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COVER: Lovoi-Caldarera Wedding Party 1920. L to R: Ouida Caldarera (cousin), Dave Caldarera, Ouida C. Lovoi (Bride), and Sarino Lovoi.

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# Growing Hp Italian A History of the Lovoi/Caldarera Hamily In Fort Smith, Arkansas

#### BIRTH OF AN IDEA

For a number of years six people who grew up in the 400 block of South 12th in Fort Smith, Arkansas, have discussed writing a history of their family as a gift to their children, grand-children, and generations to come. They knew they were Italians, their parents told them so. In addition, their food likes included Italian pastas, of all shapes and served with sauces of all types.

Like a number of other families, the urge to write was born long after those who could answer specific questions about the past were gone. This is the result of their efforts, relying on the recollections of stories told to them, facts gleaned from census records, and pictures and notes left from their parents' generation.

These people are, listed in age order, Paul Lovoi, Antoniette Hindman, Vincent S. Lovoi, Augustina Lovoi, Mary Ann McMahon, and Dolores Moellers. Their parents were Sarina Lovoi and Ouida Caldarera. The two brothers and Dolores no longer live in Fort Smith. All have made their contribution to this story. Paul was notified of his selection to be principal writer. Now in his 70s, his memory goes back further than those of his younger sisters and brother.

#### THE BEGINNING

Like many young male Italians, Salvatore Caldarera came to America to make his fortune. Like all who came, he found that the streets were not paved with gold, but opportunity was there if one was willing to work hard. He arrived in the United States in 1882. Our efforts to find the port of entry have not been concluded, but our present guess is New Orleans. After his arrival it became evident that America was to be his home. (Also, as experienced by other immigrants to the U.S. his name had more than one spelling. Salvatore appears most often in legal records. His tombstone and the obituary in the Fort Smith paper uses Salvadore. Paul will use Salvatore here.)

Salvatore, our grandfather, was born on April 6, 1863, in Sicily, Italy. He was known to have lived in Saint Louis and Springfield, Missouri, before settling in Fort Smith. He appears to have been a leader in that his two brothers, Thomas and Louis, also became residents in Arkansas, as did his nephews, the Narisi Brothers (See story in Volume 15, No. 1, the April, 1991 issue of *The Journal*).

Salvatore moved to Fort Smith prior to the 1900 census, his address was listed as 523 South 12th. His brother Tom and his nephew Jacob Narisi were shown as members of his household. Names also appearing in that census were his two sons, Joseph and David and his daughter Ouida (our mother), an infant at that time ("8/12" to quote the census report). Also, a person not known to us, probably a maid.





Left, Salvadore Caldarera Right, Augustina Sansone Caldarera

Salvatore's wife was listed in the 1900 census as "Gussie", however, we knew her as Augustina (or Agostina, as reported on her grave stone). She was born in November 1873 in Sicily also. Her sister Frances was known to have been born in the town of Termini and we presume Augustina was born there also. Her maiden name was Sansone. Her family came to the United States in 1886. She married at a very young age sometime in 1888 in St. Louis, Missouri.

#### **FAMILY TIES**

It was the Sicilian custom to name children in a very structured manner. The first son and daughter would be given the names of their appropriate paternal grandparent. If there were a second son or a daughter, that child would be named after the appropriate maternal grandparent.

The three Caldarera brothers lived within the area of the 300-500 blocks of South 12th. Each had a son named Joe and a daughter named Ouida. We know then that Salvatore's parents were named Joseph and Ouida. This naming plan produced five "Ouida Caldareras" in the three block area. Other Italian families with whom we are related followed the same plan. Children of Sarino and Ouida named in this manner were Paul, Antoniette and Augustina. Their second son, named Salvatore, died in infancy in 1924.

#### **BUSINESS MATTERS**

An Italian immigrating to Arkansas soon aspired to own his own business. Salvatore had worked in the fresh fruit business before coming to Fort Smith, probably with his father-in-law David Sansone. Mary Ann's father-in-law, Donald J. McMahon, once told her that Salvatore was a very smart business man. By way of illustration Mr. McMahon, a fellow employee with Salvatore at J. Foster & Co., told of Grandpa buying overripe bananas for one cent each and marketing them READY-TO-EAT priced at two cents each. Salvatore ALWAYS sold out of fresh ripe bananas.

In Fort Smith he had a business relationship with J. Foster, a name known in the business community through the 1940s. One of the few surviving pictures of Salvatore shows him standing in front of a building with "Foster, Caldarera & Co." painted on the side. It still stands today at the corner of North "A" and Second Street.

Surviving also are handsome stock certificates of the Caldarera Fruit Company issued to S. Caldarera on Sept. 30, 1911, with his signature as President. The fortunes of that company are not known.

Later, Salvatore owned a business at "Texas corner", where Garrison and Towson meet. It was known as the Caldarera Confectionery.

Both Uncle Dave and his older brother, Uncle Joe, on the latter's vacation visits to Fort Smith, would point out various pieces of property which were once owned by their father. His ability to use his credit to increase his property holdings was offset by a weakness to purchase fancy, gold edged shares of stock being sold by salesmen being in town just a short time. This weakness resulted in his selling property to buy stock and resulted in his dving a man of modest means. One stock purchase had a happier ending. Both Uncle Dave and our Father told Mary Ann this story. A stranger came to town and Salvatore bought some shares. Years later, he had an offer from the stranger who wanted to buy the shares. Seeing the prospect of a modest profit(?), Grandpa sold. The stranger's name was HENRY FORD! This transaction was probably Grandpa's only winner in stock dealings, outside of his own companies.

