shortly and built their own building.

Following in order were the Presbyterian, Episcopal, Catholic; Baptist, Christian, Lutheran, black Baptists (sharing the church building with white Baptists), and Jewis congregation (first temple built in 1892) (April, 1986, Journal).

At this writing we now have 91 churches, according to the current telephone directory. We are predominantly Baptist, with 37 Baptist churches. We have lost none of the early denominations and have added others, including Christian Science, Mormon, Pentecostal, Non- and Inter-denominational, Seventh Day Adventist, Jehovah's Witnesses, Charismatic and Metaphysical.

In addition, we have had the Salvation Army for decades.

The Young Women's Christian Association has been here since 1912 (September, 1987, *Journal*). In addition to its services heretofore offered, the YWCA has added a vitally important Crisis Center for Battered Women.

Interdenominational services, prayer meetings, seminars and other endeavors actually began when the first black Baptists needed a place to worship. Ecumenism is merely a recent word for what we have always had.

#### **SCHOOLS**

Like the first church service, the first school was held inside the fort during its reconstruction. There were three students, all boys.

The first schools in the town itself were private schools. John Carnall, second town clerk and treasurer, was a teacher who opened the first private school, with 20 students, at the corner of Garrison Avenue and Third Street. He later built a house on North Sixth Street to accommodate his school and named it "Belle Grove".

There were two different series of events that were vitally important to the development of the Fort Smith school system.

The first began in 1819, when the federal government created the Arkansas Territory and granted the 16th section in each township as an endowment to the common (public) schools. In 1829, the Arkansas Territorial Legislature authorized the county courts to lease Section 16, if the citizens so petitioned.

In 1836, Arkansas was admitted to the Union and in 1843, President Tyler approved an act of Congress, giving four states, including Arkansas, the power to sell those 16th sections, provided that the money be held in reserve and only the interest earned on it to be used for public schools (about \$150 yearly). The minimum price was stipulated at not less than \$2.00 per acre, necessitating that each child would have to pay tuition.

In 1851, Catholic Bishop Andrew Byrne, diocese of Little Rock, bought the 16th section for \$2.00 per acre.

The second series of events began when John Carnall conceived the idea of petitioning the federal government to donate the reservation land to the city of Fort Smith for the benefit of the public schools.

Four or five private schools had followed his, all requiring tuition. And even with the 16th section money, the public schools were still semi-private, requiring tuition.

Carnall had retired from teaching and gone into real estae. The board of directors of the Fort Smith public school system bought Belle Grove School in 1870, making it the first public school. Howard School followed almost simultaneously.

John Carnall had seen the hardship placed on parents by having to pay tuition, so in 1871 he began a 13-year fight — writing letters, publishing tracts and making trips to Washington, D.C., mostly at his own expense. However, he had the aid and assistance of two other notable men — Judge Isaac C. Parker and John H. Rogers.

In 1882, John H. Rogers became the first Fort Smith citizen to be elected to Congress. In 1884, he introduced the bill asking for the reservation land. It passed and was signed by President Chester A. Arthur. The U.S. patent, granting the land, was signed by President Grover Cleveland on July 29, 1885.

The patent, consisting of nine acres, was to be used for the Fort Smith schools and public park. The park became Andrews Field, and enough of the reservation was kept for the national cemetery, a courthouse, post office, streets and a wharf. After the land was divided into lots and sold individually the amount benefited the schools \$400,000. (See accompanying map.) It was the second time only that the Federal government had given reservation land to a city!



Portion of City of Fort Smith, Arkansas map, copyright 1969, Section 17, Township 8 North, Range 32 West, shows location of Andrews Field. Map courtesy Guaranty Abstract & Title Company, Mary J. Campbell

Geo. H. Lyman, civil engineer, submitted a map of the nine acres of the city of Fort Smith on October 29, 1884, attesting to its accuracy. It seems most appropriate that it was accepted and signed by John Carnall's son, J. Henry Carnall, Mayor.

From the beginning, Fort Smith schools have excelled. In 1872, only two years after Belle Grove became our first public school, it published the first student newspaper in Arkansas. (For the complete history of the Fort Smith public schools, see the April, 1985, Journal.)

Awards to the schools, faculty and students have been endless. Dr. Tony Scherrey, Assistant Superintendent of the Fort Smith school district, says, "It would take a good-sized booklet to publish the names of the recipients and their awards for just one year." He also adds, "Visiting educators and other personnel never fail to note the pursuit of excellence found among students and faculty in the Fort Smith schools."

For instance, in the Joint Council on Economics Annual Awards Program for the Teaching of Economics, sponsored by the International Paper Company Foundation, the Fort Smith schools have won 132 awards from 1966-1991, the largest number in the state and the *nation*. Mrs. Brenda Sellers, Instructional Supervisor — Elementary, sent us a complete list of the winners.

And only recently, the *Southwest Times Record* carried the story that our Northside High School Quiz Bowl team won sixth place in the *national* competition in 1992.

Indeed, some of the best news in town is found in the Fort Smith Public Schools publication, *Good Things Are Happening*, edited by Jennifer J. Parks, Publications Specialist. Published monthly durig the school year, it not only gives names of awards and recipients but it also carries news about the interaction of the schools with local citizens and vice versa. There are 42 business "partners" working with individual schools as well as the Adult Education Center.

While Good Things emphasizes just that, it also faces issues important to the schools and community, such as the growing prevalence of crime and violence within schools. In the February, 1992, issue of Good Things, Dr. Benny L. Gooden, Superintendent, writes, "Parents must join in this effort ... One of the greatest challenges lies in developing a pattern of orderly conduct and respect in students who

witness daily displays of disrespect through movies, television, and the examples provided by many adults.

Schools must be safe if teachers are to teach effectively and eager students are to be able to pursue their studies. Safe schools become the responsibility of all of us. We can do no less than demand an orderly environment."

Fortunately, there have been no armed guards walking the halls, no routine weapons' checks, and under the guidance of people like Dr. Gooden and the rest of the faculty and personnel we can all stand taller. Incidentally, *Good Things* is printed by the Grizzly Press, Northside High School, which was built in 1929.

Today the Fort Smith Public School System includes 21 elementary schools, 4 junior high schools, 2 high schools, Rogers center for learning disabled students and the Adult Education Center — a total of 29 schools.

The Adult Education Center is a full time facility providing educational opportunities for adults, particularly the under-educated and disadvantaged. It has 45 outreach sites in various locations throughout Crawford, Logan and Sebastian Counties and is an official GED (General Education Development) Testing Center. During the last enrollment school year, 4,123 adults attended classes at the Center or one of the outreach sites.

The enrollment for 1991-1992, excluding students in the Adult Education Center, was 12,361 students, not a really large population, as schools go. But look at what we have accomplished!

In addition, we have 17 parochial schools and fifteen special schools — pre-school, day care, handicapped, etc.

#### WESTARK COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Westark Community College began when one man, Grover C. Hardin, thought that a junior college would be good to have in Fort Smith. He made his proposal in 1923. In 1928 it was officially organized.

The junior college shared classroom space and faculty with the Fort Smith High School until the state attorney general ruled that out in 1950. The board of trustees were then able, with donations and community support, to acquire the property at Grand Avenue and Waldron Road, its present location.

Since 1952, when the college enrolled 102 students, and until the end of 1991, Westark has grown into a campus of 65 acres, 19 classroom and office buildings and a 29,000 square-foot library.

It is outstanding in its music, collegiate sports and other programs. Known state-wide for its excellent nursing program, many young men and women have graduated and are now making invaluable contributions to the health care field.

The 1991 enrollment was 5,240 students. In addition, over 8,000 persons were enrolled in community and continuing education courses; on-site training was provided to 3,000 industrial workers in area manufacturing plants and businesses.

Another 20,000 area residents avail themselves annually of the campus activities—plays, concerts, sporting events, meetings, seminars, workshops and extension classes.

Additionally, Westark Community College has become a University Center, offering degree programs (bachelor's and master's) through the University of Arkansas (Fayetteville), Arkansas State University (Jonesboro) and Arkansas Tech University (Russellville). These degrees are in business administration; accounting; elementary, secondary, special and vocational education; as well as computer and information science.

We thank Sondra LaMar, Director of Public Relations, for the update information. (See the April, 1991, *Journal* for the complete Westark story.)

#### OTHER EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

There are also other schools and programs for furthering education in Fort Smith.

Arkansas Tech University at Russellville offers a program whereby students of nursing may obtain their bachelor of science degrees, with an outreach here.

Fort Smith is also a regional office of the Arkansas Small Business Development Center (University of Arkansas at Little Rock), which assists entrepreneurs in many fields of business endeavor — inventors, special services, etc. (Courtesy, Rose Mary Akins, Business Specialist.)

The Educational Opportunity Center, Fort Smith Boulevard, Fort Chaffee, is set up to help persons complete their secondary education (GED) and, or begin, a program of secondary education. The school works closely with business and industry in upgrading job skills, and is open to both military and civilian students. Carl Albert State College in Poteau, Oklahoma, hosted the federal grant assistance program for this and other educational

opportunity centers. Lin Bohannon is director of the program.

There is also a branch of Webster University at Fort Chaffee. Webster University, St. Louis, Missouri, maintains campus centers in 15 states, the District of Columbia and six foreign countries, many of them on military bases. The chief function of Webster is to offer college graduate work in the earning of Master of Arts degrees in the fields of Human Resource Development, Management, Business, Budgeting, etc.

Diane Fagan, Director of Webster, Fort Chaffee, tells us that this educational opportunity is not restricted to military personnel. Sixty percent of the students are civilians and she is hoping that that percentage will increase.

Webster University is also a Partner of Education for the Barling Elementary School.

It seems that we have come full circle, since our first school was taught in the fort at Belle Point.

#### LIBRARIES — RESEARCH

In 1891, the members of the Fortnightly Study Club resolved to create a public library for Fort Smith. With cooperation of the citizens in donations, and approving taxes through the years, as well as grants from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation, and the Library Services and Construction Act, we have one of the finest libraries in the nation.

It was the first in the state to become an Online Computer Library Center (OCLC), giving patrons access to 18 million books in interlibrary loans throughout the country. It was also the first in the state to have automated circulation (computer).

Thanks to the Daughters of the American Revolution we have one of the best genealogy departments in the nation. (See *Journal*, April, 1985.)

Dee Baldwin, head librarian at Boreham (Westark Community College) Library, reports that it, too, is an OCLC library but their emphasis is chiefly in assisting students and in the academic support of the curriculum. (No emphasis on fiction.) The library is now in the process of installing automated circulation of its 50,000 volumes. Baldwin, not a native of the area, is amazed at the "incredible community support" she finds here.

We are pleased to tell our readers that any person having a Fort Smith Public Library Card may use it at Boreham Library.

Another gold mine for the serious historical researcher is found in the archives of the National Historic Site. While their collection of books is insignificant in size compared to the other libraries, there are some documents, manuscripts and memorabilia not available elsewhere. Emily Lovick, curator, and Guy Nichols, park ranger, hope to be able to provide copies to the other libraries in the near future.

#### ART

In 1850, a young man in Fort Smith wrote to his parents in Massachusetts, "Some of the houses are made of logs, lined with cotton cloth, floors carpeted, and furnished with stuffed chairs, sofas and pianos... They are famous for fine furniture..."<sup>3</sup>

It was not so much the material possessions that the pioneers brought with them as it was their love and appreciation of beauty and the "finer things of life" that became the heritage which was passed on to their progeny. And the most permanent evidence of that heritage is found in the architecture of the homes and business buildings still standing.

Thanks to people like Julia Yadon and the members of the Fort Smith Heritage Foundation, many of them have been restored and entered in the National Register of Historic Places. Also, the annual Belle Fort Smith Tours is a special pleasure for those wishing to tour historic homes and churches.

The Art Downtown project, begun in 1987, has been painting murals on the walls of some of the downtown buildings, depicting early scenes of local history. Even some of the old commercial signs on the walls have been revitalized, advertising products and prices, such as old cafe menus.

Area art students, working for the Western Arkansas Employment Development Association (W.A.E.D.A.), do the painting under the guidance of well-known local artist, John Bell.

The Fort Smith Art center began in the early 1940s as the Associated Artists of Fort Smith. In the beginning the group met at various locations, including homes. Shortly thereafter, they bought the Schaap House at 423 North Sixth Street.

Polly Crews, the first woman director, has remained director for over 20 years. She is assisted by the Art Center Auxiliary, as well as the Board of Trustees, Dr. David Harper, D.D.S., Chairman.

The Art Center building was the first one to be restored in the Belle Grove Historic District.

Five or six exhibits are shown and they are changed monthly. The Center is open every weekday except Monday, 9:30-4:30. Sunday hours are 2:00-4:00 p.m. except for the first Sunday of every month, which hours are 1:00-4:00 p.m. Refreshments are served on the first Sunday. Admission is free, but contributions are welcome. (Courtesy, Polly Crews.)

As might be expected, art is an important part of our schools' curricula, including Westark Community College. While we have comparatively few competitive showings, our students show up well all over the nation, from the capitol in Washington, D.C. to Yellowstone National Park. Don Lee, instructor at WCC, says college art students do very well in showings across the state.

#### MUSIC

There has been a lilt in the local air ever since the first settler picked up his fiddle and bow, and the first piano was unloaded from the first wagon or steamboat.

Every event was a cause for a music celebration. There were fairs, parades, open air concerts, community and church picnics, and every holiday on the calendar. (In 1923, Hammer's Band marched and played in a funeral procession.)

Adelaide Hall, built in 1870, was a favorite gathering place for dances, special programs, balls and "masque balls". (Adelaide Hall is still standing at 316 Garrison Avenue.)

In 1905, Alphonso Trent, one of the nation's great jazz musicians, was born in Fort Smith. His widow, Essie Trent, still resides here.

Even before, and during, the Big Band Era, we had as many as a dozen or more bands, ranging from the Fort Smith Concert Band to the Ozark Smile Girls' Band. These were in addition to all the award-winning school bands and orchestras.

Clint Fisher and His Musical Buddies were among those making the circuits in that era. His instrument was the violin, and at the age of fifteen he made his own. Fisher (of Fisher Violin Shop) is semi-retired but still playing occasionally. He enjoys going to area schools, checking the violins, violas and cellos for the students. He takes the "fiddle" that he made and explains to the youngsters, "The difference between a violin and a fiddle is that a violin is played in an orchestra; a fiddle is played at country dances."

Fort Smithians also enjoyed imported music. In 1908 Mme. Ernestine Schumann-Heink and Amelita Galli-Curi, two great soloists, performed at the pavilion at Electric (Kay Rodgers) Park, at different times.

In 1912, Walter Damrosh, conducting the New York Symphony Orchestra, performed at Electric Park.

In 1921 John Phillip Sousa, the March King, visited Fort Smith.

In the more recent era we have enjoyed the Fort Smith Symphony, and many other bands, orchestras and musical groups in the community as well as in our schools. Westark Community College boasts a great jazz band. Tom Flocks, who plays with the Fort Smith Community Band, reports that the band goes to Fayetteville to play with their band and the Fayetteville band joins the Fort Smith band to play in open air concerts.

At Ben Geren Park on July 4 this year, as Fort Smith celebrated the Independence Day event of the city's 150th anniversary of the incorporation of the city, thousands were entertained by seven bands: Arcadia Nighthawks, Night Flight, Shockwave, Big Jim and the Twins, Lovecraft, Fixation and G.T. Hood.

Add to all this the fine church music, the organization of church organists, the choirs and church musical ensembles, the quartets and private singing groups such as the River Blenders Barbershop Singers, we may rejoice that there is always music in the air! (For the complete story of the bands, see September, 1983, and April, 1984, *Journals*.)

#### **MUSEUMS**

We are fortunate to have several museums in our area. The Old Fort Museum, one of the oldest, began in the old commissary building at the National Historic Site. It is now located at 320 Rogers Avenue, and boasts an old-fashioned soda fountain. In the months of June-July-August it is open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday; Sunday hours, noon to 5:00 p.m. Other months, Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Sunday hours, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Telephone 783-7841.

The Clayton House, 514 North Sixth, is open every day except Monday. Telephone 783-3000.

State Representative Carolyn Pollan's Patent Museum is housed in the same building as her office at 400 North 8th Street, and is open during office hours. Telephone 782-9014.

The National Historic Site (Judge Parker's Court) is open seven days a week, hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Telephone 783-3961.

The Fort Smith Trolley Museum at 100 South Fourth Street is open Monday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sunday 1:00-5:00 p.m. Telephone 783-0205, 783-1237, or 783-0145.

The boyhood home of General William O. Darby has been restored and is maintained as a museum by the Darby Foundation. Open Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday by special arrangement, 311 General Darby Street (North 8th). Telephone 782-3388.

The Coca-Cola Museum is located on the second floor of the Coca-Cola Bottling Company headquarters building at 3600 Phoenix. Telephone 646-0571.

#### FAIRS - FUN - GAMES

The first Sebastian County Fair was organized in 1880. The fairs continued at different locations until 1911, when the first Arkansas-Oklahoma State Fair was organized. It was held in October at the site where Ramsey Junior High School now stands.

Horse racing became popular in 1850 and remained so. The first Arkansas-Oklahoma State Fair featured horse racing, harness racing and automobile racing. Barney Oldfield, 1910 world champion auto racer, later came to Fort Smith and unofficially broke his record.<sup>4</sup>

Horse racing went — rodeos arrived. They are one of our greatest entertainment events. Chuck Willis, public relations chairman of the Rodeo Association, tells us that we bring in some of the biggest cowboy champions from all over the country, and we offer some of the biggest prize money. Our attendance records are some of the largest and last year's gate exceeded previous ones by 10 percent.

Old newspaper accounts relate that Fort Smith was on the regular circuit for Barnum and Bailey's great shows (circuses), as well as Ed. T. Basye's Circus and Sells Brothers Circus. There were traveling theater groups performing in the Grand Opera House and Adelaide Hall. They were in addition to The Home Dramatic Company, forerunner of the Fort Smith Little Theater.

Balloon ascensions were here as early as the 1870s, over Garrison Avenue and at the fair grounds.

Baseball came to Fort Smith in 1879. And in 1912, Big League teams played at League Park (near present K. Rodgers Park), including the Cincinnati Reds and the Detroit Tigers (April, 1986, *Journal*).

John M. Andrews, Sr., President of the Public Schools Athletic Association, began a fundraising campaign in 1919 to build a park, which was named Andrews Field in his honor, on the reservation land granted to the city in 1884. Andrews Field became the park for baseball. In 1923, Fort Smith became the first farm club for the St. Louis Cardinals. Later, it was the farm club for the Detroit Tigers and even later, the New York Giants.

Many exhibition games were played there by teams such as the Cardinals, Tigers, Giants, Cleveland Indians and the St. Louis Browns. Many of the "greats" played there.

In 1939, there were 87,578 fans who attended games at Andrews Field. (Complete story, September, 1984, *Journal*.)

Andrews Field is still owned by the city of Fort Smith and is now leased to the Church Little League.<sup>5</sup>

We also play golf. The Fort Smith Country Club was opened in 1904. Jerry Parker, course operator, tells us there was one there before it almost at the same site. There is also a course at Ben Geren Park. Fianna Hills and Hardscrabble are our two other country clubs.

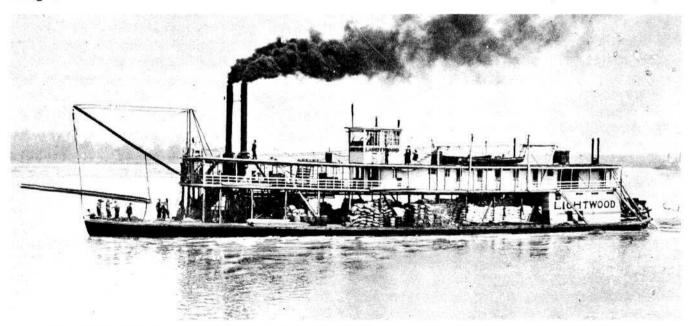
#### TRANSPORTATION

First, of course, was horseback — followed by buggies, carts, wagons, stagecoaches and automobiles. (Fort Smith was an important departure point for the Forty-Niners and their wagon trains. [April, 1986, *Journal*]).

On the river there were the canoes, rafts, flatboats, keelboats and finally, the steamboats in 1822. We now have gasoline-powered tow boats pushing large barges on the river.

Fort Smith had railroad trains as early as 1861, or perhaps before that. In 1876, the first train of the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad arrived here. In 1833, the 'Frisco passenger and freight depot was completed. But it was in 1899 when Fort Smith began its long and successful function as an important railway center. (Complete railroad story, April, 1992, Journal.)

The first three Daisy (mule-drawn) streetcars began operating on August 13, 1883. Ten years later we had the first electric streetcars and they operated until November 15, 1933. (Special Streetcar issue, *Journal*, September, 1979.)



Lightwood Steamboat owned by Capt. B.C. Blakely of Fort Smith. Courtesy Elbert R. Griffin, grandson of Capt. Blakely.



Fort Smith Light and Traction Car #224 leaving the carbarn at the Fort Smith Trolley Museum.

We now enjoy a very active Fort Smith Streetcar Restoration Association which began in 1978 when Dr. Art Martin suggested to his wife, Amelia (our editor), that an article on Fort Smith streetcars be included in *The Journal*.

Inquiries regarding the streetcars and subsequent publishing in *The Journal* the article "Streetcars of Fort Smith, Arkansas" written by Charles Winters, led to the location, acquisition and renovation of a former Fort Smith streetcar, and the founding of the Fort Smith Streetcar Restoration Association.

The happy outcome is the Fort Smith Trolley Museum, which includes in its growing collection of trolley, railroad, and other transportation artifacts and memorabilia, Fort Smith Light & Traction car #224 which is now in operation on track delighting young and old alike, furnishing rides to tourists as well as local citizens.

Aviation began coming into its own in 1910. On May 21st, J.C. Mars, "the world's greatest bird man," brought his Curtiss bi-plane to the Ball Grounds at Electric Park. Admission was 50 cents for adults and 25 cents for children—not to ride, just to see the show.

In spite of bad weather Mars made two circular flights in half-mile circuits, 75 feet in mid-air, giving him a world's record for making an accurate flight in half-mile circuits. (Earlier circuits were larger, up to a mile or more.)

Mayor W.J. Johnston was master of ceremonies when Mars broke a bottle of wine on the machine's engine and said, "I christen the Skylark; may she fly long and high."6

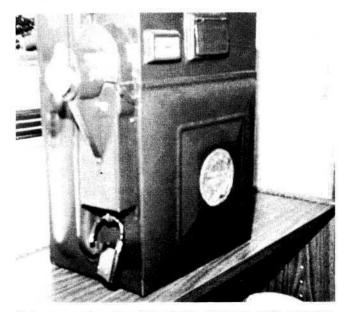
Fort Smith was already "air conscious," enjoying an Aero Club all its own. During the first weekend of November, 1911, a large air show was held. Local postmaster, Frank B. Bumgardner, wired the postmaster general for permission to set up a temporary post office on the grounds at League Park for the purpose of stamping souvenir postal cards for their delivery by aeroplane from there to the post office on Sixth Street, downtown, a distance of about 4 miles

Consequently, Fort Smith had the second authorized air mail flight in the United States, with the postal cards making the first leg of their journey "by air". Our air mail flight was preceded by only two months, by the same pilot, Lincoln Beachey, in New York City. (April, 1983, Journal.)

#### **PUBLIC UTILITIES**

What might be called the first introduction of a public utility was telegraphic communication sent and received on the Missouri and Western Railroad wire in 1861.

Then in 1883, the Erie Phone Company was established with 36 subscribers. Also in 1883, the Fort Smith Gas Company was organized, furnishing its own gas for street lights and houses. In 1901, the natural gas field was discovered and opened at Mansfield and Fort Smith tapped on to that. Ray Milton, field manager for the Arkansas Oil and Gas Commission, tells us that the Mansfield natural gas field is the oldest one west of the Mississippi River.



Early gas meter placed in family kitchens, coin operated. Courtesy Ray Milton, Arkansas Oil and Gas Commission.

The first municipal water supply began in the city's early history with dug wells. It was not until 1884 when the wheels were put into motion to build a water system. (See April, 1990, *Journal* for complete water story.) In May, 1992, Fort Smith Mayor, Ray Baker, turned the valve, opening a new and additional supply of water into our system from Lee Creek.

On September 25, 1885, the Fort Smith Elevator newspaper announced that Garrison Avenue would be brilliantly lighted with electricity during fair week.

At the present time our electricity is furnished by the Oklahoma Gas & Electric Company, our gas by Arkansas Oklahoma Gas Company and our water by the Fort Smith Water Department. We may cheerfully boast that we now have the most dependable utility service and the cheapest rates of just about anybody in the whole country.

#### COMMERCE - TRADE - INDUSTRY

In 1885 the editor of a local newspaper expressed a need for a Board of Trade.<sup>7</sup> Two years later, on February 4, 1887, Fort Smith was declared a City of the First Class by Arkansas Governor, S.P. Hughes, declaring "...satisfactory evidence being produced before the board (state board of commissioners) that the population of said city of Fort Smith exceeds the number of five thousand..."8

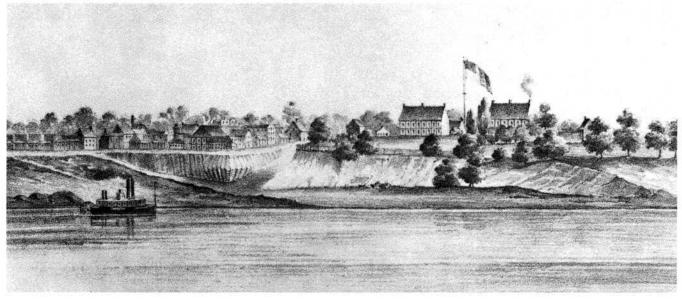
In February, 1888, the same newspaper carried the story of an enthusiastic meeting of citizens at the Chamber of Commerce."9

From 1842 until the beginning of the Chamber of Commerce, there had already been many businesses in Fort Smith. Considering that the population had reached only 10,000 in 1885, the list is remarkable — a dozen mercantile and grocery stores, two banks, sawmill, grist mill, five newspapers (at different times), five furniture factories, a theater, crockery and greenware, building and loan association, three drugstores, funeral home, barber shop, book store/news depot, music store, two confectioners, ice company, Chinese laundry, brewery, skating rink, cotton gin and compress, bar association and more. (April, 1986, Journal.)

During the ensuing years, and as of this date, we can claim to have manufactured, or produced, among other things, steel, metal articles, automobile bodies, large household appliances, glass products, batteries, electric motors, processed poultry and cattle feed, processed foodstuffs such as poultry, beef, canned or frozen fruits and vegetables, peanuts and baked goods (crackers and cookies have been shipped all over the U.S.).

We have also added another bank and several branches of out-of-city banks and loan companies.

We have been the host city to one of the largest trucking companies in the country. We are now the host city to Beverly Enterprises, one of the largest, if not the largest, elder-care groups in the nation. Donrey Media Corporation and Baldor Electric also have their home offices here.



Artist's drawing of Fort Smith in 1853. It was made by artist H.B. Mollhousen during the Amiel W. Whipple expedition which was exploring and surveying for the railroad proposed to be built along the 35th Parallel. Courtesy Elbert R. Griffin.

Because of our mild climate and abundant fuel supply, and a still-active Chamber of Commerce and cooperative civic-minded citizens, the future of the Fort Smith economy remains bright. We can also add that tourism is one of our most important assets.

#### **HEALTH CARE**

The following is taken from Amelia Whitaker Martin's *Physicians and Medicine, Crawford and Sebastian Counties, Arkansas, 1817-1976*, published 1977.

As early as 1848, newspaper editor John Foster Wheeler was calling on the Board of Health to make an inspection of the town for a "cleansing" of premises to prevent a threat of cholera. In 1851, Fort Smith did suffer an eidemic of cholera but it was held to minimum because of the cleaning up.

In 1870 there was mention of the Fort Smith Medical Association, predecessor of the Sebastian County Medical Society which was formally organized on March 2, 1874, at Greenwood, Arkansas.

On July 12, 1879, a formal Board of Health was organized at the office of Dr. E.R. DuVal.

In 1882, members of the medical profession founded the Fort Smith Hospital and Free Dispensary. It was perhaps abandoned before St. John's Hospital was established in 1887 by Rev. George F. Degen of St. John's Episcopal Church, with donations of \$500 and the assistance of the church women in supplying furniture and linens.

There followed a City Charity Hospital but by 1899 the two hospitals consolidated under the name of Belle Point Hospital. It was later named Sparks Memorial Hospital in 1908 when George T. Sparks bequeathed \$25,000 to the institution, and it is now known as Sparks Regional Medical Center, which has grown in size to 681 beds and covers a campus of 25 acres. (Courtesy, Peter Leer, Vice-President, Corporate Services.)

St. Edward Mercy Regional Medical Center had its origin in 1905 when five Sisters of Mercy opened a hospital to accommodate 30 patients. One year later the St. Edward Mercy Hospital Training School for Nurses was opened, graduating their first class in 1908.

On March 17, 1921, ground was broken to build a modern all-brick building at 1411 Little Rock Road (now Rogers Avenue). It served the city well, adding on as needed, until fifty-two years later, when a new facility was built at 7301 Rogers Avenue which was dedicated on August 16, 1976, by U.S. President Gerald Ford.

St. Edward Mercy Medical Center is now a 510-bed facility, counting its smaller satellite hospitals in the area. Included in the 510-bed count is Harbor View Mercy Psychiatric Hospital, 10301 Mayo Drive. (Courtesy, Albert Pilkington, Director of Public Relations and Marketing.)

The Fort Smith Medical Institute was opened in 1906 by Dr. J.E. Ludeau. Later it became Ludeau Hospital. Dr. Chas. Holt and Dr. A.M. Morrisey joined Dr. Ludeau in 1913.

Following the founding of the Holt Clinic in 1921, Dr. Holt became administrator of Sparks Memorial Hospital and the two hospitals merged.

The Colonial Hospital was located in the beautiful colonial house at 1500 Dodson, former home of Dr. William Worth Bailey. The building was sold to the Holt-Krock Clinic in 1952, with many additions and outstanding modernization. (Dr. Fred H. Krock, surgeon, joined Dr. Holt in practice in 1928 and remained with him until his retirement in 1971.)

The Border City Colored Hospital opened in an abandoned hotel on Fifth Street in 1931. It moved to 1717 Midland Blvd. in 1941. In 1964 the Hospital License expired and the whole hospital was converted to a nursing home (Twin City), and was licensed as such. It was finally closed in 1968.

In the later 1930s an annex to the Arkansas Tuberculosis Sanatorium (Booneville) was opened in Fort Smith, which was known as the Wildcat Mountain Sanatorium, on an 80-acre tract of land. It came to a close on December 1, 1958. The Methodist Nursing Home and Methodist Retirement Village now occupy the site

At the present time we have Sparks Regional Medical Center, St. Edward Mercy Medical Center, Cooper Clinic (opened in 1920 by Dr. St. Cloud Cooper), Holt Krock Clinic, and 21 other clinics. We have numerous nursing and retirement homes, three home health care agencies, not to mention the host of physicians, specialists in all fields of medical care, osteopaths and chiropractors, hypnotists and psychological counsellors.

We are in good hands!

#### **MEDIA**

John Foster Wheeler established the first newspaper in Fort Smith, in 1847, when the population was approximately 460 people. Since that time there have been at least seventy newspapers and other types of publications including: religious, literary, political, agricultural, labor, trade and professional journals, high school and college publications, Negro and foreign language newspapers, free circulation "shopper's guides", etc. The list does not include school newspapers.

The editors have been men who were notable in their own right and men who were very involved in community affairs — such men as Albert Pike, Major J.H. Sparks, Valentine Dell, J. Frank Weaver, O.D. Weldon, John Carnall, Col. E.C. Boudinot, J.M. Lucey and Clarence F. Byrns. The most recent editors are the late Wm. D. Barksdale and Jack Moseley, present editor of the Southwest Times Record. (September, 1989, Journal.)

KFPW Radio Station is not only the oldest AM radio station in Fort Smith but is also the oldest one in the state of Arkansas still in operation.

It had its origin in Missouri, moved to Siloam Springs, Arkansas, and then opened here at the Goldman Hotel on July 27, 1930, with John England, owner.

England sold it to Griffin Grocery Company. It was later sold to George Hernreich, then to Gordon Brown, who later sold it back to George Hernreich, present owner. Hernreich also owns Esquire Jewelers in Fort Smith.

KFPW means "Kind Folks Please Write." Its FM station is KBBQ — 50,000 watts. (Courtesy, Gordon Brown, General Manager, KFPW.)

The second oldest radio station in Fort Smith is KFSA. It signed on the air on February 13, 1947, a member of the Donrey Media Group. It was sold in 1981 to the Fort Smith Broadcasting Company, with Fred H. Baker, Sr., as the licensee. (Courtesy, Gary Kiefer, General Manager, KFSA.)

We have added eleven more radio stations in Fort Smith. Station KZ 106.3 co-sponsored the July 4 celebration at Ben Geren Park celebrating the station's third anniversary and the 150th anniversary of the incorporation of Fort Smith.

KFSA Television Station is the oldest TV station in Fort Smith and also the oldest one in

the state of Arkansas. It began operation in early July, 1952, in the newspaper office of the Donrey Media Group. It moved to the old Library Building on North 13th Street in 1969, its present location.

On October 1, 1979, it was sold to the *New York Times* newspaper.

The station has also been in operation in Fayetteville for the last 20 years, and has only recently opened a new studio in the Northwestern Arkansas Mall with a complete news, sales and production office.

Now known as KFSM, Channel 5, it is a CBS network affiliate. (Courtesy, Sue White, Promotions Department, KFSM.)

KHBS Television Station, Channel 40/29, began operation in Fort Smith on July 28, 1971, with George T. Hernreich, owner. He sold the station in February, 1985, to his children, Bob and Cindy Hernreich. KHBS has also been operating a satellite station, KHOG, Channel 29, in Fayetteville, Arkansas, since February, 1977.