#### **UPDATING FAMILY MATTERS**

In the meantime, Salvatore's family grew with the addition of Mary (1902) and Tom (1904). Augustina, his wife, was a very pretty woman, as her picture attests. Her parents, David and Mary Sansone, lived in Springfield, Missouri, and we presume there may have been occasional visits either way, as railroad transportation was thriving.

Augustina Caldarera, our Grandmother, passed away on April 30, 1905, leaving five children, the oldest being 14 years old and the youngest, the infant Tom.

Somehow Salvatore managed. We know that for a period of time the two youngest children were boarded at the St. Anne's Convent. Another of Uncle Dave's stories was that a stranger came to Fort Smith and threatened Salvatore by suggesting that harm would come to his small children, if payment of a certain sum of money to the stranger was not made. The story goes that Salvatore went to the office of the Chief of Police to report the incident. The Chief found the stranger, and delivered the message that there was a train leaving Fort Smith at 6:00 p.m. and he, the stranger, had better be on it. And he was. In those days, apparently, the civil rights of a peaceful citizen outweighed those of a person threatening harm.

In 1909 Salvatore accompanied two of his Narisi nephews to Sicily. The three returned with a wife for each, all three having married there. The 1910 census reports that David and Mary Sansone were residents at Salvatore's house, so we can assume the grandparents tended the children during their father's trip to Sicily. Salvatore's new wife was Maretena Calma, a widow with a young son. Later, they had a daughter, whom they named Rose. She was the last of his six children to die, having passed away in February, 1991.

#### **MEANWHILE IN BISACQUINO**

On October 18, 1890, a baby boy was born in Bisacquino, Sicily, Italy. He was the second son of Paolo LoVoi, his father, and the first son of Paolo's second wife, Antonina Costa. Therefore, he was named after his mother's father, Rosario, but was called Sarino, the nickname for Rosario. Sarino quit school at an early age, after the second grade.

After completing the required military term for young Italian males (he served in the Cavalry), he began thinking of going to America.

His mother, fearful of the war clouds looming over Europe, encouraged him. He planned the trip with a friend who had a promise of a job with contacts in Houston, TX. Sarino's brother was to make the trip also, but changed his mind before they left Sicily. He sailed from Palermo on August 21, 1913, on the steamship ANCONA, which arrived in New York on September 2, 1913.

In the later years of his life, Sarino could not remember how he got from Ellis Island to a train for Texas, since he spoke no English when he arrived in the U.S. He and his friend did arrive in Houston and began their work in a lumber camp outside the city. In time, they became dissatisfied with this work and decided to go to Alabama, where they heard there were settlements of Italians. When they went to collect their unpaid accumulated wages, they encountered difficulty. They went into Houston and located the office of the Italian Consul and the matter was soon resolved, leaving them with money and free to travel.

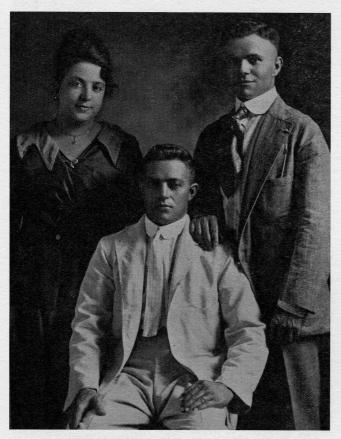
Sarino knew that his Aunt Frances (a sister of his mother and also the wife of Thomas Caldarera) lived in Fort Smith and decided to

La
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route himself through Arkansas on his way to Alabama. What a joyous reunion that must have been! Sarino was reunited with his Narisi friends and had introductions to the many Caldareras born in the U.S.A.

We believe that he lived with his Aunt for a while and worked at jobs with the Caldareras and/or Narisis. We were told he had a serious illness (appendicitis, perhaps) and he fondly remembered the nursing care Aunt Frances gave him.

Sometime after he took up residence in Fort Smith, all thoughts of Alabama having been forgotten, he must have become very friendly with Ouida Caldarera, Salvatore's daughter. Rules of courtship among the Italians were very strict, we do not know how long a period of time this covered. We have a picture of Sarino and Ouida and her cousin, Dominick Narisi. It appears that even a picture taking session required a chaperone.



Standing, Ouida Caldarera and Sarino Lovoi. Seated, Dominic Narisi.

#### WORLD WAR I

The war broke out in 1914, about a year after Sarino arrived in the United States. Italy was a friendly ally and when the U.S.A. declared war on Germany on April 6, 1917, Sarino must have been filled with patriotic emotion. At age 27 he

enlisted on June 24, 1918. He had completed the residential requirement for citizenship and he became naturalized. His Certificate of Naturalization, dated July 18, 1918, at Camp Pike, Arkansas, showed his official name to be "Rosario Lovoi". He had dropped the capital "V", the reason for doing so (he had one explanation and Mother had another) made lively conversation with his children in later years at the dinner table.

Sarino's Italian army training came into play when he was sent to Camp Pike. A newspaper article headlined, "FORT SMITH ITALIAN IN LINE OF PROMOTION" reported "Sereno Lavoi is being closely watched by the officers and it is stated he will be promoted as soon as he becomes a bit more proficient in English." (Note: All of the Lovois have one or both of their names misspelled at one time or another.)

His romance with Ouida must have progressed nicely, because he went AWOL, to go from Little Rock to Fort Smith for a visit. During his basic training, he injured his leg and this created problems for him during his entire service. This may have been fortuitous as he belived the injury saved him from going to the front lines.



Sarino Lovoi in United States World War I army uniform.