In November, 1991, KHBS made an astonishing ratings sweep in newscasting over its competition. It is the ABC network affiliate in Fort Smith. (Courtesy, Darrell Cunningham, General Manager, KFSM.)

KPOM Television Station, Channel 24/51, went on the air on November 12, 1978, as a CBS Network affiliate. However, it has been the local NBC affiliate since 1980. Original owner was MCM Broadcasting Company, Inc., but it was later sold to Griffin Entities, Muskogee, Oklahoma. Its satellite station, KFAA, Channel 51, is in Rogers, Arkansas. Both stations carry identical programming. (Courtesy, Verlene Tablock, Program Coordinator.)

KPBI-TV Fox 46 was built three years ago by Bill and Karen Pharis. It is the only local station which is on the air 24 hours a day. Billed as "The Entertainment Channel," it began, however, supplying the local 10:00 p.m. nightly news when KPOM-TV, Channel 24, dropped news coverage on June 15, 1992.

At the recent 1992 Fox Convention in Los Angeles, California, it received the two top trophies for the biggest growth in viewers' numbers, and program ratings — in all of the Fox affiliates in the nation. (Courtesy, Karen Pharis, KPBI-TV Fox 46.)



Left to right, Elvis Presley and Captain Arlie Metheny at Fort Chaffee. Photo courtesy of Arlie Metheny.

#### THE MILITARY

We have had an on-again, off-again affair with military installations since the beginning. Fort Smith was built, abandoned, rebuilt, abandoned. Cantonment Balknap was here for a brief time. Approximately a century after Cantonment Belknap was built, Camp Chaffee was built (World War II). It became Fort Chaffee and has operated as a part-time installation. The talk that it was to become a permanent installation did not materialize.

We have appreciated the economic boost that Fort Chaffee has furnished, but we learned long ago to diversify our own manufacturing and production capabilities.

Fort Chaffee was the "welcoming" institution for the Cubans, the Vietnamese and other oriental citizens. Some of them remained to become our citizens.

We have had many notable people pass through our military gates; two outstanding were Zachary Taylor, United States President, and Elvis Presley.

General William O. Darby is our famous local World War II hero. He and his "Darby's Rangers" freed the small town of Cisterna, Italy. We are now the designated "Sister City" of Cisterna. Many pleasurable visitations and experiences have been exchanged between citizens of Fort Smith and Cisterna.

#### LAW AND ORDER

In 1841, during the first three council meetings of the newly organized town the constable's salary was set, dimensions of a jail were decided and a street patrol was designated to keep order.

The removal of the Indians from east of the Mississippi River to the Oklahoma Territory had already begun. With the warring between them and the Indians already there, and the lack of effective federal intervention, the I.T. began to look like the Happy Hunting Grounds to white hoodlums and outlaws who would prey on Indians and whites alike.

The U.S. District Court, Western District of Arkansas, was moved from Van Buren to Fort Smith in 1871. By 1875 the problems had become intolerable; the remedy would of necessity be drastic. Judge Isaac C. Parker was appointed to administer the remedy. He was 37 years old when he arrived in Fort Smith on May 5, 1875.

With all of the thousands of words written about Judge Parker, most of us have been denied the pleasure of meeting the *man*. Fame and fortune are gained by writing the sensational, and few writers have taken the trouble to portray him as a family man and civic-minded citizen.

There is nothing sensational about his being elected to the school board or the Fair Association board, or awarding high school diplomas. There is nothing earth-shaking about his contributions in time and money to secure a public library. And there is certainly nothing very titillating about his leading a Memorial Day parade, taking a daily stroll to Cole's drug store for a limeade, or officiating at a wedding in the home of the bride's parents.

And yet, this is the man who was loved and respected by his fellow citizens. (He can be found at any time in the old newspapers of his day on file at the Fort Smith Public Library, microfilm copies.)

Judge Parker believed in education and in people. He taught school at the age of 16, later earned a law degree and became a prosecuting attorney; he served two terms in Congress. (April, 1979, *Journal*.) But seldon is it mentioned that when he sentenced offenders to the federal reformatory it was with this counsel, "Learn to read and write. Learn a trade."

Under all the hoopla the record of Parker's Court is: number of cases heard during his tenure — 13,490; number of murderers/rapists hanged — 79; number of U.S. marshals and deputies killed in the line of duty — over 200.

He and his men left us a legacy, a legacy which says that law and order are good, and together they are an absolute necessity if we are to survive.

Two other men of merit of whom we are very proud are Judge Morris S. Arnold and William Sessions.

Arnold was sworn in on June 29, 1992, by his brother, Chief Judge Richard Arnold, 8th Circuit Court of Appeals, to sit on the court of appeals, only the sixth Arkansan to have been chosen. Judge Morris Arnold became the first federal judge to be invested in Fort Smith since Judge Isaac Parker was sworn in more than 100 years ago. (Southwest Times Record, June 30, 1992.) Judge Arnold also wrote the lead story for the September, 1987, Journal.

William Sessions, Fort Smith native, was appointed director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on November 2, 1987. (April, 1988, *Journal*.)

At the present time the Fort Smith Police Department has a personnel of 130 good men and women. (Courtesy, Sgt. Lawrence Tidwell, Desk Sergeant.)

The motto inscribed on the patrol cars, "To Serve And To Protect," seems a very appropriate tribute to Judge Isaac Parker, his men, and to all those who have served us long and well.

We also have the benefit of a county sheriff's office. (A second sheriff's office is at Greenwood.)

Unfortunately, our crime rate, like that of all municipalities across the nation, has escalated. However, if we are to believe the newspapers and the television news, we are fortunate indeed.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT

Even though the Fort Smith *Volunteer* Fire Department was established in 1855, and the Fort Smith Fire Department was established in 1870, the seeds were actually sown in the council meeting of February 1st, 1841.

It was ordained on that date that "every household should keep at least one water bucket to extinguish fires; that four fire ladders should be procured." (September, 1984, *Journal.*)

Unfortunately, the town suffered at least two devastating fires in its early history that wiped out a whole block or more in the business district each time.

Since then we have grown into a city of approximately 73,000 people with a modern fire department with a personnel of 111. We have nine fire stations laced strategically throughout the city with an average call response of three minutes.

There is also emergency extrication equipment in three fire stations and all personnel are cross-trained in its use. (Courtesy, Mae Burger.)

#### **WEATHER**

Beside two devastating tornadoes (1898 and 1927) and a devastating flood in 1943, we have experienced two mild earthquates — January, 1843, an October, 1882. (And we are not even near the New Madrid fault.)

However, we have had an "official" weather observation system since March 7, 1821, when the Post Surgeon, Dr. George B. McKnight, noted the wind direction and gave a description of the day's weather. The first official U.S. governmental weather observations were done by hospital army surgeons, keeping weather diaries. (Complete Weather Story, April, 1986, *Journal*.)

With our modern weather bureau and technology, we should never resent having a television program interrupted by the *beep-beep-beeps* and the weatherman's keeping us aware of what's going on, or may be coming. The victims in 1898 and 1927 did not have a chance.

#### WOMEN

Our women have been stellar performers in the drama of our history. Besides their assistance in founding the first hospital and public library, there have been outstanding teachers, musicians, writers, artists, and poets among them.

Marie Cole was the first licensed woman pharmacist in Arkansas. (April, 1983, *Journal*.)

Minnie Sanders Armstrong came to Fort Smith in 1892 and was our first female physician.<sup>12</sup>

The late Gloria White founded Project Compassion, an organization whose members visited patients in nursing homes. Her philosophy was woven of love, with the belief that no person should be without friends and that no one should die alone. Other cities have since followed her example.

Carolyn Pollan, writer, and our editor/consulting editor, is our Arkansas State Representative.

It should be noted, however, that all Fort Smith women have shown extraordinary strength and courage in coping with early hardships, wars and epidemics. They tended the gardens, the chickens and milked the cows; they tended the sick and wounded (regardless of patriotic affiliation) during the Civil War and held the town together. Through the years they kept their houses, their dignity and their charm (many of them had only homemade lye soap). And God bless them! — they didn't even have the right to vote until 1920.

#### CHARITY

People have always helped each other and Fort Smithians are no different. However, from the beginning, we have had a tremendous capacity for having fun while helping out. For instance, in 1882, the ladies of the *Jolly Club* staged a festival and ball to help the poor. Citizens gave discarded clothing, quilts and blankets in the severe winter of 1884-1885 to help the suffering poor. The Ladies' Relief Society was organized to help.

Over the years the names of our charitable organizations and their functions would fill a large directory.

We have played all kinds of sports, walked in walkathons, biked in bikeathons. We have enjoyed chili cookoffs and pancake suppers, and eaten enough cookies and chocolate bars to fill a huge warehouse — and bought enough Christmas wrapping paper to paper it.

We have had raft races down the Arkansas River and played on its bank in three-day festivals — danced on Garrison Avenue and enjoyed musical shows, concerts and drama.

And this is only the beginning. No sooner than a need is expressed than there is an automatic response. And our citizens have an uncanny ability to turn a fund-raiser into a fun-raiser.

"Now abide faith, hope and charity" — add cooperation, the kind of cooperation shown and practiced and lived by our citizens for the last 150 years — and we can predict nothing but the best for the next 150.

This Journal is another example. Since the Fort Smith Historical Society was organized, and began publishing two Journals a year since 1977, there have been 159 dedicated members who have assisted with the barebones hard work — writing, proof-reading, extracting old newspapers, editing, mailing, indexing, raising money and contributing, sitting in board meetings and making decisions. Not included are those many who help in research — librarians, business people, city officials and others — those who "know somebody with a story." But without you, the members of our Society, and our sponsors, we could do nothing.

Have we told you lately that we love you?

#### SOURCES

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- 7. Fort Smith Elevator, June 26, 1885
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# Act To Incorporate Town of Fort Smith, Arkansas

An Act to incorporate the Town of Fort Smith.

#### SECTION

- 1. Town of Fort Smith incorporated.
- 2. Trustees appointed for 1843.
- 3. Trustees to survey and lay off the town.
- 4. Provides for the annual election of 5 trustees.
- Qualifications of trustees.
- 6. Form of oath to be taken by trustees.
- 7. Failure to hold election, how remedied.
- 8. Meeting of trustees, and appointment of officers.
- 9. Trustees to appoint assessor, and his duties.
- General powers of trustees.
- 11. Limits of jurisdiction.
- Powers of president of the board of trustees.
- 13. Penalties, forfeitures, or fines imposed by corporation, may be plead in bar to any action on the part of the State.

#### SECTION

- 14. Trustees to appoint town sergeant, and his duties.
- 15. Trustees to fix amount of penalties, and to determine fees of president.
- 16. President of board to keep docket.
- 17. Town sergeant allowed same fees as township constables.
- 18. This act not to prevent justice of the peace or constable from being eligible to offices of president and town sergeant.
- 19. Manner of holding elections.
- 20. Vacancies, how filled.
- 21. Trustees not to contract singly.
- 22. Corporation not to issue any change tickets, and penalty for so doing.
- 23. When to take effect.
- SEC. 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas, That the town of Fort Smith, in the county of Crawford, shall be, and the same is hereby incorporated.
- SEC. 2. Be it further enacted, That John Rodgers, Charles A. Birnie, Joseph H. Heard, Joseph Bennett, and Samuel Edmondson, are hereby constituted and appointed trustees for said town, who shall continue in office for the term of twelve months from and after the first day of January next, (1843,) any three of whom may form a quorum to do business.

SEC. 3. Be it further enacted, That the said trustees may fix the metes and bounds of said town and have the same surveyed and platted, if the same has not been previously done, and laid out in streets and alleys, and cross streets, as they may direct; which plats of the survey of said town shall be recorded in the clerk's office of the Crawford county court, within three months after the passage of this act.

SEC. 4. Be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the free male inhabitants of said town of Fort Smith, who shall have attained the age of twenty-one years, and who are entitled to vote for county representatives, and all other male persons who have attained the aforesaid age, (negroes, mulattoes, and Indians excepted,) who own a town lot or lots in said town, to meet at some convenient house in said town, on the first Monday of January, 1844, and every year thereafter, and elect five trustees for said town, to serve for one year thereafter, and until their successors are elected and qualified.

SEC. 5. Be it further enacted. That no person shall be elected a trustee, or qualified to act as such, unless he shall have attained the age of twenty-one years, and reside within the limits of said town, and be owner of real property in the said town.

SEC. 6. Be it further enacted, That the trustees appointed by this act, and their successors hereafter to be elected, before they act as such, shall take the following oath, to be administered by any justice of the peace: "You do swear, (or affirm, as the case may be), that you will well and truly discharge the duties of a trustee of the town of Fort Smith, and that you will, as far as comes within your knowledge, cause all persons to be proceeded against who violate any of the by-laws or ordinances of said town of Fort Smith, without favor, partiality or affection."

SEC. 7. Be it further enacted, That if the citizens of the said town shall at any time hereafter fail to have an election on the day appointed in this act, that then and in that case, the clerk or any trustee may, by giving ten days previous notice, have an election held for trustees, which shall

be as legal as though it had taken place on the day herein appointed.

SEC. 8. Be it further enacted, That the trustees shall, on the first Saturday after the election, meet at some convenient house in said town, and at such other times and places as they may think necessary for the internal policy of said town; and that they shall, at their first meeting, choose a president of the board, who shall hold his office until the next annual election: they shall also appoint one of their own body a treasurer, who shall, before he enters upon his duties, give bond and security, payable to the president and his successors, in the penalty of five hundred dollars, conditioned for the faithful discharge of his duties as treasurer; and the said treasurer shall receive from the collector of the tax, all moneys collected by him for town tax or fines, and shall pay over the same to the order of the board; and upon his failing or refusing to do so, the president may cause an application to be made to the Crawford county circuit court, to render judgment against said treasurer and securities, for the amount of money in his hands; and the said court is authorized, upon ten days notice having been given to the said treasurer, by the clerk of the board of trustees, to enter a judgment against him and his securities, for the amount of money which shall appear in the hands of said treasurer, with thirty per cent thereon, damages, and costs of the motion; and execution shall issue on said judgment forthwith, endorsed that no security of any kind shall be taken.

The trustees shall, at their first meeting, appoint a clerk, who shall hold his office until the next annual election, but for good cause may be removed; and the clerk so appointed, before he enters upon the duties of his office, shall take an oath, to be administered by the president of the board, that he will, to the best of his skill and ability, make true entries, and [perform] such other duties as may devolve upon him by virtue of

his office, and that he will safely keep the books and papers given him in charge.

SEC. 9. Be it further enacted. That the trustees shall have power to appoint an assessor, who shall be sworn to discharge, in a faithful and impartial manner, his duty. It shall be the duty of the assessor to make out and furnish to the trustees, at such times as they may appoint, lists of the taxable property of each individual in said town, with the value attached thereto, and also a list of the lots, and the value thereof, which belong to individuals which do not reside in said town. The trustees shall also have power to appoint a collector, annually, to collect taxes assessed on taxable property and tithes in said town, who shall give bond and security to the trustees of said town, for the faithful performance of his duty; and the said collector shall have power to make distress and sale, (if necessary), in the same manner as is now authorized by law in regard to sheriffs, in collecting the revenue and county tax in this State; and said trustees shall allow to said assessor and collector an adequate compensation for their services; they shall also allow their treasurer and clerk such compensation for their services as they may deem reasonable and just.

1842



1992

#### 150th Anniversary

SEC. 10. Be it further enacted, That the said trustees may enact such by-laws and ordinances, not contrary to the constitution and laws of this commonwealth, as they in their discretion may deem most expedient for the government of said town; and to impose fines and forfeitures for all violations of the same: they shall have power annually to lay and levy a tax on the inhabitants and real property of said town; Provided, the same shall not exceed twenty-five cents on each hundred dollars worth of real property, with a poll tax not exceeding fifty cents for each titheable: and the said trustees shall have power to purchase, sell, and convey the titles to any lots in said town, in whom the same shall, upon their appointment be vested; and to contract and be contracted with, sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, and to do all and singular the acts and things, in their corporate capacity, concerning the premises, which individuals might lawfully do.

SEC. 11. Be it further enacted, That the trustees of the town of Fort Smith shall have jurisdiction for one half mile, in all directions, from the town limits, within the jurisdiction of this State, over all shows and showmen of all descriptions, pedlars, and auctioneers, and all exhibitions and performances, where money is charged for admittance for a sight thereof, under such penalties as they may choose to impose, having a discretion, however, to exempt from penalty all exhibitions which in their judgment tend to promote the objects of science and popular information among the people. And it shall be the duty of the president of the board of trustees, to take jurisdiction of all offences against the provisions of this act, or against the laws or ordinances of the board of trustees, made by the authority thereof; and to render judgment and award execution thereon, in the same manner as judgment is rendered and execution ordered by justices of the peace; and all fines and penalties imposed by this act, or by the by-laws or ordinances of the board of trustees, shall be recoverable in the name of the trustees of the town of Fort Smith, and shall be applied by them in such manner as they may deem of the most important to the general welfare of the citizens and the improvement of the town.

SEC. 12. Be it further enacted, That the president of the board of trustees shall have jurisdiction of all offences against the peace of this State, by affrays, assaults and batteries, riots and unlawful assemblages, in such manner as is made and prescribed by law, which may take place within the prescribed limits of the said town, or one half mile in any direction from the prescribed limits of the said town; that he shall issue process for that purpose in the same manner as writs and other process are now issued in civil cases by justices of the peace, for any violation of the above mentioned laws of the land, subject to appeal to the circuit court of the county of Crawford, as in other cases now specified by law.

SEC. 13. Be it further enacted, That all penalties, fines, or forfeitures, which may be imposed by the president of the board of trustees, authorized by this act, may be plead in bar to any action on the part of the State of Arkansas, which may be instituted for the same offence before the circuit court of Crawford county: Provided, That this act shall not be so construed as to deprive any person aggrieved from bringing a civil action for damages in the circuit court of Crawford county, or in any other county where the offender may reside.

SEC. 14. Be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the trustees to appoint a town sergeant, who, upon oath as a sworn officer, shall be required to give notice to the president of the board of trustees, or to some one member of the board, of any and all persons who commit a breach of the laws or by-laws of said town; and whose duty it shall be to see that the provisions of this act, and the regulations made in pursuance thereof, are carried into effect; and the said trustees shall allow him a compensation for his services.

SEC. 15. Be it further enacted. That the board of trustees shall determine upon the amount of penalties to be imposed for the violation of any law specified in this act, as well as against the by-laws and regulations made by the board. They shall furthermore have power to determine

upon the amount to be given to the president of the board, as fees in discharge of his duties.

SEC. 16. Be it further enacted, That the president of the board of trustees shall keep a docket, and make entries of all his official acts, when in the discharge of his judicial duties given him by this act; and when an appeal is prayed for, a transcript from his docket shall be sent up to the circuit court of Crawford county, as in other cases of appeal from a justice's court, now defined by law.

SEC. 17. Be it further enacted, That the town sergeant shall be allowed the same fees that are allowed to township constables: Provided,

That the trustees may have power to increase the same to twice the amount.

SEC. 18. Be it further enacted, That this act shall not be so construed as to prevent a justice of the peace or township constable, each living within the prescribed limits of the said town, from being eligible to the office of president of the board of trustees or town sergeant.

SEC. 19. Be it further enacted, That in all elections for trustees of the town of Fort Smith, persons entitled to vote for the same shall give their votes viva voce; the president of the board and some justice of the peace to be the presiding officers; and as soon as the election is held and over, the presiding officer shall return the polls to the clerk of the board, certifying to him who have received the highest number of votes polled at said election, and who is thereby duly elected; and the said clerk shall copy said polls into a book to be kept by him for that purpose, and give notice in writing to each person elected as trustee, of his election.

SEC. 20. Be it further enacted. That in case of death, resignation, or removal of any of the said trustees, or their successors, the remainder of

the trustees shall have power to fill such vacancy, who shall hold their office until the next annual election.

SEC. 21. Be it further enacted. That no trustee of said town shall by himself contract for, or procure any other person to contract for him, for any public work let out or disposed of by the board, during his continuance in office.

SEC. 22. Be it further enacted. That if the said corporation shall, under any pretext whatsoever, issue any bills, notes, or tickets, or any other promise or obligation to pay, designed or intended to circulate and pass as a currency, such act shall be taken and held as a forfeiture of its charter: any person or persons whomsoever may, in any trial or action by said corporation, give the fact in evidence on such action or trial, and, when proven, shall be a good bar to any such action.

SEC. 23. Be it further enacted, That this act be in force from and after the first of January, 1843.

W.S. OLDHAM, Speaker of the House of Representatives. SAM'L ADAMS, President of the Senate.

Approved, the 24th Dec., 1842.

# Mayors of Fort Smith, Arkansas

The following list of mayors of Fort Smith is as complete and accurate as it can be made from records researched to date. When, and if, other information is located, the list will be revised.

Photographs have been located for only 25 of the 49 mayors (also woodcut prints for two mayors and a newspaper picture of one, but still need photographs of these three). Can you furnish photographs or help in the research of the other 23 mayors?

An asterisk (\*) marks the name of each mayor for which we have a photograph.

If you can supply a missing photograph, or provide a clue where one may be found, please contact the office of Mayor C. Ray Baker, Jr., 623 Garrison Avenue, Fort Smith, Arkansas 72901 or Amelia Martin, Fort Smith Historical Society, c/o Fort Smith Public Library, 61 South 8th Street, Fort Smith, Arkansas 72901.

0F/350	
Fort Smith organized in 1840, Nathaniel Gookin appointed Mayor.	*J.R. Kannady
First Municipal election held January 14, 1841.	
Charles A. Birnie elected Mayor and sworn in on	R.M. Johnson
January 16. He served 3 months and was succeeded	*Mont H. Sandels 1876-1877
by:	*James Brizzolara 1878-1882
C.M. Hudspeth April, 1841	J. Henry Carnall 1883-1885
Joseph H. Heard 1843-1845	Mat Gray 1886
Smith Elkins 1845	S.A. Williams 1887-1888
	Daniel Baker 1889-1890
George S. Birnie 1846-1848	*C.M. Cooke
(W.J. Weaver, Recorder) 1849	J.A. Hoffman
Dr. Nicholas Spring 1850	Tom Ben Garrett 1897-1902
*Marshall Grimes	*Henry Kuper, Jr 1903-1906
*Mitchell Sparks 1852	*Fagan Bourland 1907-1908
R.P. Pulliam May 2, 1853	*W.J. Johnston 1909-1911
*John F. Wheeler April 15, 1854	*Fagan Bourland 1911-1913
*W.H. Rogers January to May 27, 1855	*Henry C. Read 1913-1917
*R.M. Johnson May 27, 1855-1856	*J.H. Wright
John Beckel	*Arch Monroe 1917-1921
Joseph J. Walton	*Fagan Bourland 1921-1923
Francis S./H. Wolf	M.J. Miller May, 24, 1923
R.M. Johnson	*D.L. Ford
J.K. McKenzie 1861	*J.H. Parker 1925-1929
(Resigned November 4, succeeded by *John	*Fagan Bourland 1929-1933
King — pro tem — who was succeeded	*J.K. Jordon 1933-1941
November 8 by Joseph Bennett.)	*Chester Holland 1941-1945
Joseph Bennett	*Jack Pace 1945-1952
(Resigned in May, succeeded by R.M. Johnson.)	*H.R. Hestand 1952-1957
R.M. Johnson	*Jack Pace 1957-1961
Francis S./H. Wolf	*Bob Brooksher 1961-July, 1964
served until May, 1866.)	*James Yarbrough August, 1964-1967

#### MAYOR HENRY KUPER, SR. (Correction)

\*Jack Freeze ...... 1967-1983

\*C. Ray Baker, Jr. ...... 1992 to present

John Stryker ...... January, 1866-1868

E.J. Brooks ...... February, 1869-1872

I.W. Fuller ...... November, 1872-1873

Vol. 16, No. 1, page 36, paragraph 4 which read "Mayor Kuper's father was Henry Kuper, Sr., who was born October 8, 1832, the son of B.H. and Mary Ann Kuper. B.H. and Mary Ann were the parents of three children, but Henry, who came to America in 1854, was the only one who crossed the ocean to America." should have continued to say, "The father, B.H., was forced into the army under the first Napoleon. After his Russian campaign, he joined the regular army and fought against Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo." The next paragraph should have said only "Henry was educated in the schools of his Fatherland and learned the tailor's trade." (Our apology that a misplaced sentence made the article sound like Henry Sr. fought in the Battle of Waterloo which was fought on June 18, 1815, over 17 years before he was born on October 8, 1832.)



Marshall Grimes 1851 Courtesy Fadjo Cravens, Jr.



Mitchell Sparks 1852 Courtesy Fadjo Cravens, Jr.



John Foster Wheeler 1854 Courtesy Dr. Homer C. Wheeler



William H. Rogers January to May 27, 1855



R.M. Johnson, Esq. May 27,1855-1856, 1860, 1864, 1875



John King Nov. 4, 1861-Nov. 8, 1861 Courtesy UALR



Jeremiah R. Kannady November, 1873-1874 Courtesy Fadjo Cravens, Jr.



Mont H. Sandels 1876-1877 Courtesy Fadjo Cravens, Jr.



James Brizzolara 1878-1882 Courtesy UALR



C.M. Cooke 1891-1892 Courtesy Zela Tucker



Henry Kuper, Jr. 1903-1906 Courtesy Mrs. Henry Upchurch



Fagan Bourland 1907-1908, 1911-1913, 1921-1923, 1929-1933 Courtesy Beverly Mitchell



William Joseph Johnston 1909-1911 Courtesy Ben Johnston, Jr.



Henry C. Read 1913-1917 Courtesy Old Fort Museum



J.H. Wright 1917 Courtesy Old Fort Museum



Arch Monroe 1917-1921 Courtesy Old Fort Museum



Dave L. Ford 1923-1925 Courtesy UALR



John Hobson Parker 1925-1929 Courtesy Sheriff's Office Camden, AR



James Keys Jordon April 10, 1933-April 7, 1941 Courtesy Old Fort Museum



Chester Holland 1941-1945 Courtesy Dr. Charles Bailey



Jack Foster Pace 1945-1953, 1957-1961 Courtesy Margaret Pace



H.R. "Happy" Hestand 1952-1957 Courtesy Suzy Hestand Laird



Robert "Bob" Brooksher 1961-July, 1964 Courtesy Mrs. Glen Hopkins



James Yarbrough 1964-1967 Courtesy King Yarbrough



Jack Freeze 1967-1983



William D. Vines 1984-1991 Courtesy Southwest Times Record



C. Ray Baker, Jr. 1992-

# Karly Settlers

(From a souvenir booklet entitled Old Fort Smith 1898)

In Cutter & Nowlin's "History of Fort Smith" it is recorded that about the time the first fort was located here many of the early pioneers with their families began to make their way up the Arkansas river in keel boats, pushing up the stream from its mouth. Most of these settled at or near Belle Point.

The first permanent settler of whom we have any reliable record was Capt. John Rogers, who came here soon after the battle of New Orleans terminated the War of 1812. His double log house, with stone chimneys at each end, stood near the spot where the eastern pier of the new bridge now stands. It had a row of locust trees in front, a few bushes of which are still to be seen.

The first settlements began here, and extended gradually down the river. The portion bordering the river was first settled, and the central and southen parts of Sebastian county were not occupied to any considerable extent until after the year 1840. Prior to 1850 the country was settled rather slowly, but after that year more rapidly. Some of the settlers on the west side were Canadian voyageurs (who had settled there with Cherokee women), such as French Jack, Louie Layee, Frank and Looney Rafield.

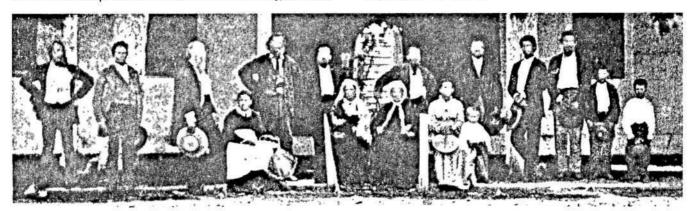
A number of soldiers who came to garrison the post, became permanent settlers. Among them was Aaron Barling, father of Mrs. Jerry Kannady, who is still one of Fort Smith's oldest and most respected citizens. Mr. Barling settled



View of Garrison Avenue in 1871

on the military road, nine miles east of Fort Smith, and there for many years he kept a house for the entertainment of travelers.

Others who settled in and around Fort Smith were the following: Clark Landers, H.A. Quesenbury, the father of the eccentric genius, Wm. Quesenbury, William Tichenal, Matthew Moore, Robert Sinclair, George S. and Charles A. Birnie, Matthew Moss, Gen. Nicks, Robert Gibson, Curry Barnett, James McDavid, Alfred Ray, Dr. David D. Williams, Stagner and William DuVal, father of Col. Ben T. DuVal, who in 1825 came from Virginia, and ascended the Arkansas river in a keel boat. He established a trading post on the land afterwards owned by his son, Dr. Elias R. DuVal. In 1829 he removed his family from Virginia to Fort Smith, and resided here until his death from cholera, which occurred in 1851.



Group of Early Settlers — Front of old Kannady residence, formerly on Garrison Avenue.

W.W. Perry, Wm. Rogers, J.R. Kannady, J.K. McKenzie, T.J. Cunningham, J.W. Bassert, W.J. Largin, Geo. H. Bomford, R.C. Barling, Sophia B. Kannady, Mrs. J.K. McKenzie, Sallie Dillard, Matilda Barling; three children, Robert, William and Blanton Barling.

In the extreme early days of Fort Smith Wm. Quesenbury, W.H. Rogers, and Ben T. DuVal were the only boys in and about the place.

Maj. Ben Moore, from Virginia, settled in 1821 at Moore's Rock, on the Arkansas, about eighteen miles below Fort Smith, on the farm afterwards occupied by John B. Luce. At his own expense he cut a channel for the passage of vessels, through the bed rock, which extended across the river at his place. He was the first individual who raised cotton and tobacco in this part of the country. He built the first grist mill between Fort Smith and Little Rock.

John Penn Dillard, a lawyer, of Lynchburg, Va., came here in 1822 and settled near Sulphur Springs.

Judge James Woodson Bates, brother of the renowned Frederick and Edward Bates, and who presided at the first court ever held at Fort Smith, settled on a farm near Moore's Rock about the year 1830, and lived there until his death in 1846. He married a daughter of Maj. Ben Moore, and a sister of Mrs. Dillard, now of Fort Smith.

Judge Hugh Knox settled on what is known as the Knox farm on the Arkansas river, about eight miles below Fort Smith.

Gen. Matthew Arbuckle, who as the colonel of the Seventh U.S. Infantry, was the second commander of the post of Fort Smith, settled on Arbuckle's Island, twenty-five miles below.

Wm. Moore and Ben Moore, Jr., settled at Moore's Rock the same time that Maj. Ben Moore settled that place.

Jack Tittsworth settled on the Little Rock road, at Short Mountain, and kept a house for the entertainment of travelers, his being the next place of the kind below Aaron Barling's.

Judge Jesse Turner was an early settler of old Crawford Court House.

Among the later early settlers of Fort Smith were Capt. Nathaniel Gookin, who was one of the first school teachers of the place. He married the widow Kannady, mother of Jerry Kannady, and sister of Capt. John Rogers.

Jerry R. Kannady, who for many years was a prominent and much-respected citizen of Fort Smith, settled here in 1836, where he resided until his death, which occurred in April, 1882.

Dr. Joseph H. Bailey and John Stryker were also early citizens of Fort Smith.

Dr. J.H.T. Main settled here in March, 1838, and the only citizens of the place of that date who now survive the Doctor are Col. Ben. T. DuVal, Mrs. Jerry Kannady and perhaps one or more other ladies.

Michael Manning came here May 10, 1840, to work on the fort, and resided here for many years. He died November 21, 1891.

Col. Samuel M. Rutherford, the first representative of the General Assembly from this county, and afterwards judge of the county and probate courts thereof, was also an early settler. He died April 1, 1867.

Maj. Elias Rector was an early settler, and a citizen of Fort Smith and vicinity for over forty vears.

Another old settler was Joseph Armorer, who came here some time in the thirties.

Samuel Edmondson came from Georgia in 1832 and settled at Crawford Court House, remaining there until the court was removed to Van Buren, when he moved there with it. He came from Van Buren to Fort Smith in 1840, cut the trees from his lot, and built the house now on the corner of Fourth and B streets. He represented Sebastian county in the Legislature for four years, and was a justice of the peace and practitioner at law in Fort Smith for over thirty years. He died of cholera October 4, 1866. Rev. Jas. Edmondson, his son, and a brother of Col. Sam Edmondson, is a Missionary Baptist preacher, who has resided in Sebastian county for more than sixty-three years.

W.H. Mayers came from Maryland in 1841, settled in Fort Smith, and was for many years engaged in mercantile business with his brother, M. Mayers.

Eaton Tatum, at whose house Sebastian county was organized, came from Missouri and settled at Jenny Lind in 1843. At that time there were settlements also at Greenwood, Hodges Prairie, Massard Prairie, and in the Sugar Loaf Valley. The only settlers then at Greenwood were Reuben Coker and his two brothers, Henry and John, and Coleman Morris; and Dr. Allen was the only one in Sugar Loaf Valley. On Massard Prairie were Jesse Ross and Samuel Caldwell.

## Old Settler's Association

(From a souvenir booklet entitled Old Fort Smith 1898)

A most commendable movement was lately set on foot by Dr. R.D. Seals, resulting in the organization of the Old Settler's Association. Only those who have been residents for twenty years are entitled to membership at present but it is expected that the children of such residents will also be admitted. A reunion will be held once a year on which occasion a grand ball and barbecue will be prominent features of the entertainment. The society will collect and present many historical facts that otherwise would be forgotten. The organization was effected Tuesday, September 13, 1898, with R.D. Seals as president and Mr. J.H. Hamilton as secretary. The following is a complete list of the members at the present writing:

Atkinson, B.F. Ayers, W.N. Atkinson, Mrs. S.B. Baker, Dan Bailey, Dr. W.W. Barnes, J.K. Beck, E. Berman, C. Berman, W. Berman, P. Berman, H. Bloomberg, S. Boas, Mrs. W. Bocquin, C.F. Bollinger, Mrs. M. Bomford, Mrs. M. Bonneville, Mrs. Sue Boren, Mrs. H. Bowers, Mrs. M.A. Breen, Wm. Breen, John Brogan, E.D. Brogan, E.C. Bulgin, R.G. Buckley, M.S. Bushkamp, J.W. Burns, Chas. Byrum, Mrs. A.M. Clendening, J.H. carter, R. Colbert, Mrs. J. Cravens, W.M. Coulter, Mrs. M. Cunningham, Mrs. J. Conner, Mrs. M.M. Czarnikow, Mrs. Rosa Dailey, F. Davis, P.R. DeBaum, Mrs. C.L. Devlin, P. Dickens, Mrs. A.M.