In spite of his injury, Private Lovoi was sent to France with the American Expeditionary Forces on September 22, 1918. He told of being on a crowded ship, having to find sleeping quarters on deck, getting little medical attention for his gangrene infected leg. Somehow he survived the ordeal, but much of his military time was spent in recuperation. On July 23, 1919, he was returned to the United States. On August 4, 1919, he received his honorable discharge from the Army.



Lovoi - Caldarera Wedding Party 1920. L to R: Ouida Caldarera (cousin), Dave Caldarera, Ouida C. Lovoi (Bride), and Sarino Lovoi.

#### **WEDDING BELLS**

Ouida Caldarera spent the war years waiting for her sweetheart. She had completed the eighth grade at St. Anne's Academy, quite an achievement for a young lady in those days. Later, she often said that her goal was to make sure that all of her children receive more education than she had. She worked at a Confectionery, maybe Narisi's.

Family records do not report the romance through its various stages of courtship, engagement, and wedding planning. A Fort Smith newspaper gave an elaborate report of the September 8, 1920 nuptials. Poor Sarino the article mentioned him twice: in the headline "Weddings Tavio-Caldarera" and later "Mr. Sarino Lavoi". Attendants were best man, Dave Caldarera, Mother's brother, and Ouida Caldarera, who was cousin to Father and also cousin to Mother, which the newspaper duly reported. The article gave the complete musical program and details rarely mentioned in wedding reports in the 90s.

Probably all of their offspring have been told by an eye witness of the wonderful wedding reception and party that lasted till the early morning hours. Sarino had brewed home-made wine, in prohibition days, yet. When asked by his children of their travel plans, Sarino said "I got up the next morning and went to work!"

#### SALVATORE'S LATER YEARS

Salvatore's family circle, before and after his daughter Ouida's marriage, was undergoing change. His oldest son, Joe, had left for the state of Missouri, his birthplace. He learned the hotel and restaurant business from members of his mother's family. He married Josie Crivello of Alton, Illinois, and they had one child, Eugene.

Salvatore' second wife, Maretena, was accepted by the other Italian ladies of South 12th Street, perhaps more so than by her stepchildren.

Sarino and Ouida purchased a house at 405 South 12th and soon made it a home. Their first child and Salvatore's first grandchild came along in 1921, followed in 1923 by the first granddaughter and in 1924 by a little boy named Salvadore (our Mother's spelling), who sadly did not live to his first birthday.

We do not know the exact dates, but Salvatore's second son, Dave (then in his late 20s) and Tom (9 years younger than Dave) became active in the Caldarera Confectionery.

On August 23, 1925, Salvatore Caldarera died of a heart attack at age 60. A newspaper account referred to him as "one of the best known Italian residents of this city" and again as "one of the successful members of the Italian colony of the city".

Later, his wife Maretena and daughter Rose moved to Alabama and spent the rest of their lives there.



Lovoi Cafe, 703 Rogers.
L to R: Waitress (unknown), Joe Cuilla, Ouida Lovoi and Sarino Lovoi holding his daughter Antoniette.

#### THE LOVOI CAFE

Before Salvatore's death, Sarino's dream was realized when he set up business at the Lovoi Cafe at 703 Rogers Avenue, directly across from the Union Station, a railroad terminal. We are not familiar with the financial details of the business, but he must have incurred debt. No doubt the Italians who had established themselves by then were helpful. He moved his family to the upstairs of the building and rented the house on South 12th. Ouida helped in the business. Unfortunately, there was a fire at the rented house during this period. Sarino had it repaired in a manner that permitted it being rented to two families.

The location of the Lovoi Cafe, near the offices of the city of Fort Smith and south of a business area that included the Bollinger Music Store and J. C. Penney attracted regular

customers, while the main thrust was from transient business of railroad passengers, who between scheduled train stops could come for "take-out" orders, if the layover did not permit a more leisurely meal. A Cafe at this location was good planning in the prosperous 1920s, but three others had the same idea. Looking north from the Union Station, a person could see from East to West, (1) the American Cafe (run by the Italian Peluso family), (a vacant lot with a large billboard) (2) the Lovoi Cafe, (3) a cafe (the fanciest of the four) run by John Liberto, and (4) across the street west one run by Vincent Liberto (no relation to John). All made money.

#### SARINO RETURNS TO SICILY

In 1927 Sarino was concerned about the ill health of his father in Sicily, so he and Ouida made a trip by trains and steamboat to Italy. His



Paul and Antoniette Lovoi.

Photo taken on trip to Italy in 1927.

cousin, Joe Ciulla, took care of the business while the famiy was away. Paul was 5 and Antoniette 4 when the trip began.

As with most families there is no convenient time to have one of the children down with the measles. Antoniette developed hers while the family was in New York waiting to board their steamer; Paul had planned ahead and completed his case in Fort Smith. Mother powdered her daughter's face well, clothed her and smuggled(?) her onto the ship, reporting the illness after the steamer was well at sea.

Sarino's initial joy at seeing his relatives again and his pride in introducing his wife and their two children was followed by sadness, when death came to Grandfather Paolo LoVoi seven days after the American family's arrival.

During the visit (from April to November) the two children spoke English to their parents and showed no interest in Italian. It was said that one morning the two awoke and began chattering in Italian, which they still used when they returned home. As remembered by the parents, the customers of the Lovoi Cafe enjoyed, with no understanding, listening to the two youngsters converse.

Souvenirs bought on the trip indicated that visits were made to Rome and to Naples. The story was told, ad infinitum, about the family walking on the streets of Naples with Paul dressed in his long trousers, vest and coat and little urchins following behind them yelling in Italian, "Look at the Little Papa" while pointing to his suit. The Italians in Fort Smith loved that story and Paul was called "Little Papa" until he reached manhood.