Dodson, Mrs. M.A.

DuVal, Mrs. M. Dwyer, Mrs. M. DuVal, B.T. Ellig, J.G. Epple, C. Euper, A. Euper, Mrs. E. Euper, Wm. Fishback, Gov. W.M. Finnigan, Mrs. Kate Freer, F.T. Freiseis, Mrs. Fannie Gatlin, Mrs. M.A. Gannaway, B.Z. Geiger, Mrs. E. Goff, Mrs. Gray, Mat Grier, T. Guler, J.S. Harrington, Mike Hammett, R.W. Hamilton, J.H. Harder, A. Haglin, Mrs. M.L. Hammett, Mrs. M.L. Hamlin, Mrs. K. Helbling, F.S. Hendricks, Mrs. M. High, Mrs. S.A. Hightower, Mrs. M.S. Hicken, Mrs. M. Hoffman, Con Hoffman, J.A. Hoey, Mrs. Anne Hunt, Mrs. E. Humphrey, Mrs. Belle Ingram, W.F. Johnson, W.S. Johnson, Mrs. E.C. Kavser, Mrs. C. Kennedy, Mrs. S.B.

Keating, Mrs. A. Kennady, Mrs. M. Kelly, Tobe Kuper, H. Kerr, Mrs. E.T. Kerwin, Mrs. E. Knoble, Mrs. K. Krone, Mrs. M.A. Lawrence, Sam Lanigan, E.C. Lanigan, Mrs. Jane Lauderback, Mrs. S.I. Latham, Mrs. A.C. Limberg, Joe Limberg, H. Maledon, Jake McClure, I.N. McManus, C. McCabe, P.B. McLoud, Sam Miller, H. Mitchell, Eli Maledon, Mrs. K. Mathews, Mrs. M. Moore, Mrs. E. Munder, Chas. Mthis, Mrs. M.E. Mayers, Mrs. H.N. McKenna, Edward Neighbors, C.C. Paden, E.A. Pettit, S. Pope, Mrs. E. Porter, Mrs. J. Parke, F. Phillips, E. Payne, Mrs. Quantie, B. Reed, N. Reed, John Reynolds, C.F. Reutzel, C.

Robinson, S.K. Rogers, J.H. Rowe, W.H. Robinson, Mrs. Lou Rounds, F. Rutherford, R.B. Reising, Fred Schmeiding, Chas. Schoeppe, Alex Schneider, Mrs. Chris Selig, Mrs. E. Seals, R.D. Sherman, Jas. Slaughter, Mrs. M.A. Smith, P. John Smith, Rev. L. Stephens, J.R. Stein, H. Stiesberg, J. Sparks, Mrs. H. Sutton, Mrs. M.L. Swift, Mrs. A. Scoville, Mrs. M. Sengel, Mrs. N.R. Temple, N.J. Triesch, Con Thompson, Mrs. Ella Triesch, H. Tucker, David Ulmer, J.H. Ullery, Mrs. Nellie Walker, Mrs. M.A.R. Walton, Mrs. M.E. Wheeler, Mrs. Lulu Weldon, O.D. Wolf, M. Walker, Mrs. M.J. Weigand, Mrs. Rosa Weaver, W.J. Williams, Henry Wrenn, J.R. Zinn, Levi

## Barber Bridges, Part 2: Family Traditions

Teri Barber Sharum, Granddaughter of E.E. Barber (Part 2 of 2 parts. See Volume 16, No. 1 of *The Journal* for Part 1.)

"If you leave the job," contractor E.E. Barber said, "you'd better leave someone behind who knows how to solve problems." Barber, when he died in 1970, left behind two sons who know how to solve problems in the bridge-building industry.

Elmer Emerson Barber, Jr., was born on May 3, 1924, the son of Madge (Stanley) and E.E. Barber. With his dark hair and round face, he favored his Grandfather Stanley, and his sense of humor also came from his mother's side of the family. But when it came to bridge-building, he was his father's son.

As mentioned in an earlier article, Elmer began his bridge-building career when he was nine years old, carrying water for his father's newly formed company, E.E. Barber Construction Company. He attended Fort Smith schools and was graduated from Fort Smith High School in 1942. He never received the engineering degree he pursued at the University of Arkansas and later at Texas A & M. It never mattered. Like his father, he believed that true education lay not in books, but in work.

World War II took Elmer away from his education and his construction work. In January of 1943, he joined the Army Air Corps and spent two years flying the "Hump" — delivering troops and supplies to bases in Burma and China. He left the military in September of 1945 with the rank of first lieutenant.

Upon his return from the War, he married his high school sweetheart, Margaret Ann Ogg of Fort Smith. Back to work with his father's company, he moved her from town to town as he supervised jobs in DeQueen, Malvern, Oklahoma City, and West Memphis. They and their three children, Marci, Easy (E.E. Barber III), and Teri eventually settled in Fort Smith.

When Elmer became president of his father's company, while carrying on family traditions,



Elmer and Margaret Ann (1945)

he began to develop a reputation in his own right. As a member of the Associated General Contractors, he served on the Arkansas chapter of the AGC's Board of Directors. In 1965, he served as vice president, and in 1966 was chosen president of the Arkansas chapter. He served on a number of AGC committees, including the National Safety Committee. In March of 1966, Elmer and Margaret Ann went to Washington, D.C. as delegates to the 47th Annual Convention of Associated General Contractors.

According to the AGC's governing provisions, membership was based on a contractor's skill, integrity, and responsibility. A talk Elmer gave at the Mid-South Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers, entitled "Designers, Specification Writers, and Inspectors as They Appear to the Contractor," emphasized the need for these qualities in all those who were involved in the bridge-building process. Contractors were often at odds with designers, specification writers, and inspectors, and Elmer acknowledged their differences, while emphasizing the importance of each in the bridgebuilding industry. He stressed the need for all of them to have practical knowledge. His disdain for those who would try to tell him how to build a bridge was obvious, though he also showed his willingness to work with them and his respect for what they could do to help the contractor if they had the wisdom to do so.

His audience was impressed not only by his sincerity and his practical advice, but also by his humor. The speeches he gave — and he was often called upon to speak — were peppered with jokes and anecdotes. Some of his stories could not be repeated in proper company, but the men in the industry enjoyed (and the women apparently tolerated) his tales. As one member of the Mid-South audience put it, "We saved the best for the last and we were not disappointed."

Carrying on the family tradition of job safety, Elmer received the National Safety Award in 1966 for a year's work without a lost-time accident on the job. But Elmer didn't take credit for his safety record. As an incentive toward good safety practices, he gave back to his employees all of the workman's compensation insurance rebate the company received in good safety years.

Elmer's concern for safety went beyond the bridge-building process. In March of 1966, he was in charge of preparing and presenting to Governor Faubus an emergency disaster relief and control plan known as Plan Bulldozer. The plan included an inventory of construction equipment owned by private contractors and by the Arkansas Highway Department which would be available in the event of an emergency. He later was awarded a citation from the Executive Office of the President of the United States for his outstanding contribution toward the State Planning for Emergency Management Resources.



Brothers solving problems: Stan (left) and Elmer going over plans on the Hanrahan Viaduct job (1957).

1966 was a busy year for Elmer and a year of transition for the Barber family. This was the year Elmer and his brother Stanley both split off from E.E. Barber Construction Company to form companies of their own. Stan took his Stanley Barber Construction Company to work primarily in Oklahoma, while Elmer's Barber Bridge Builders remained in Arkansas. Elmer also stayed on as president of EEBCC, which he continued to run until his father's death in 1970.

Elmer took to his new company four superintendents, cash from his interest in his father's business, and some equipment, along with the practical knowledge he had attained while working for his father. He had his father's sense of self-reliance, belief in hard work, and determination to succeed, and he took to his own company the management style he had learned from his father.

He continued his father's practice of spending most of his time at the job sites. His was not a large company; he made sure the volume of work he had going at any time was such that he could remain personally involved with each project. He had help with this involvement, in Richard Davis, his vice president, who was described as "a problem preventer as well as

solver," and in his superintendents, Fred Roberts, David McVay, Don Hooten, Bill Owens, and Danny Davis.

The first job for Elmer operating as Barber Bridge Builders was the Dyer-Mulberry exchange on Interstate 40 in Crawford County. The company grew, with projects in Ozark, Morrilton, Lonelm, Fort Smith, and Nashville, Arkansas, and on the Greenwood bypass on Highway 71.

Elmer liked to keep six jobs going at once, and he had a particular superintendent in mind when he bid a job. Many of his men had been with his father's company, some with fifteen or more years of experience. These men had learned the business, as Elmer had, under his father, and they enjoyed working with the son, as well.

Elmer knew every person who worked for him by name. He took care of his employees, and, in return, he had carpenters, concrete finishers, machine operators, and superintendents who stayed with him for years. His superintendents were family to him — he loved, respected, and depended on them. And he gave them credit for the work they did, by sharing his profits with those who helped make a job come out ahead.

While his company was small, Elmer, having worked with his father, was well-known and well-respected in the industry. Being in the public eye was important to him. In 1967, as the moderator of the Twelfth Annual Highway Short Course at the University of Arkansas, Elmer talked about "The Importance of Public Relations to the Construction Industry." He believed the contractor should attempt to sell a good image of the industry to the public, but an honest and accurate image was more important to him than a favorable one. "The whole basis of good public relations," he said, "lies in the words of the Golden Rule ... ." He felt the industry should defend itself against unbased charges and do more to make the public aware of its safety record as well as its contributions to the progress of the state.

He contributed to the public's awareness of the industry by remaining high-profile in the bridge-building business, in community involvement, and in politics.

Like his father, Elmer was conservative and independent in his political involvement. Naturally, his support leaned toward those politicians who favored highway projects and funding, but he was involved in larger issues as as well. He continued the years of family friendship with Orval Faubus in spite of — and



Elmer presenting Plan Bulldozer to Governor Faubus (1966)

in large part, because of — the controversies in which the governor was involved in 1957. He believed the issue faced then was not one of desegregation, but of states' rights. He was leery of the power of the federal government and believed the state of Arkansas should do all it could to keep the government from interfering in its functioning.

Though Elmer was against governmentmandated desegregation, he was not against an integrated work force. He had a strong reputation for hiring people of any creed or color long before Equal Employment Opportunity laws ever came along.

While his hiring practices were more than fair, Elmer resented the federal government telling him how he had to run his business. But in December of 1967, when the Arkansas Highway Department held an Equal Employment Opportunity Conference, he was well-behaved; he knew his own company was in no danger of being cited for failing to hire minorities.

However, when the subject of hiring women came up, he wondered aloud if the government was serious. He could not believe the construction industry could have openings for women other than for office work. The men in attendance discussed the possibility of women acting as flagpersons. During the exchange, Elmer was polite, though one might have been able to hear a small amount of sarcasm in his "Yes, sirs," and his soft-spoken comments.

His snide remarks came back to haunt him, when, a few years later, his daughter Marci went to work for McClinton-Anchor Construction Company — as a flagperson. When his friend Clark McClinton told him he wanted Marci to stay on to learn how to run heavy equipment, Elmer's pride was obvious, though he was somewhat relieved when she turned the offer down in order to finish her schooling.

By 1970, Elmer was busy with jobs in towns like Okay, Fouke, Searcy, and Sweet Home. He started the first of five phases on the Granite Mountain Crusher project at Sweet Home and had jobs going on Highway 22 at Fort Smith and on the Arkansas River at Markham Street in Little Rock.

The Barber family's involvement in the progress of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System was great, since Barbers built all three of the river crossings at Fort Smith — the I-540 or Clarence F. Byrns bridge dedicated December 29,1966, the U.S. 64-71 bridge, and the Garrison Avenue bridge, which was completed in 1971 by Stanley Barber Construction Company. The navigation system was dedicated in June of 1971. In July, Elmer had a highway letting to attend, so he celebrated the opening of the system by traveling from Fort Smith to Little Rock by boat.

Christened the "July Letting," the boat was manned by "Admiral" Elmer Barber, Ray Morgan of Mitchell Machinery Company, Gib Forsgren of Forsgren Brothers Construction Company, Ewell Lee of Arkhola Sand and Gravel Company, John Harsh, chairman of the Arkansas Highway



The crew of the "July Letting" upon their arrival in Little Rock (1971)

Commission, and Everett Neathery of J.A. Riggs Tractor Company. The sailors arrived in Little Rock in fine form. In keeping with Elmer's wish to let the public know about the construction industry, the media was there to greet the crew and to hear them proclaim their newlyorganized "Highway Yacht Club" a success. The trip, they said, was much smoother than coming by highway.

In the midst of the fun, Elmer continued to build bridges. But he had fun with them, too — one of his projects in 1971 was the Kingsdale Golf Course Bridge in Bella Vista.

On larger jobs, Elmer often went into joint ventures with companies like Ben M. Hogan, McGeorge, D.B. Hill, McClinton-Anchor, and Freshour Construction. These contractors liked to work with Barber Bridge Builders because the jobs went smoothly and because Elmer, like his father, insisted on a good job plan and a good estimate which always included a profit in the bid.

In 1973, Elmer was back on Interstate 430 projects in the Little Rock area. Little Rock was his second home; there was never a time in his career that he didn't have a job going in that area. He had a permanent room at the Coachman's Inn, where he stayed on his atleast-weekly trips to the city.

In 1973, maintaining his involvement with the river, Elmer built the recreational facilities at Lock and Dam 13 at Barling. He had other projects in the Fort Smith and Greenwood areas, as well as jobs in Garland, Faulkner, Saline and Scott counties.

In 1975, a bridge across the Arkansas River at Clarksville, near Morrison Bluff, kept him occupied, along with jobs in Crawford and Franklin Counties. He continued his work on I-430 in Little Rock, and started the first of his projects on the Highway 71 bypass in Fayetteville.

Though Elmer was raised in Fort Smith, he, like his father, loved the rural life and was involved in his father's cattle business in Scott County. What he loved the most, though, was building bridges in the area. He built bridges on Sugar Creek, Jones Creek, King's Creek, and Rock Creek in Scott County, and on the Petit Jean River near Booneville in Logan County.

But he also worked in Fort Smith, on South 10th and C Streets, the Mill Creek bridge on Phoenix Street, the I-540-South 28th Street bridge, and the Wheeler Avenue bridge on Highway 59.



Interstate-540 bridge at Highway 255 (Zero Street), Fort Smith (1970)

His biggest project in 1979 consisted of five jobs, with McClinton-Anchor Construction Company, on the expansion of the Highway 71 Bypass west of Fayetteville. The exchange at the main University of Arkansas exit was especially dear to Elmer, a big Razorback fan; he insisted the overpass should be specially marked. After a battle with the Highway Department, resulting in Elmer's deciding to pay for it out of his own pocket, a Razorback was painted on each side of the bridge, so that travelers passing under the bridge from either direction would know without a doubt they were in Razorback country. All five of the bridges were painted Razorback red.



Go Hogs! Highway 71 Bypass at Fayetteville (1981)

The Fayetteville Bypass jobs and a bridge on Highway 71 between Abbott and Boothe were among the last of Elmer's projects. Early in January of 1981, having suffered with rheumatoid arthritis for years, Elmer told a friend, "I'd like to just lay down, go to sleep, and never wake up." Three weeks later, he did just that. He apparently was never aware of the heart attack that took his life.

The work of Barber Bridge Builders continued until late in 1981. A job on Highway 186 in Franklin County was started on the day of his death — January 19, 1981. Not one of his superintendents left the company until all of the work was done. Two of his superintendents, with help from Barber Bridge Builders, went on to form their own company. Danny Davis and Bill Owens now build Barber-quality bridges under the name of Mine Creek Construction, and so continues the Barber legacy in the construction industry.

Was Elmer disappointed his son didn't follow in his footsteps? For a time, he might have been. But Easy has construction of a different sort in his blood. He has done carpentry and restoration work in Fort Smith and now is in business for himself as a cabinetmaker. His shop, Barber's Barn, is in Elmer's old office building. When Elmer saw the quality and beauty of his son's work, any disappointment he might have felt was replaced by pride.

Elmer's daughters drive across his bridges every day, as they travel Highway 71. Though construction never captured them, the rural life their grandfather and father loved did. They both live on family land in Scott County. As they drive across the bridge near Abbott, they remember the old bridge, and they appreciate the one their father built to replace it. It reminds them of the qualities Elmer believed were important to bridges and to life: function, safety, beauty, and economy.