There were pictures of the parents showing the children Gibraltar. The return trip in November found the ocean a little rough and a round of sea sickness for all, who agreed that it was good to return home.

#### LIFE CONTINUES AT THE LOVOI CAFE

On November 28, 1928, a son, named Vincent Salvadore (again, Mother's spelling), was born. About this time the Al Jolson movie in which he sang "Sonny Boy" was popular. One of the waitresses immediately named him Sonny, a nickname that has survived to this day. On January 17, 1930, Augustina joined the family. When Vincent learned to talk, he referred to his sister as TeeTee. This became Teter, a nickname that also survives to the 1990s.

Growing up living above a restaurant was certainly unique. The vacant lot behind the billboard became a playground when the Lovoi youngsters had company. The older two were enrolled at St. Anne's Academy, while they lived there. They started Kindergarten at age 5. How the daily trip from the 700 block of Rogers Avenue to the school at the east end of Garrison was managed (the Lovois did not own a car in those days and school bussing was in the far distant future) is not known.

Paul remembers being permitted to go for lunch to Aunt Mary's hamburger stand near school in the area, known as the Plaza (east side of Garrison at Towson) but now occupied by a motel. Maybe her two brothers, Dave and Tom, worked this business also, but we think of it as Aunt Mary's place.

#### THE DEPRESSION YEARS

From the crash on Wall Street in 1929 on into the 30s, the Great Depression hit the businesses in Fort Smith. On Rogers Avenue the effect on the railroads was so great that passenger business could not keep one restaurant afloat, let alone four. There was one industry that was booming, however. Sarino and Dave went to Kilgore, Texas, to investigate the possibility of operating a restaurant in that oil rich area of Texas. Mary Caldarera, Salvatore's second daughter, had married Ted Slavens, a coal miner, and the four joined together to seek jobs in Kilgore. Sarino and Dave opened a restaurant in Kilgore and Mary and Ted took jobs there.

Tom, Salvatore's youngest son, had married Concetta Pozza, a native of Tontitown, Arkansas. Sarino asked Tom and Connie to look after the Lovoi Cafe while he was away. They did so, but we don't know how long that arrangement lasted. Tom and Connie had one son, Thomas, Jr., who survives and today is a co-owner of Talianos Restaurant in Fort Smith.

Sarino had moved his family back to 405 South 12th Street. Mary Ann joined the family on July 27, 1931. Ouida managed the household expenses on the \$50 check that Sarino sent home monthly. The location of the house was ideal: two blocks from the Immaculate Conception parish school on 13th Street; three to church at the east end of Garrison Avenue; and another block to St. Anne's High School. Downtown Fort Smith was not too far away. Groceries were available one block west on Towson Avenue.

The hot summers brought drought and water derisively known as "Poteau Punch". Fortunately, Ouida was friendly with all of her neighbors. Mr. Miller, across the street, worked at a railroad roundhouse, not far from our home. He arranged for us to get well water at the roundhouse. We took 10 gallon glass containers on our wagon to get water from the roundhouse. One of life's minor tragedies occurred one day, when we reached the incline from Towson to South 12th. The two bottles we were carrying collided and our water supply for that day went down the hill.

Aunt Rose was visiting us from Alabama about the time Mary Ann was born. In those days Mother worried whenever there was a long distance telephone call. Aunt Rose got the news by phone, her stepfather had died, and she left for her home as soon as possible. This may have been the last time that the Lovoi children saw her.

Aside from the separation from our Father, the depression did not hurt us too badly. Food was adequate, Mother provided clothes for us.

While the term was not used in those days, she was an excellent den mother for all. She played the piano "by ear", taught us songs, and kept us entertained. There were dimes squeezed out of her allowance so we could see movies every now and then. She sent us out for piano and violin lessons. She parceled out chores, arbitrated the battles over whose turn it was to do the dishes. Father came for a visit periodically. as did Uncle Dave. Paul and Sonny were treated to a vacation trip to Kilgore. Sonny, who is a geophysicist, gave us a history of those days when oil was 10 cents a barrel. At the time of the trip to Kilgore he was not interested in history. but was interested in seeing his Father, uncles, and aunt.

#### RETURN OF THE TEXANS

In September 1934, there would be additional changes in the lives of the Lovois. One night, Mother awakened Paul and told him to go get Aunt Frances, who lived in the 300 block. Our sister, Dolores was about to be born and Mother was having a heart attack. The baby came through the ordeal in good shape, but she and Mother remained in the hospital two months.

Of course, Father returned from Kilgore. Mother's condition was very serious and he felt he could not cope with the family should he lose her. He broke down in tears one day in front of his children. She did recover and Sarino decided the baby should be named Dolores Grace, two of the titles attributed in the church to the Blessed Virgin. It was a joke among the nurses that Dolores might start in kindergarten from her nursery bassinet.

Sarino and Dave made the decision to close down the operation in Kilgore and acquire a business in Fort Smith. They bought a beer bar and snooker operation near "Texas Corner" and soon were operating the Club Bar. They made some changes, adding a lunch counter on the west side of the building, while the beer bar remained on the east side, with the snooker tables in the back.

The long illness left our parents with a lot of debt (Blue Cross and Blue Shield were unknown in those days, at least not to individuals running a small business). As always, hard work and long hours were the answer to the financial problems.

Paul worked there after school and on weekends while going to Junior College. Later, Sonny and our cousin Tom Caldarera, Jr. also worked there during the years when Paul was soldiering in WWII. Paul was able to complete the work for a degree in Business Administration at the University of Arkansas before being drafted. Sarino had reported to Camp Pike for WWI and now his son reported there, renamed Camp Robinson, for WWII.