Shortly before his death, Elmer received the Outstanding Contractor Award from the Associated General Contractors, a fitting tribute to his lifetime of involvement in the bridge-building industry. A memorial in the February, 1981, issue of the *Arkansas AGC News* magazine said, "Many people will remember Mr. Barber by the bridges he built across the Arkansas River in Fort Smith and in Little Rock. Most people who knew Mr. Barber will remember him by another bridge he built. It was a bridge of love, charity, and laughter."

Elmer was a problem solver and a man who was capable of living up to the reputation his father had built in the bridge-building industry. His legacy lives on in *all* of the bridges he built.

#### LISTING OF BARBER BRIDGE BUILDERS BRIDGES AND OTHER PROJECTS

1967:

Crawford County, I-40 at Dyer-Mulberry (completion date 1968)

Franklin County, Ozark (1968)

Conway County, Kenwood-Morrilton (1969)

1968:

Sebastian County, Fort Smith (1970)

Franklin County, Hwy. 23 junction at Lonelm (1971)

1969:

Sebastian County, Greenwood Bypass Hwy. 71 (1970)

Howard County, Mineral Springs at Nashville (1971)

1970:

Sebastian County, Hwy. 22 at Fort Smith (1970) Okay, AR, G.N. & A. Railroad (1970)

Sweet Home, AR, Granite Mountain Crusher Job Phase I (1971)

Miller County, Hwy. 134 at Fouke (1972)

Pulaski County, Markham Street across the Arkansas River at Little Rock (1972)

White County, Beebe-Searcy (1973)

1971:

Kingsdale Golf Course Bridge, Bella Vista (1971)

Granite Mountain Phase II (1972)

Pulaski County, University Avenue & Pine Street, Little Rock (1973)

1972:

Pulaski County, Winona Aqueduct (1972) Pulaski County, Col. Glenn Road & Markham, Little Rock (1974)

Prairie County, Des Arc (1974)

1973:

Garland County, Mountain Pine (1973)
Granite Mountain, Phases III and IV (1973)
Garland County, Hot Springs, Golf Links
Bridge and Approaches (1973)

Sebastian County, Lock and Dam 13, Recreational Facilities (1974)

Sebastian County, Greenwood (1975)
Pulaski County, I-30 junction at Fourche
Creek (1975)

1974:

Morrilton, Point Remove Park
Recreational Facilities (1974)
Sebastian County, Greenwood (1974)
Granite Mountain Phase V (1974)
Sebastian County, Massard East (1975)
Scott County, Winfield-South (1975)
Faulkner County, Hwy. 64 at Saltillo (1975)
Pulaski and Saline Counties, Hwy. 167-Hwy.
365 (1976)

1975:

Crawford County, Alma (1975)
Johnson and Logan Counties, Clarksville,

Hwy. 109 at Morrison Bluff (1976) Franklin County, Hwy. 215 at Vesta-North

(1976)
Washington County, Favottoville Rypass

Washington County, Fayetteville Bypass (1976)

Pulaski County, I-430 at University Avenue, Little Rock (1976)

1976

Faulkner County, Hwy. 89 North (1976) Yell County, Danville (1976)

Scott County, Sugar Creek Bridge (1976) Sebastian County, Huntington, County Road 32 (1977)

Logan County, Petit Jean River Bridge, Booneville (1977)

Sebastian County, Mill Creek Bridge on Phoenix Street, Fort Smith (1977)

Pulaski County, East Belt Freeway, Little Rock (1978)

1977:

Johnson and Logan Counties, Hwy. 109 Arkansas River Bridge (1977)

Crawford County, Hwy. 64 East (1977)

Sebastian County, Midland-Excelsior (1978) Sebastian County, I-540-South 28th Street

Bridge, Fort Smith, (1978)

Pope County, I-40 at Dover, Hwy. 7 at Linker Creek (1978)

Pulaski County, Lindsey Road, Little Rock (1978)

1978:

Sebastian County, South 10th and C Streets, Fort Smith (1978)

Scott County, Jones Creek at Winfield (1978) Logan County, County Road 74 at Cane Creek (1978)

Logan County, Weldron Creek at Ratcliff (1978) Lonoke County, Indian Bayou at England (1979)

Montgomery County, Caddo River at Norman (1979)

Benton and Washington Counties, Siloam Springs (1979)

Franklin County, Hwy. 96 South at Vesta (1979) Sebastian County, Wheeler Avenue Bridge, Hwy. 59, Fort Smith (1980)

Sevier County, Hwy. 41 relocation, Bear Creek, Dequeen (1980)

Sebastian and Crawford Counties, Lock and Dam 13 Road (1980)

Washington County, Fayetteville Bypass (1980) 1979:

Scott County, County Road 64, King's Creek Bridge (1979)

Logan County, State Hwy. 109, Morrison Bluff-Scranton (1979)

Faulkner County, State Hwy. 89, Mayflower (1979)

Searcy County, 8 miles east of Marshall (1979) Howard County, Umpire (1980)

Benton County, Bentonville-North (1980)

Washington County, Fayetteville Bypasses — four jobs (1980 and 1981)

1980:

1981:

Washington County, Hwy. 62, Fayetteville Loop (1981)

Scott and Logan Counties, Rock Creek (1981)

Franklin County, Hwy. 186 (1981)

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MISCELLANEOUS:

An article, "He Makes Bridge Building Look Easy," by Ralph Monso, appeared in a publication the author was unable to identify, under the heading *Portrait in Print* 

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Special thanks to Betty (Mrs. Warren) Wilson, former Barber Bridge Builders secretary, for her listing of bridges built by the company, and to Margaret Ann Barber for keeping every shred of information ever written about the Barber family.

#### MARGARET ANN OGG BARBER

It is with great sadness that we tell you Margaret Ann Barber died Friday, July 24, 1992, after a long illness. She was a life member of the Fort Smith Historical Society and helped with the research for the Barber Bridges story. Though she did not live to see the second part of the story in print, she did read the manuscript and it brought her much happiness. She was a loving, caring person whose life meant much to her family and her community. She is missed by all whose lives she has touched.

## News and Opportunities

#### **FORT SMITH CELEBRATES**



Fort Smith is celebrating the 150th anniversary of the incorporation of the town of Fort Smith, the 175th anniversary of the establishment of the first fort here, and the 25th anniversary of the local City Administrator form of city government.

The 150th celebration formally began on Saturday, February 8, 1992, at the Old Fort Museum with a formal reception opening joint exhibits. Fort Smith Celebrates Black History. Culture and Arts and Arkansas Treasures: Looking Forward, Looking Back. Two other events connected with the exhibit were presented, one in February and the other in March. An evening of jazz by Matlock and Co. and a poetry reading by the Dream Keepers was presented February 16. Dr. Henry Rinne, instructor in Humanities at Westark Community College, spoke on the life and music of Alphonso Trent, and the Jazz Lab Ensemble performed his arrangements at the museum on March 5th. Later, Judge Morris Arnold spoke at the Old Fort Museum on early Fort Smith history. Events in May and June were in connection with Memorial Day, the Rodeo Parade and the Old Fort River Festival.

The Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Fort Smith has had a special Fort Smith sesquicentennial bottle made. An open house at Coca-Cola to celebrate the launching of the filling of the bottles was held on June 25. Following a ceremony in which guests watched as the first filled "Coke" bottles that bore the commemorative logo came off the line, lunch was served to guests in the Coca-Cola Museum on the second floor of the headquarters building. These commemorative bottles are for sale along with other 150th souvenirs which are available at a number of places in Fort Smith. Some of the other souvenirs are T-shirts, caps. lapel pins, mugs, commemorative license plates and reprints of the Act of the General Assembly of Arkansas Incorporating Fort Smith which are suitable for framing.

An Independence Day Celebration was held at Ben Geren Park. This celebration, complete with vendors, live music by seven bands from noon until 9:00 p.m., and fireworks at 9:30 was jointly sponsored by the 150th Committee and Radio Station KZKZ 106.3 which was celebrating its third anniversary. Bands playing were Arcadia Night Hawks Roaring 20's Dance Orchestra, Night Flight, Shockwave, Big Jim and the Twins, Fixation, Lovecraft, and G.T. Hood.

An open house at the Fort Smith Trolley Museum on Sunday, July 12, featured collections of the museum, antique radios, antique automobiles, trolley and sesquicentennial souvenirs and sale of both black and white and colored trolley prints done by Fort Smith artist, John Bell. Mr. Bell was present to sign the prints. The Arcadia Night Hawks Roaring 20's Dance Orchestra entertained guests with music from the 1920s and 1930s.

This commemorative issue of *The Journal* will be for sale at places where the other sesquicentennial souvenirs are available, as well as at the Fort Smith Public Library.

A special postal cancellation stamp is being made to be used by the Fort Smith Post Office to cancel all mail going out of that office from September 4 to the end of the year.

On November 7, honoring Veterans' Day, there will be a parade from Immaculate Conception Church down Garrison Avenue and a ceremony will be held in front of Judge Parker's Court. A souvenir brochure is being planned for the parade and an outstanding speaker from the Pentagon is planned for the Veterans' Day Ceremony. Also, Fort Scott, Kansas, Dragoons, eight cavalrymen of the 1840s period, will participate in the event.

Mary Jane Daily is organizing an essay contest for students in Fort Smith junior and senior high schools. Two scholarships will be given to the winner by Westark Community College, and the winning essays will be included in the time capsule which is to be buried in a ceremony on December 5.

December 5 events include a Christmas parade with the theme being 150 years of Christmases, and the following events at the Fort Smith Civic Center: a reception from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., performance by the Fort Smith Symphony and the Westark Community

College Choir and the burial of the time capsule. The public is invited to the reception and persons attending are urged to wear costumes from the 1840 era. The time capsule will be buried at the Civic Center flagpole site. Edwards Funeral Home will provide a 2'x2'x2' vault and Cotner Monuments is providing a plaque. The capsule will contain: (1) student contest (video) and essay contest winners; (2) items to be acquired (the committee is requesting ideas from the public). The theme for the contents is "Showing people of 2042 what life was like in 1992 in Fort Smith."

A sesquicentennial banner is displayed on the front of the Stephens Building (location of the city offices), and one is to be hung across Garrison Avenue.

During the Christmas holidays at the Clayton House there will be bell ringers, choral groups and a Christmas reception. Also, a one-act play by the Goodwill Ambassadors under the direction of Ray Coleman is planned.

Mayor Baker is asking that all church bells be rung at noon on December 24.

A History Conference at the Fort Smith Historic Site has been set for some time in December. Ed Bearss and Dee Brown will attend.

The Sesquicentennial Committee will have a float in both the Veterans' Day parade and the Christmas parade.

Fred Patton has completed updating his history of Fort Smith which will be published in a hardback book.

A special issue of the *Southwest Times Record* will also be published.

Members of the 150th Anniversary Committee, appointed by Mayor Ray Baker and chaired by J. Fred Patton, are:

J. Fred Patton, are:
Mr. J. Fred Patton
Dr. Art Martin
Mrs. Amelia Martin
Mrs. Sarah McCullough
Mrs. Corene Wiggins
Mr. Jimmie Barry
Mrs. Ann Johnston
Mr. LeRoy Fry
Mrs. Polly Crews
Dr. Suzanne Kenagy
Mrs. Evelyn Kendrick
Reverend Lorenzo Lee
Mr. Dee Carroll
Mr. Fadjo Cravens
Mrs. Loretta Parker

Mr. Paul Guiffre
Mrs. Mary Lou Jacobsen
Mr. Ried Schultz
Mr. Larry Meador
Mrs. Susan Haines
Ms. Antoinette Beland
Mrs. Mary Jane Daily
Mr. Carl Manuel
Mrs. Nancy Vernon
Mrs. Janie Glover
Reverend Bill Cheyne
Mr. Bill Black
Mr. Fred Williams
Mrs. Ann Dawson
Mrs. Carol Sue Wooten

These chairmen have been assisted by hundreds of other people of the community to make this celebration a tremendous success that the community can be proud of. Mildred Stein, whose biography and poetry were featured in the Volume 10, Number 1, April, 1986, issue of *The Journal*, has written and contributed the following poem about the 150th anniversary celebration:

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FORT SMITH By: Mildred Stein

FORT SMITH'S SESQUICENTENNIAL BIRTHDAY: --

Fort Smithians call it "our great MIRTHDAY"! Said, "Through the years, stumbling blocks we've hurdled,

Not causing ambitions to be curdled."

By leaps and bounds we proudly say we've grown;

a METROPOLIS. It's our very own! On this great SESQUICENTENNIAL date; Thrilled, let's all join in to help celebrate.

Van Buren (our twin city) -- hand-in-hand! In friendliness, we work together grand. Cisterna, It'ly's our sister city. Heartwarming relations "birthed" this ditty.

One hundred and fifty wonderful years.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FORT SMITH with cheers
and cheers!

Tourists flock here by the thousands. That's true,

For many historic interests to view.

Now, on our famous Arkansas River, FRONTIER BELLE SHOWBOAT totes. Park your "flivver".

Street car TROLLEY runs gaily on track. It had left. All are so thankful it's back!

Good pure drinking water, big drawing card, Wise folks recognize this a great health guard! All denominational churches here ---- Schools, from beginning to finishing year!

Great eating places, much entertainment, clad our city in Royal arraignment.

For out-of-towners, <u>A WARNING FOR YOU: --</u>
If you come to visit, you'll <u>move</u> here, too.

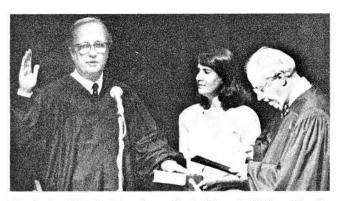
Our fine Arkansas State beats all -- age wise.

Seems just a few years though! Oh how time flies!

So now Alexander, strike up the band. FORT SMITH'S the finest city in the land!!!

## DISTRICT JUDGE MORRIS S. ARNOLD ELEVATED TO THE 8TH U.S. CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS

At 10:00 a.m. on Monday, June 29, District Judge Morris Sheppard Arnold was elevated to the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in an hourlong ceremony at Westark Community College.



Morris Arnold, left, takes the oath of office administered by his brother, Richard Arnold, while Morris Arnold's niece, Janet Sheppard Arnold, holds the Bible. Photo courtesy Kelly Kerr, Southwest Times Record.

Judge Arnold was sworn in by his brother, 8th Circuit Court of Appeals Chief Judge Richard Arnold, while his niece, Janet Sheppard Arnold of San Francisco, held the Bible on which he rested his hand.

Judge Morris Arnold is the first federal judge to be invested in Fort Smith since Judge Isaac Parker was sworn in more than 100 years ago, the sixth Arkansan in history to sit on the appeals court, and the 51st judge to join the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals.

The ceremony was attended by 17 federal judges, Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt, Acting-Governor Jim Guy Tucker, many office holders in the judicial and legislative branches, several members of the Arnold family and about 500 other invited guests.

Court convened with The Hon. Richard S. Arnold, presiding, and the following judges:

The Hon, Floyd R. Gibson The Hon. J. Smith Henley The Hon. John R. Gibson The Hon. George G. Fagg The Hon. Pasco M. Bowman, II The Hon. Roger L. Wollman The Hon. Frank J. Magill The Hon. C. Arlen Beam The Hon. James B. Loken The Hon. David R. Hansen The Hon. Morris S. Arnold The Hon. H. Franklin Waters The Hon. Stephen M. Reasoner The Hon. Oren Harris The Hon. Garnett Thomas Eisele The Hon. Elsijane Trimble Roy

The Hon. Jimm Larry Hendren
The invocation was given by The Reverend
Lowell E. Grisham, Jr., Rector, St. John's
Episcopal Church, and guests were recognized
by Douglas O. Smith, Jr., Esq. Speakers
included The Hon. John Paul Hammerschmidt,

The Hon. Susan Webber Wright

United States Representative; The Hon. Jim Guy Tucker, Lieutenant Governor and Acting Governor; Philip S. Anderson, Esq., American Bar Association; and John P. Gill, Esq., Arkansas Bar Association.

After being sworn in, Arnold said he was a fierce devotee of the Bill of Rights and individual rights and was a person who "knew the books" to back up and protect those rights, and added, "I hope that's what you wanted because that's what you got."

He said his character and drive for the bench was molded by his family, which has an illustrious history of public service in Arkansas, both on the bench and in Congress. He also said his mother, Janet Sheppard Morris (his niece shared her name), was intensely political and was enthusiastic about learning and exchanging ideas, and that his father, Richard Lewis Arnold, had an equally intense respect for the rights of individuals.

Richard Arnold said, "I know of nobody who is a better lawyer and nobody who is a better judge than Morris Arnold and I am proud to be on his court."

Morris Arnold leaves Fort Smith after serving as a district judge here since December, 1986. President Bush, following Rep. John Paul Hammerschmidt's recommendation, appointed Arnold to the appeals court last November to fill the position left open after then-Chief Judge Donald Lay took senior status. That development also led to Richard Arnold being elevated to chief judge of the circuit. Judge Morris Arnold will keep offices in Little Rock as a matter of convenience.