#### THE WAR YEARS

Uncle Sam decided that Paul should go to the Hawaiian Islands for basic training, after which he was assigned to the Finance Office United States Army in Honolulu to a desk job. Later, he was sent to the Island of Saipan, his finance unit arriving shortly after D-Day.

Meanwhile, Sarino and Ouida and the younger Lovois were contributing to the war effort. The Club Bar was a victim of the Office of Price Administration which froze hamburger prices at the ridiculously low price in effect before the war-time inflation. Sarino and Dave continued their business, but they always commented on their belief that price administration was not necessary for their two-man operation. With hamburgers selling at 10 cents each, one has to believe that they had a point.

Ouida operated her one-woman USO at 405 South 12th, inviting Italian boys at Camp Chaffee over for Sunday dinner. She and the girls helped with the USO located on 12th Street and all were morale boosters for the young GIs, most of whom seemed to come from New York City. When they bragged about the East being superior to Fort Smith, Mother would say we were fortunate that our ancestors had sufficient funds to permit them to travel to Arkansas.

There was tragedy on the home front, Mother's youngest brother, Tom developed what was then referred to as "Lou Gehrig's Disease". It was sad to watch his gradual degeneration as he lost the use of legs, arms, voice. His wife Connie was a saint and a real heroine. Her right arm below the elbow had been amputated as a result of blood poisoning, but she managed to move him in and out of bed. With help from her son Tommie and Uncle Dave, they made life comfortable for Uncle Tom, even to the point of "camping in" on occasion with the Lovois so that the two families could visit.

Mother followed the wishes of the government to keep mail flowing to the GIs. The notebook with the addresses of all of the relatives in service is proof. She was told that soldiers welcomed packages of food and that Spam was a favorite. Paul was surprised at this gift since Spam was served about five days a week. The war was won!

It was difficult for Sarino. Because of Italy's siding with Germany, there was no correspondence with Bisacquino. He could only imagine the privations his family in Sicily must have endured with the war being fought all around them. He had no news of his mother's health. Sadly, when mail came through after V-E Day he learned that she had passed away. Post-war he sent many packages to his relatives, but letters indicated that many were not received.

Paul had applied for leave about the time of Roosevelt's death. He started for home after V-E Day, he was on board ship a whole month in making the trip. V-J Day came along before he had to leave for the return trip to Saipan, and thus was spared more overseas duty. He stayed at Camp Chaffee until he was discharged from the service.

After V-J Day, upon completing high school, Sarino's son, Vincent enlisted in the Marines, completing the family's military history.

#### TIME MARCHES ON

In the late 30s and early 40s there was first a radio show and then a movie news short named "The March of Time", the final words of which were always, "TIME MARCHES ON". What happened to the contemporaries of Salvatore Caldarera? His two brothers passed on: Louis in 1930; Tom in 1941.

We have few recollections of Louis, himself. Two of his sons, Mike and Joe, had operated concessions at Sportsmen Park (the home of the Cardinals) in St. Louis. They moved on to a beer distributorship in Little Rock and made their home there. A third son, Bernard, remained in Fort Smith with a home in the 500 block of South 12th. A daughter (another Ouida Caldarera) operated a concession at the Joie Theater on 9th Street off of Garrison. She and her mother moved to Little Rock. Later, she married and moved to California.

Tom Caldarera and his family lived in the 300 block of South 12th. He was in many business ventures with Salvatore, being one of the incorporators of the Caldarera Fruit Company in 1911. One story we remember suggests he knew how to win customers. He operated the concession stand at a silent movie theater on Garrison Avenue. Apparently, there was an intermission or two during the movie. He would prepare freshly popped corn. At the break he would open all of the doors into the screening room so that the movie fans would know that good hot popcorn was available. The story goes



Pictures of the Lovoi children taken for their parents 20th wedding anniversary. Names and ages at that time were, L to R: Paul 19, Toni 17, Sonny 12. Bottom row: Teter 10, Mary Ann 9, and Dolores 6. Paul and Toni made the arrangements and it really was a surprise for Grandmother and Granddaddy. Even Dolores kept the secret.

that business was very good. Later, his family operated a cafe in the 200 block of Towson Avenue, with Aunt Frances, his children Ouida and Joe participating and carrying on the business after his death.

In summer 1945, the time for departure came for two members of our extended family. Young Uncle Tom's illness won out over his courageous spirit. Death, no matter how long anticipated because of a terminal illness, is sad for one in his 40s. He was loved by all who knew him. The young Lovois remember his dropping by the house when Mother was baking her good home-made bread. She would give him slices with a bit of olive oil, anchovies, and grated cheese (a mini pizza, if you will) and we all joined in his delight with the treat. Equally well remembered was his love of home-made wine. We could not understand why a taste he dearly loved could evoke the strange faces he would make as he savored the taste. His mind remained alert until the very end. He loved card playing and there was always a volunteer to help him with his cards.

Within a week of this tragedy, Aunt Ouida (Louis' wife) passed away in Little Rock. Since she was to be buried in her family plot at Calvary Cemetery in Fort Smith, where all Italians with ties to Salvatore Caldarera were buried, Mother offered the use of our home for a wake service prior to the funeral.

Aunt Ouida was a small Italian woman, like so many, who never learned to speak English.

Mary Ann was adept at talking to her, so if there were messages for Aunt Ouida, Mary Ann got the assignment of delivery. Aunt Ouida, as was customary for Sicilian women, wore black from the time of her husband's death to her own. In Sicily, we have observed that even youngsters at tender ages are dressed in black at the time of a death in the family. She was well known on South 12th because of her daily walks from her home in the 500 block to the Immaculate Conception Church for morning mass (probably at 7:00 a.m.) and again for evening rosary (at 6:30 or 7:00 p.m.).

The Lovoi family was saddened at the loss of one so young and one who served her time As the booming voice says "Time Marches On".

#### SARINO IN RETIREMENT

In the late 40s Sarino decided that he had been in business long enough, and he and Dave sold their interest in the Club Bar and both retired to the 400 block of South 12th. They had been partners in the construction of two rock and two frame houses and moved in other houses so that rentals for all houses, except 405, were controlled by them.

Later, the ownership of all of the rental property was amicably divided according to agreement and Uncle Dave became the owner of and occupied the rock house north of the Lovois.

Sarino developed skills in making repairs and painting and had no trouble keeping busy. He became interested in endeavors his previous work schedules did not permit, one of which was visiting the Knights of Columbus Hall, a block north of the Immaculate Conception Church. In fact, for a time he was custodian. From his standpoint, his annual garden was more of a required effort than a hobby. All of the family, whether still living at 405 or in their own homes, enjoyed garden ripe tomatoes, green beans, Italian squash, lettuce, grapes and the other items he chose to plant and nurture. Later, while in Bisacquino visiting his cousin's farm (the cousin's name? Paul LoVoi, what else?), Paul, Sarino's son, was struck by the similarity of that farm with his Father's. Then he reminded himself, "Why not, both men had the same teacher, for one a father and for the other a grandfather!"

Then, there was the Ouida-Sarino partnership. They joined in money raising efforts for the church, the Knights of Columbus, the schools their children attended or whatever. First, it was Spaghetti Dinners and later Chili Suppers. They were never at a loss for helpers,



Picture of Ouida and Sarino Lovoi taken on 25th wedding anniversary in 1945.

utilizing those children still at home, cousins, nieces and nephews. From all reports these were very popular and were continued for many years until Ouida became incapacitated.

Dolores remembers helping Daddy use his wine-making skills. He laughed with friends about his purple stained feet from making wine. Dolores says, "not true, he had black boots which reached to his knee, I used them in helping him." During the Lovoi Cafe years, he would serve home-made wine to trusted friends in a cup and saucer. Prohibition and the city jail nearby dictated this practice. Later, Antoniette (who became Toni about this time) was working at St. Edwards Hospital, at Rogers and Lexington. At Christmas time when many Catholics seek the Sacrament of Confession, Toni would get the schedule for confessions at the hospital chapel. Daddy liked it there because of the short line. He had known Father Norton for many years and they were good friends. After completing his confession, Sarino gave a little tap on the closed door behind which the good Father sat and handed him a sack with a jug of home-made wine. We always laughed at the thought that others might have considered that a pay-off for a light penance.

As the 40s ended and the 50s began, a string of weddings began for five of the six Lovoi children. Ouida and Sarino were very happy

about this and the weddings always had an Italian touch.

#### A SAD HAPPENING

The Lovoi family finally had its first car. Unfortunately, while traveling to Tulsa there was an accident near Sallisaw, which left Mother with a broken hip. Fortunately, she was lucid after it happened and insisted that the ambulance driver take her to Fort Smith, rather than Muskogee, because she wanted doctors available who knew of her heart condition. The surgery was extremely serious, and in time she was well, although confined to a wheel chair. The break never healed and there were additional surgeries, but she was able, wheel chair and all, to attend weddings as mother-of-thebride, and to assist children when new grandchildren came into the world. She left a picture of courage in adversity that was a model for her children and others in her family.

Augustina was the sole child still at 405 during these trying times. She was a big help for Ouida and Sarino at this time. He was an excellent cook, so between him and Teter, the household was operated somewhat normally. Mother's spirits were always high and although she had occasional reminders of her heart condition, she was usually the calmest person in the house when that happened.

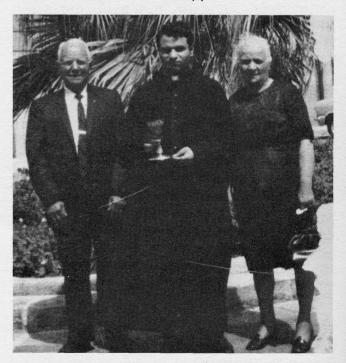


Photo taken in Bisacquino, Sicily, during Sarino Lovoi's visit in 1970. L to R: Sarino Lovoi, Rosario Bacile (nephew) and Vincenzina Bacile (sister).

Ultimately, her body could take no more and she passed away in March, 1960. Her friends and relatives gave Sarino, his children, and their spouses the greatest outpouring of love and sympathy that could be imagined. And why not, she had been there when others needed help and sympathy.

Teter remembers that our Father was like a caged lion the winter after her death. In caring for her some seven years, he had given up many of his activities, restricting himself to those which he and Ouida could do together. In time, he found his way back to his Knights of Columbus card and bingo games. He enjoyed his children and loved watching his grand-children grow to the time when they would have a conversation with Granddaddy, their favorite name for him.

In 1961, Aunt Frances had passed away. She was the last survivor of the Costa heritage. A sister of Sarino's mother, she served as his substitute mother in America.

#### THE GOLDEN YEARS

Sarino lived 16 years after Ouida's death. Before his death in August 1976, there were two memorable events, other than family events with his children and grandchildren, that brightened those years. The first was a surprise party to mark his 80th birthday. Engineered by his son-in-law David McMahon, with help from Sarino's families, cousins of all degrees, church and social friends, it was held at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Invitations were extended, a band was engaged, food and beverage were on hand in plentiful supply. His sisters had given Paul the job of getting the honoree there. With only Sarino and Paul left at the house, the son suggested that his Father help him buy some good eggplant to take to Tulsa. That done Sarino was asked about the progress of the work on the Talianos Restaurant (located adjacent to the Hall). They went to see. Paul noticed that there were a lot of cars parked at the KC Hall and asked his father the reason. Sarino admitted he did not know so they went in to find out. When the door opened to the sounds of "Happy Birthday", Sarino was happily surprised. His only comment was that if he had known a party was planned, he would have worn a clean shirt.