# ANNUAL MEETING ARKANSAS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION Holiday Inn, Fort Smith April 15-17, 1993

For information contact:
Arkansas Historical Association
Department of History
Old Main 416
University of Arkansas
Fayetteville, AR 72701
Telephone: (501) 575-5884



### FORT SMITH TROLLEY MUSEUM

A ride on the trolley continues to be a popular ride back into the past. In the first fifteen months of operation, over 20,000 people have taken the ride and been exposed to the history of the streetcar system in Fort Smith.

Expansion of the track has begun that will double the active track. This additional track will run beside the National Cemetery. Contract to purchase a building within one-half block of the trolley museum adjacent to the trolley track will double the exhibit and work space. This building will be used primarily for motorized transportation equipment. A drive to raise the money to purchase the building is under way.

#### FORT SMITH NATIONAL CEMETERY

Candice Underwood, director of the Fort Smith National Cemetery, assumed new duties as director of the Fort Gibson National Cemetery on July 13, 1992. Mrs. Karen Browne, former director of the Fayetteville National Cemetery, assumed duties of the director of the Fort Smith National Cemetery on August 17, 1992.

Mrs. Browne joined the National Cemetery System as a program assistant at Fort Bliss, Texas, National Cemetery in 1986. She moved to the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona in Phoenix in April, 1989, as the program assistant when the cemetery was transferred from the State of Arizona to the Department of Veterans Affairs. She was then assigned to Fayetteville. She began her VA career in August, 1981, at the VA Outpatient Clinic in El Paso, Texas, as a program analyst in the Compensation and Pension Unit. Prior to joining the VA, Mrs. Browne worked for various federal agencies as a contract specialist at the Department of Defense, the General Services Administration and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. She graduated from high school in Arizona and attended Arizona State University in Tempe.

Her husband, Jack, is a retired fire fighter. They have a son, Matthew, and a daughter, Amy.

#### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Two Alma High School seniors donated their National award winning history poster to the Fort Smith National Historic Site on July 13. Wes Kemp (son of Wesley and Sharon Kemp) and Eric Burkert (son of Russell and Nancy Burkert) took fourth place in the 1992 National History Day competition held in Washington, D.C. in mid-June. They also won the Best State Entry Award for Arkansas and won the National Archives Award with a \$1000.00 prize. To get to the National Finals they came in first in the District competition and also first in the State.

The two took "Judge Isaac Parker" and his times as the theme of their poster. The judges

were very impressed with the impact Judge Parker had on the area and the conditions he was operating under at Fort Smith. Park Ranger Guy Nichols of the Fort Smith National Historic Site assisted them with their research, and they felt it would be appropriate to present the poster to the site. The poster is on display at the Historic Site.

Both Kemp and Burkert will be entering the University of Arkansas this fall in the pre-med program.

#### WATER FROM LEE CREEK RESERVOIR

On Wednesday, May 10, 1992, Mayor Ray Baker, former Fort Smith Mayor Bill Vines and former Van Buren Mayor Gene Bell turned the valve to release the first of Lee Creek's drinking water into the Fort Smith water system as Sebastian and Crawford County officials officially joined the Lee Creek Reservoir to the Fort Smith water system. This event marked one of the last milestones in the \$31.5 million dam and reservoir project. Fort Smith city administrator, Strib Boynton, said other additions, such as utility relocations and land easements, pushed the cost to about \$37.5 million.

#### FORT SMITH SYMPHONY 1992-1993 SEASON

#### John Thellman, Music Director/Conductor

October 3, 1992: Piano Spectacular featuring Alan and Alvin Chow, Pianists.

December 5, 1992: Christmas Delights featuring Westark Community College Choir, Dr. Brent Ballweg, Director, and Tschaikowsky's Nutcracker Suite. This is also a Fort Smith Sesquicentennial event which will be preceded by a Christmas parade, a reception and burying of a time capsule.

February 6, 1993: Valentine Special, Derry Deane, Violin. Winner of the Artistic Ambassador for the United States Information Agency. Tours in United States, Central America, Europe, Canada, Near East, South America and Africa.

April 3, 1993: Tenth Annual Young Artist Competition Winner.

May 15, 1993: Super Pops featuring Don McLean, Vocalist.

Tickets: Adults — \$55, \$45, \$35. Students — \$44, \$38, \$28.

> Mail, phone or FAX your order to: The Fort Smith Symphony P.O. Box 3151 Fort Smith, AR 72913

Phone: (501) 452-7575 / FAX (501) 452-8985

### Inquiries and Letters

Inquiries and letters are printed free as space allows, but must have some connection to Fort Smith or be submitted by a member of the Fort Smith Historical Society. Effective inquiries must contain full names, dates, places, and submitter's name and address. Don't laugh! Some people do fail to give an address where they hope to receive an answer to their communication.

\* \* \* \* \*

WILKINS, RICHISON/RICHARDSON, BAR/ BARROW, BAKER, ORNDORFF/ORNDOFF and FARRIS: I would like to correspond with descendants of the following who lived in Crawford and Sebastian Counties, AR: John WILKINS (b. 1838 in IL, AR, or MO) was a U.S. Marshal or U.S. Jailor until about 1900 in Fort Smith. He married Mary RICHISON (b. 1846, Laclede Co., MO), the daughter of George W. RICHISON/RICHARDSON (b. ca 1822) & Sarah Barrow (b. 1828) who lived near Fort Smith. Elisha Baker (b. 1850) & Elizabeth "Lizzie Beth" (b. 1861) - her later married names were ORNDORFF/ORNDOFF and FARRIS. Susan M. (Oliver) Lugar, 7333 East 6e Place So., Tulsa, OK 74133-1110. PH: 918-254-3672.

RECTOR, QUESENBERRY: The Journal and your RECTOR/DUVAL file has helped me greatly. My mother Mary RECTOR MINGER was the daughter of Col. Elias RECTOR and Anna HUNTON RECTOR. Elias was "Lidy", the youngest child of Major Elias RECTOR and Catherine J. DUVAL RECTOR mentioned in the diary in the December, 1977 and April, 1978 issues. My mother left me the family records which include a letter from William QUESENBERRY dated October 6, 1989, to Major RECTOR. Can anyone tell me more about William Quesenberry? Patricia Minger Vorenberg, 20 Grassland Street, Lexington, MA 02173.

M.A.C. COLLEGE: Our family has a photograph of my grandfather with his college graduating class of about 70 young men. On the back is written "Class of 1889 M.A.C.". Could M.A.C. have been the initials for a college that did not survive, or perhaps merged into another institution? His parents lived in Fort Smith at the time the picture was taken. Gene Pettit, 6319 Meredith Drive, Bellaire, TX 77401-3302. PH: 713-666-3304.

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PATTEN: Need information on a Fred William PATTEN, b. 1917 Pope (Pope Co.?) Ark., a Catholic, and was in hospital in Pope? Ark. as a young boy. Was placed in a boarding school in Fort Smith as a young boy, ran away when he was 16-17. Any help will be appreciated. Clay Waybright, 2404 Andre, Turlock, CA 95380.

GOFORTH: Seeking information on Robert Bluford GOFORTH, usually called Bluford or Bluf. Born in Arkansas on March 24, 1865, and died near Antlers, Oklahoma, on December 17, 1935. Father was Andrew born in North Carolina. Brothers William and James were born in Tennessee 1862 and 1859 respectively. Family moved to Arkansas between 1862 and 1865. Family in Meigs Co., Tennessee, 1860, census and Sebastian County, Ark., in 1870 census. Larry Goforth, 2026 North 12th, McAlester, OK 74501.

BRIDGES, SPENCER: Wm. H. BRIDGES (sometimes called Old Hickory), wife was Lucinda Jane. George Washington BRIDGES, wife Maudie Ethel SPENCER. Jeremiah SPENCER was a postmaster. All families lived in Fort Smith, Winslow and Mountainburg area. Polly Hayes, 909 Terrawood, Coweta, OK 74429.

SPRINGSTON: Peter Flavius SPRINGSTON died while visiting in Jonesboro or Paragould, Ark. 14 Feb. 1874. Need proof of death. Had a sister, Celia SPRINGSTON, b. 5 Feb. 1795 in VA or KY, d. 29 March 1878 in Jonesboro. M/1 David Hornbeck in KY or IN. M/2 James White/Wight 16 April 1831, Spencer Co. IN moved to AR later. A brother, William SPRINGSTON married Emmaline/Emily Wright 5 Dec. 1828 Spencer Co. IN and moved to Washington Co. AR in early 1840s. Jewel (Mrs. Jack) Nunemacher, 2555 PGA Blvd. #41, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410.

#### HELP! HELP! HELP!

15 years of genealogy research was burned in a fire. If I have written you, or if you have shared any research with me, I would like to hear from you again. I will return postage and pay copy costs. The following is a list of surnames and states:

BLACKARD ... KS, IL, TN, AR, NC, ENGLAND DUNLAP ... KS, MO, TX, IA, OH RHINEHEART ... KS, OK, CA, IL, W.VA, PA CALDWELL ... KS, IL WORKMAN ... KS, MO, IA, NY, WI, GERMANY CHANDLER ... MO, KY, VA KRAUSE ... MO, IA, CA, WI, GERMANY SAGESER ... MO, NJ, CA McCREARY ... MO, MI, PA, KY COUCHMAN ... TX, IN, NC DORN ... TX, AL

My address WAS 3232 S. Clifton #424, Wichita, KS. I am NOW LIVING AT 4480 S. Meridian, #235, Wichita, KS 67217 Donna J. Woods.

REAVIS: I really enjoyed the April issue of The Journal because of the article about the Fort Smith and Western RR.

There was a long relationship between the "Western" and my father. While he did not work "for" the road, he worked "on" it from 1905-1906 until its demise in 1939. He was a railway postal clerk in the mail car, initially to Guthrie and later to Oklahoma City.

Actually, he alternated his "runs" between the FS&W and the Midland Valley to Pawhuska — there's another subject in the future by Mr. Winters — the MV. Glynn Reavis, 234 East Normal, Fersno, CA 93704.

CLEVELAND: I am compiling a multi-volume CLEVELAND genealogical encyclopedia focused on the Southern line advanced by Alexander and Milly Presley CLEVELAND. I have used Edmund Janes CLEVELAND'S 1899 genealogy as the basic core of my research, but for my own project I want to add biographies, family histories, feature material, photographs, and — of course — updated genealogical data. Vikki Lyn Cleveland, 328 Vincent, Salem, IL 62881.

#### Dear Amelia:

I appreciate the recent article concerning the Darby Ladies... Thanks for the work you are doing on the *Journal* and Society, as I know it is a great deal of work. Emory S. Dockery, Jr.

Dear Mrs. Martin:

I have neglected to tell you that your writings have brought me a lot of pleasure... and many times have amazed me. The big Physicians Book was the first time I heard of you.

Dr. W.R. Brooksher removed my appendix in 1914 at Sparks. I operated WGAR for the *Southwest American* and fixed radio sets starting in 1922. Doctors were among the first to order radios. When they arrived I hooked them up and took care of them... kept them working. Doctors wanted me to visit them at night and show them how to get the wanted stations. They were too busy to spend the hours that the ordinary listener could spare. One of the most enthusiastic radio fans was Dr. Saint Cloud Cooper. I spent many hours as late as 10 or 11 radioing with Dr. Cooper... Jimmie Barry.

#### Dear Amelia:

I read Fort Smith Depression Era, your lead article in Vol. 15, No. 2, Sept. 1991, issue. Especially I like the "human interest" you put into the story. You get better and better as an author!

The more I studied your fine article, the more I kept remembering that period in Fort Smith. It brought back fond memories... that 10 year period, when I worked my way thru Junior College and Law School at our State University at Fayetteville, being District Agent for the Curtis Pub. Co. ... we sold Saturday Evening Posts at five cents a copy... "the biggest nickel's worth in the world" (225 pages per issue). During the eight years I had the agency I employed 5000 boys selling magazines in this area... including U.S. Sen. Bumpers, Bob Brooksher (later Mayor), etc. ... The Depression really made an impression all right!

Finally I got to remembering certain items of history of Fort Smith during this era that you might like to know about. I am sending along a few, in case you are interested... (Enclosed).

You sure picked a good topic. Hope you will pick another 10 year period like that later on. Best Regards, Franklin Wilder.

#### **BOOK NOTE**

Deeds and Mortgages 1861-1866, Book A. Sebastian County, Arkansas. 75 pages, indexed, soft bound. \$10.00 postpaid. Order from Sue McCain, 4506 North 46th Circle, Fort Smith, AR 72904. Transcripted from original deeds and mortgages by Mrs. James E. Snow and printed by the Fort Smith Chapter NSDAR, the book contains 678 entries.

### 1892 Newspapers

FORT SMITH ELEVATOR
July 1, 1892 - October 21, 1892

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

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July 1, 1892

#### STATE NEWS

The "Recorder", a new evening paper recently started in Little Rock, has succumbed to the inevitable and climbed the golden stair.

The machinery of the old Pine Bluff compress is being moved to Van Buren, where the presses will be erected and operated by the company recently organized there.

#### CORNER STONE LAYING

The ceremony of laying the corner stone of the house of worship which is being erected at the corner of 11th and Ash streets for our Jewish friends, took place Thursday evening of last week at 5 o'clock. Although the sun's rays were exceedingly "hot" round and about the building, nevertheless it was pleasant and cool where the exercises took place because of the kindness of Mr. George Sengel who very kindly brought a tent for the occasion.

The Masonic Lodge of our city performed the ceremony of laying the stone with their ancient and beautiful rites.

Judge Clayton made some very appropriate remarks and at the close of which Mrs. Mat Strauss rendered a very fine solo, and had it not been a religious ceremony would certainly have received loud applause. Rabbi A. Trangolt delivered a powerful address and after a hymn by the choir, also performed the benediction that closed the preliminary proceeding of erecting the much needed Synagogue. The Equitable Guards under the command of Captain Grant furnished the guard of honor.

#### U.S. COURT NOTES

The adjourned May term of Judge Parker's Court commences today July 1. There are about fifteen murder cases set for trial and the Grand Jury will be confronted with over 200 criminal cases which have to be disposed of.

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#### July 8, 1892 THE FORLORN HOPE

Last Saturday was Republican day at Greenwood, and quite a number of the faithful went out to superintend the naming of a ticket. No one blames them for wanting to have a little fun before the election, for the Lord knows they will have to have it then or not at all. The Democrats take their (the fun) before and after the election and then in addition have the further pleasure of holding the office and drawing the salary. Electing a Republican ticket in Arkansas is a good deal like electing a Democratic ticket in Kansas — it can't be did.

#### **July 15, 1892** NABBED

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Henry King, a dudish looking young fellow, was lodged in the County jail Tuesday afternoon. The cause of his arrest was an attempt to cash a forged sight draft at several of the City banks. King tried to get his forged draft cashed at the First National, Merchants and German Banks but without success. Cashier Copeland at the German National Bank had King placed under arrest and when Chief Wheeler took his man into custody, King tore up the draft. It was a badly botched up affair. King has been teaching music at Eufaula, IT, where it is said he succeeded in obtaining \$40. by the forged draft racket.

Mr. Will Stevenson and Miss Nannie Blackwell were married Tuesday night at the residence of the officiating clergyman Rev. R.T. Edmonds. The groom is one of the well-known Stevenson Bros., being the youngest of the three. The bride is a niece of Mrs. Ike Stevenson and has many friends in Fort Smith. The *Elevator* congratulates the happy couple and wishes them life of unalloyed happiness.

Hiram-Lydia College, Altus, situated on the highest point of the L R & F S railroad, has no malaria or pneumonia. During the fifteen years of its history, there has never been a severe case of sickness, much less a death among its students, and has carried a roll of 100 to 250 students, representing nearly every county in Arkansas and several states and territories besides. We challenge any college to say as much.

#### July 22, 1892

WORK OF THE DALTONS Another Daring Robbery of the

M K & T Railroad in the Indian Territory
Forty Thousand Dollars said to have been secured, one man killed and several wounded.
(Full report too long to extract.)

The blacksmiths, horseshoers and wagon makers have formed a union at Hot Springs under the American Federation of Labor with 22 charter members.

The Democrats will win this year: Cleveland will be the next President and Benjamin Harrison will have to walk the plank in March next. This is a good time for backsliders to get on top of the bandwagon.

#### TERRITORY BEER

It looks as though the beer question, which has hexed law-abiding citizens of the Territory for some time would be settled for all time to come. Col. J.B. Forrester last Friday telegraphed Senator Berry at Washington asking him if the amendment making it a violation to sell beer in the territory had passed the Senate. Senator Berry replied that the bill as amended by the House had passed. We have not seen a copy of the bill, but it is safe to say that its provisions are such that the man who sells in the Territory in the future will have rough sailing ahead of him, especially if he comes before Judge Parker for trial.

A pair of kid gloves have been left at this office. Owner can have same by calling for them.

(No more papers available for review until following date.)

The Report That An Attempt Was to be Made to Rob the Frisco, Causes a Whirlwind of Excitement.

A report that the passenger trains on the Frisco were in danger of being robbed by the Dalton Gang, was the means of considerable excitement on the streets Monday morning. An *Elevator* man was on the north bound train Saturday night, and scattered through the train were sixteen deputy marshals but nothing unusual transpired.

But the climax was reached Sunday night. The watchman at Winslow tunnel imagined he smelt Daltons in the air, and when the south bound train came along, this lynx eyed individual called a halt and the train was detained several

hours. The next morning a posse was sent up from this city. Horses were shipped up also, but a critical search of the country in the vicinity of Winslow failed to unearth the Daltons. Two innocent hunters had caused all the excitement and a big sensation was spoiled.

The entertainment at the residence of Col. Ward on north Sixth Street one evening last week for the benefit of St. John's Hospital was a decided success every way. Misses Nona and Dallie Tilly, Marguerite Saunders, Melinee Clayton, Bessie Ward and Bessie Rogers deserve the honor for the successful result of entertainment. Sixteen Dollars have been turned over to the Hospital Board.

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August 19, 1892

BUCKLENS' ARNICA SALVE

The Best Salve in the world for Cuts, Bruises, Sores, Ulcers, Salt Pheum, Feyer-Sores, Tetter, Chapped Hands, Chilbains, Corns and all Skin Eruptions, and positively cures Piles or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give satisfaction, or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box.

For Sale by W.H. Cole Druggists, Fort Smith, Ark.

Morton Rutherford and Ed Thomas have returned from Eureka Springs; where they drank mineral water and got fat. They enjoyed their vacation hugely.

Do not be misled by commission men who want to ship your peaches, but bring them to the Fort Smith Canning Company as they buy them out right and pay the cash.

At the council meeting Monday night a petition from the property holders on First Street protesting against the granting of an additional side track to the Frisco railway was presented and referred to the committee on streets and alleys.

Johnson and Mathews were given permission to erect an oven for barbecuing meats on the corner of Eleventh and Garrison Avenue.

Rev. W.P. Throgmorton, the new pastor of the First Baptist Church, arrived in the city the latter part of the week from his old home in Louisiana, Mo. and preached his initial sermon Sunday morning. Dr. Throgmorton is a big man — big bodied, big hearted and big brained. He was accounted one of the best preachers in Missouri, and comes to Fort Smith with most flattering recommendations. Mrs. Throgmorton will arrive about the first of September.

Fort Smith is probably the only city of its size anywhere that does not have the benefit of night service by a telegraph company. It is impossible to either send or receive a message after nine o'clock at night. Surely a city which has the commercial prominence enjoyed by Fort Smith is entitled to better treatment in this regard.

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#### August 26, 1892

Last week a couple came in on the night train, went to one of the hotels, registered as man and wife and accepted the same room. The next morning the gentleman went out and returned with a preacher and a wedding ceremony was performed. As they molested no one and evidently meant no harm, let us draw the mantle of charity over them and take it was some runaway couple who had to economize and doing the best they could under the circumstances.

Wanted at once ten salesmen. On Salary. Apply to Sam Younger, 815 Gar. Ave. Fort Smith, Ark.

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Mrs. Christina Hess died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Frank Freer, Monday after a protracted illness. Mrs. Hess was born in Prussia in the year 1820. She had been a resident of this city for forty years. She was an etablished woman greatly loved by those who knew her best. Three daughters, Mrs. Frank Freer, Misses Alvina and Anna Hess mourn her loss. Funeral services were held from the German Lutheran Church Tuesday afternoon, Rev. P.F. German officiating.

The Ketcham Iron Co. has secured the contract for erecting an iron fence on the north side of Oak Cemetery. The fence will be 667 feet long and will cost \$1267.30. There were three outside bidders, but our home company's pole knocked the persimmons.

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* September 9, 1892
YOUR ATTENTION

Is Called to our Magnificient Stock of Mens, Boys and Childrens Clothing

We carry the largest stock in the city and sell our Tailor Made Clothing Cheaper than those try to be clothiers. Our line of —

Hats, Shirts and Neck-Wear

Is the largest in the State. We are the Greatest Clothing House in the City, and we know the want of people. Your patronage is solicited.

The Great Western Clothing House 523 Garrison Ave. Cor. Sixth Street Fort Smith, Ark.

P.S. Mail orders are promptly attended to.

Forty-two boys and girls went out to "Hard-scrabble" Tuesday and spent the day with the Sengel's. The occasion was the birthday of Master George Sengel, and the little folks enjoyed the day as only boys and girls can. They roamed over the hills and through the valleys, visited the watermelon patch and apple orchard, fell into the fish pond, and ate two good square meals and came home shouting and laughing.

Burglars are abroad in the land. Monday night some sneak thief effected an entrance into Col. Clayton's house on Sixth street and carried off two diamond rings and some gold medals belonging to Miss Anne Clayton. The medals are prized very highly by Miss Clayton, having been awarded her at school. The burglar evidently got frightened and left, none of the other rooms in the house having been ransacked.

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The graduates of the Fort Smith High School are now placed upon the accredited list of the Arkansas Industrial University. This is the result of an examination of the workings of our High School made by a committee of the University sent here for that purpose. The graduates of our High School are now placed upon the accredited list of the Universities of Arkansas, Missouri, and Texas, a distinction enjoyed by no other High School in the State.

Good looks are more than skin deep, depending upon the healthy condition of the vital organs. If the liver is inactive you have a Bilious look. If your stomach is disordered you have a Dyspeptic look and if your kidneys are affected you have a Pinched look. Secure good health and you will have good looks. Electric Bitters is the great alternative and Tonic acts directly on those vital organs. Cures Pimples, Blotches, Boils and gives a good complexion. Sold at W.H. Cole's drug store. 50¢ per bottle.

#### September 9, 1892

JERUSALEM!

Grand Old Sebastian County Democratic Majority Increased

Glory to God! The G.O.P. and the Pee Pee's Swamped Beneath a Shower of Ballots.

No Man Lost Mallet Got "Paralleled" and Peel was "Peeled".

Fusion Knocked Silly
A Cyclone Struck the State Monday,
but "Cyclone" Davis didn't do it.

Fishbacks Plurality 30,000 The County Ticket in Sebastian County Elected by majorities ranging from 1200 to 1600.

Mr. J.B. Crowe, an expert laundryman of Little Rock, has recently purchased the machinery of the Snowflake Laundry and will locate in Fort Smith permanently. The name has been changed to the Eureka Steam Laundry. Mr. Crowe is a very pleasant gentleman, and deserves to succeed. Mr. Arthur D. Johnson, of this city, has accepted a position with the Eureka, where he can be found when not up rustling up work.

## \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* September 15, 1892 PRIVILEGES FOR SALE

The privileges of the camp ground of the U.C.V. for September 28, 29, and 30, as hereinafter enumerated will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder, in front of the Main Hotel, on Friday, September 16 at 2 o'clock p.m.

Cigars and Tobacco
Ice Cream, Cake, Lemonade, etc.
Lunch and Coffee
Fruits, Peanuts and Popcorn

The purchaser will be required to pay cash in advance.

Ben T. DuVal Chairman of Committee ATTEST: R.M. Fry, Secretary.

AN ERROR CORRECTED

Eds. Elevator: We of Hanson are very much disappointed at not receiving a notice of contributing two beeves to the ex-Confederate reunion in Ft. Smith. We find that W.J. Watts not only failed to report Hanson's contribution, but has failed to speak of Muldrow also, which place furnished three beeves, and which contributed the five beeves which he has reported in his own name.

Now, there are several veterans in the vicinity of Hanson, and as a matter of course we want credit to which we are entitled. Please publish this and correct the report already made.

Hanson.

#### FELL FROM A TRESTLE

Last Sunday afternoon William Biau fell from the Frisco trestle near the National Cemetery, sustaining injuries from which he may die. The height of the trestle is about 25 feet. Biau for the past year or two has been partially demented and about a year ago fell from the same trestle from which he met his accident Sunday afternoon. He is in St. John's Hospital.

Later: Mr. Biau died Wednesday from the effects of the fall.

The Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce will give a premium of \$5.00 for the largest section of grape vine that is brought to the rooms by Dec. 1, 1892. The section must be 3 feet long and more than thirty-three inches in circumference.

John Schuey, charged with adultery, gave his captor Will Taylor (Col.) the slip Saturday in an exceedingly neat manner. Taylor was on his way to court at this place from Muskogee. Somewhere between Hanson and Muldrow Schuey asked to go to the water closet. Permission was granted but instead of stopping at the proper place, he kept on, and darting out of the doors jumped from the train and took to the woods. The train was going at the rate of 30 miles an hour, and before it could be stopped the fugitive was out of sight.

#### — ● — WEDDING DAY

Mr. Jerre Cravens and Miss Emma Sue Tippit were married Wednesday at noon at the Presbyterian Church, Rev. McN. McKay officiating. Fort Smith does not contain two more estimable young people than they and the *Elevator* wishes them well in their new relations.

The Wedding of Mr. J.H. Kruel and Miss Anna Boas took place Wednesday evening at half past eight o'clock in the Lutheran Church. Rev. P.F. Germann, Pastor, celebrating the solemn rites. The *Elevator* is pleased to congratulate this popular and deserving young couple, and extends to them best wishes for future happiness.

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#### October 14, 1892

The Chamber of Commerce is making arrangements for the building of a panel to be composed of native wood to be exhibited at the World's Fair at Chicago. There are 129 varieties of wood in this State and the intention is to have a specimen of each in the panel. Secretary Bob Adair is preparing the list of woods, and this is proving no small task.

#### "HOUSE WARMING"

Last Friday night Burt Page and John C. Gardner gathered up quite a number of their friends in wagons half filled with hay and took them out to their poultry farm where they had a grand house warming. They had just completed their house and took advantage of a bright full moon and good opportunity for a gay time.

The yard was well lighted with Chinese lanterns, a string band was on hand, and the jolly crowd "tripped the light fantastic" til the early morning hours drove them back to the city. A lunch was taken along by the ladies in the party. The whole affair was voted a huge success, especially the hay ride, which promises to become as popular here as in the more eastern and northern states.

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#### October 21, 1892

#### THE COLUMBIAN CELEBRATION

The Celebration of Columbus Day will be held in the Grand Opera House today instead of at the park as was first contemplated. The exercises will begin at 2 o'clock, sharp, and all organizations which expect to take part in the parade are requested to report to John H. Maledon, grand marshal.

The celebration will be held under the auspices of the Catholic Knights of Honor, who have shown commendable zeal in making the affair a success. The orators of the day are Abbott Ignatius Conrad of the Monastery of Subiaco, Spielersville, Logan County and Judge E.E. Bryant of this city.

Judge Blythe has authorized the announcement that he will open court on the 24 inst. for the purpose of hearing complaints of those who feel aggrieved concerning the assessment of their personal property. There are many in the city who will do well to give this matter their personal attention.

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(There are no newspapers on film after this date for the year 1892.)

## Fort Smith Historical Society Members

#### **JULY 1, 1992**

#### LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

(Board meeting October 10, 1984: Surviving spouse of Life Member continues to receive *Journals*. In future: all Life Memberships to be for both.)

Ackley, Shauna Alexander, J.C., Jr., M/M Allen, Sam B. Baker, Alice Mayberry Baker, Monica Barber, E.E., Jr., Mrs. Barber, Easy, M/M Barber, Marci Barker, Mary Barron, William P., Mrs. Barry, Howard M. Bledsoe, L. Wayne Bowers, Don S., M/M Bracht, C. Victor Brocchus, Charles G., Mr. Brown, James A., Dr. Burch, T.L. Burns, Doyne E., Mrs. Carson, Jerry Caruthers, Elmo, Jr., Mr. Cary, Victor L., BGen. City National Bank Clouse, Vester W.

Condren, Stewart M.

Corley, Carl D.

Cotton, Ray W. Cravens, Elizabeth E. Cravens, Fadio, Jr. Daniel, D. Gene, Mrs. Davis, R.L. Deer, Carole J. Delt, Mary DeWitt, Delores R. Dunlap, David D. First National Bank Floyd, Wallace C. Fulgham, David, M/M Gambrel, Francis O'Kelly Gardner, John F., Jr., M/M Gardner, Ronald, Jr. Geurin, James R., M/M Girard, Charles Graf, J.E., M/M Grant, H.L., M/M Griffin, Richard B. Hadley, Peggy A. Harris, David L. Hauert, Carl W. Hawkins, Franklin, M/M Heflin, George, M/M Hill, Robert B. Hinton, Betty J., Dr. Irwin, Peter J., Dr. and Mrs. Isaacks, Stanley, Mrs.

Jacobsen, Mary L. Johnson, K.W., M/M Johnson, Robert E. Johnston, Ben B., M/M Joyce, Taylor A., M/M Kelley, Gordon, Miss Kelly, James B. Kistler, Betty L. Klopfenstein, Keith, Dr. Koenig, A.S., Mrs. Koenig, A. Samuel, Dr. Lee, Robin, DDS Lewis, Jesse R., Jr. Lloyd, Joe T., Jr. Looper, Floy Martin, Art B., Jr., M/M Martin, Art B., Dr. and Mrs. Martin, Nathan Martin, Tommy Matthews, Ruth I., Mrs. McCullough, Warren, M/M McDonough, J. Martin, Jr. McMinimy, D.J., Mrs. Merchants National Bank Miller, Phil and Amy Moore, Edna, Mrs. Morrow, Payne Northside High School Parker, Steve, Dr. and Mrs.

Patterson, Franklin M. and Lucy Pollan, George A., Mrs. Porter, C.B., Jr. Pryor and Barry, Attorneys at Law Quenin, James H., Lt. Col. Reed, C. Robert Roberts, Altha L. Roberts, Ramona Schaefer, Paul, M/M Schmidt, Linda Evans Secrest, Mrs. Helen Sharum, Teri Barber Shelburne, Donald M. Sorrell, James Speer, Ralph, Jr. Stouffer, Walter L., Jr., Mrs. Stubblefield, Joel R. Sunnymede School Library Taylor, Charles E. Taylor, Robert C., M/M Tennant, Lawrence S., M/M Tillery, Kenneth L., M/M Tisdale, Martin, Mrs. Vorenberg, S.C., Mrs. Vorster, Sister Pieree Walker, Henry E., Jr. Walker, Jerry L. Walling, Robert V., Dr. Wanslow, Robert Weidman, Bill and Peggy Westfall, Ernest N. Winans, Lewis, M/M Winters, Charles E. Woods, Pendleton Woods, Powell Wray, Thelma Yearty, Gordon A.

#### BUSINESS MEMBERSHIPS

Baldor Electric Company City National Bank Fort Smith Convention & Visitors Bureau Holt Krock Clinic Jim Grizzle Tire Company Taliano's Restaurant

#### EXCHANGE MEMBERSHIPS

Arkansas Genealogical Society, Inc. Boone County Historical and Railroad Bradley County Historical Society Carroll County Historical Society Clark County Historical Association Craighead County Historical Society Crawford County Genealogical Society Desha County Historical Society, Inc. Garland County Historical Society Grand Prairie Historical Society Hempstead County Historical Society Jackson County Historical Society Johnson County Historical Society Kin Hunters Logan County Historical Society Mountain Press Northwest Missouri Genealogical Society Ouachita County Historical Society Permian Basin Genealogical Society, Inc. Pope County Historical Association

Pulaski County Historical Society Quapaw Quarter Association

Library, Inc.

Smoky Valley Genealogical Society &

South Sebastian County Historical Society
Texarkana Historical Society & Museums
Washington County Historical Society
Woodruff County Historical Society
Yell County Historical & Genealogical
Association

### SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIPS

Ayers, John G., M/M Bowers, Don S., M/M Chester, Robert L., Dr. Earnhart, Milt and Mary Hurley, Edward, Mrs. Johnston, Gene Kerr, David H. Patterson, E.H., M/M

### CONTRIBUTING MEMBERSHIPS

Bruce, Forrest O. and Virginia M. Carter, Walter L., M/M Chamber of Commerce Combs, Marie, Mrs. Cook, Joel M. Cooper Clinic Cotner, Cleve L. Cowan, William R. Duerr, Joseph H., M/M Edwards-Fentress Farmer, Jim G., and Jane, Jr. Green, Aaron A., Jr. Greve, Anna T. Harr, Clyde L. Hawkins, Robert, M/M Hawkins, Victoria Heathcock, Leota Hoge, Marlin, Dr. Hughes, R.P., Jr., Dr. and Mrs. Jackson, S.W., Jr., M/M Jaggers, Robert Johnston, Donna Britton Knight, W.E., Dr. Lawson, James, Judge and Mrs. Little, Freed Mankin, Charles S. McCormic, Ron and Paula Mott, John K. Olive, David, M/M Pearce, Larry Pence, Eldon D. & Betty C. Pendergraft, Ross Richards, William S. Spiro State Bank Swafford, Joanne Timmons, Denise, Mrs. Vick, Robert H., M/M Walcott, James, Mrs. Whiteside, Edwin, M.D. Wilson, Morton C., M.D. Wingfield, Lilly Zotter, Charles

#### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS

Abrego, Mary Ann, Ms.
Allen County Public Library
Allen/Hawkins, Jane E.
Allison, Leo D.
Alter, Harold, Mrs.
Arkansas Tech University
Arnold, Edith Vines
Atkinson, Tom
Baker, C. Ray
Ballard, Merlene, Mrs.

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

(---) - for such as title, marital status, degree, etc.
"---" - for nickname or special emphasis.

- dash between page numbers indicates the name of the person, place, etc. is carried throughout the story.

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