After years of urging by his children, Sarino decided to make a visit to his relatives in Bisacquino. At age 78, he took his first airplane ride and insisted in starting at the Fort Smith airport, with stops at Tulsa and New York and on to Italy. He spent about three weeks there and enjoyed it very much. His two sisters were living then. He especially liked visiting with his nephew to whom he had given financial assistance during his seminary days. He was ordained a priest after his Uncle's visit. During his return, Sarino's travel schedule was affected by an air controllers' slow-down in New York. When he reached Fort Smith a day later than planned, he was asked about the trip, he answered "It was O. K., but it is sure good to be home!"

#### MAY HE REST IN PEACE

Sarino's death brought an outpouring of sympathy and friendship that brought pride to all of the family. There was a rosary service in the evening and the funeral mass the next day. Immaculate Conception Church was packed for both. The little granddaughters asked their Uncle Paul if they could sing some songs to their guitar accompaniment. His reply, "You children have as much right to make the plans as I." They sang near a banner they had prepared — "HE GAVE US LIFE AND LOVE." We all had a good cry.

#### POSTSCRIPT

The children of Sarino and Ouida Lovoi were reared to be good American citizens, and they were given a sense of appreciation for their Italian heritage. We hope to do as well in rearing their grandchildren. With each generation the percentage of the Italian blood becomes diluted. This is not alarming because people with names like Gertrude McKee (Paul's wife), Fred Hindman (Antoniette's husband), Sandra McManus (Vincent's wife), David McMahon (Mary Ann's husband), and Bob Moellers (Dolores' husband) came to know and love Ouida and Sarino. In fact, they became Italian by adoption early on. TIME MARCHES ON!

## The Happy Year The Diary of M. K. Jeter, 1908

Edited by Marguerite Gilstrap

(PART 1)

(Editor's note — Marguerite Gilstrap, granddaughter of Mayo Emmet Jeter, began her career as a writer-editor in 1930 when she graduated from the University of Arkansas and went to work as reporter for **The Southwest-American-Times-Record**. Later she was on the staff of the University of Arkansas. She joined the mid-South regional office of the Farm Security Administration in 1942, went to Washington, D.C. in 1944 and worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture until she retired. Marguerite Gilstrap is also the great-granddaughter of Jacob Yoes, a marshal in Judge Isaac Parker's court, who was her Grandma Gilstrap's father.)

#### INTRODUCTION

Editing my Grandfather Jeter's diary has evoked dense memories beginning with visits to Fort Smith in 1912 and a year later to see Papa and Mama Jeter in Keota, OK, where they lived in 1913. The house on their farm, where they moved shortly afterwards, burned. The diary was in the trunk, which they saved and in which they transported all possessions for the next six years when they came back to Arkansas and lived with their children. Much of that time they lived in Fayetteville with Maude and Sam Gill, but also for several weeks at a time with Ed and Annie Jeter in Combs, Bert and Olevia Jeter in Cass, and Nell and Walter Gilstrap in St. Paul.

In 1920, they sold their farm in Stigler County. OK, and bought a four-room house on a twoacre lot in Combs. I remember the trunk was in the bedroom. When Papa Jeter died in March 1932, Mama Jeter sold the house and furniture and took the trunk with her to Memphis where she lived with Aunt Maude, now a widow, until her death in January 1936. Aunt Maude took the diary with her when she sold her home in Memphis and moved to Little Rock to live with her daughter and son-in-law, Melba and E.W. Thornton. It's now nearly 40 years since I first saw the diary. On a visit with them in Little Rock, Gail, their younger daughter, then a little girl, showed it to me. When Melba died in 1965, Gail became responsible for this heritage. Twenty years later, now Gail Thornton Segers, Fayetteville, she loaned me the diary. I copied it and returned it to her in 1987.

By then I had a computer but it takes far more time for a lady in her eighties to finish a task.

When I completed "THE HAPPY YEAR" in the summer for 1991, I sent copies to my sisters and

cousins. The Jeter grandchildren living then were: Ed's daughters, Juanita Jeter Miller and Bernadine Jeter Brittain; Bert's son, William Jeter and daughter, Theresa Jeter Simpson; Maude's daughter, Helen Gill McCaa, and son, Dr. Sam Gill; Nell's daughters, Kathryn Gilstrap Moore, Grace Gilstrap Oates Zoller, and me.

Reading and re-reading the diary has heightened my awareness of Papa Jeter's love for Mama Jeter and her devotion to him. We are reminded of her good judgment and her strength. 1908 was a second honeymoon for them.

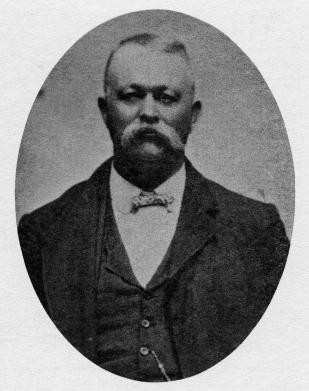
We older grandchildren have rich memories of Papa and Mama Jeter during their extended stays in our homes and later when they lived in Combs.

The information on which I base my editing comes from the 1910 Fort Smith and Fayette-ville city directories and, for Brother Will — William Thomas Jeter (1850-1930), The Encyclopedia of American Biography, Vol. 7 and for Brother John — John Preston Jeter (1836-1913), his pension records at the National Archives.

Marguerite Gilstrap Washington, D.C. August 1993

On the evening of December 31, 1908, M.E. (for Mayo Emmet) Jeter wrote in his diary, "I have spent this year better than any year of my life since I can remember."

He was 55 years old, alone that New Year's Eve, in their home at 904 South 22nd St., Fort Smith, AR. Mollie, to whom he had been





Mayo E. Jeter and wife, Mary C. (Mollie) Summerville Jeter, 1906.



Front row, L to R: William Griffin Jeter (Mayo's father), and Mary F. Jeter (Mayo's sister). Back row, L to R: Wm. T. Jeter (Mayo's brother), and Mayo. Original photograph probably included Wm. G.'s wife Elizabeth, and another daughter, Amanda or Margaret, but the left side at some point in time was torn and lost.

married 35 years, was in Fayetteville with their daughter and son-in-law, Maude and Sam Gill, granddaughters, Marie, 6, and Melba, 4, and new grandson, Jerome.

The diary covers events in a year that marked a turning point for him and Mollie. They had sold the Glendale Hotel, their home in St. Paul, AR (Madison County) since summer of 1892. All furnishings of the hotel exept their bed, a carpet, and some pictures had been conveyed to the Jeters when they bought the hotel from the estate of Hugh McDaniel, who built the hotel in the new town he created at the branch line which he sold to the Frisco Railroad.

On January 1, 1908, M.E. Jeter was a timber buyer and mill foreman for the Eagle Box Company at South 5th and C Streets in Fort Smith. He boarded at the LeFlore Hotel, 316 Garrison Ave.

The diary, probably the gift of a traveling salesman when the Jeters were at the Glendale, is a 1901 yearbook, six by nine and a half inches, bound in royal blue buckram with dark red leather corners and spine.

On the front cover is a gold-imprinted sketch of a 10-story office building on the corner of streets busy with streetcars, carriages and horse-drawn vans. "Compliments of Schwab Clothing Company, St. Louis, MO" is lettered in gold-leaf beneath.

Inside the covers are calendars, for 1901 in front, 1902 in back. With the Spanish-American war in the news, the first four-and-a-half pages have information about Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Hawaiian Islands, and the Phillipines. Next, postal rates, cards one-cent each, letters, two-cents. Then follows a summary of the war revenue law of 1898, rules for computing interest, populations of cities with more than 25,000. Little Rock (38,415) was the only one in Arkansas.

M.E. Jeter did not use the seven back pages headed: memorandum, cash accounts, bills payable, bills receivable. But as his first entry shows, he intended to use this diary for keeping accounts of his day-to-day expenses.

On Wednesday, January 1, 1908, he was in Ola, a small town south of the Arkansas River, 70 miles east of Fort Smith. At 4:45 he took the train (he doesn't specify the line) for Mansfield, another small town, 60 miles east of Ola, and arrived there at 9 p.m. He noted he met Conductor Paul on the Mansfield branch.

"Agent made a mistake on a ticket of 9 cents." Conductor corrected it. Expense for the day—hotel, Ola, .50; fare from Ola to Mansfield, \$1.20; hotel, Mansfield, .50; lunch, Booneville, .30; total expenses, \$2.80. Warm and clear."

The overnight stop in Mansfield may have been to change trains. He caught one to Fort Smith at 6:15 a.m., went to the box factory and arranged to go to Mulberry (20 miles east) on the Missouri Pacific.

Friday he was up early to check the firm's logs at a collection point and made a long distance phone call (.50) to Myers of United Walnut Co. in Fort Smith, telling what belonged to the Eagle Box Factory. He bought stationary (.20) from Dr. Hudson and then took the 9:33 train to Fort Smith, arriving at 11:10. He met a friend or made one in Fay Brown of Mulberry.

"Made her take dinner with me" (.50) and went with her to the 4:40 train on the Arkansas Central. Then he went up town to shop. "Bought two shirts for \$2.50, 1 pr. drawers, .75." At 8:21 p.m., he was aboard the Frisco (\$1.26) for Fayetteville. On arriving there at 12:10 a.m., he took a hack to the Gills' but did not note the charge. "Weather, warm and raining."

The Gills lived at 31 South Hill Street. They bought the newly-built, two-story white frame house in the Putnam development soon after they moved to Faytetteville from Saint Paul in the fall of 1904.

Their home became the base for the Jeters in 1907 when they sold the Glendale. In his notes of January 5, 6, 7, he told of Melba's sleeping spell "that gave us some uneasiness." She was better in the afternoon. "Sam and Maude went to a birthday dinner at the Phipps. Wife and I stayed with the children. Maude brought us a sample of the cake, which we found to be fine."

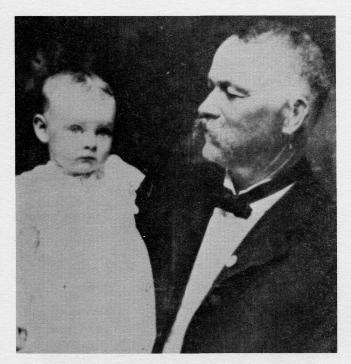
Jim Phipps, like the Jeters, came to Saint Paul from North Missouri in 1887 when the branch of the Frisco from Fayetteville was built and the town was founded. It was to be the center for shipping timber from huge virgin hardwood forests in south Madison and north Franklin counties. According to W.S. Campbell in *One Hundred Years of Fayetteville 1828-1928*, Jim Phipps was the first Frisco station agent in Saint Paul. He soon bought a sawmill. Business flourished. Sam Gill was the manager in 1904 when Phipps moved the firm to Fayetteville and bought a home on College Avenue.

Tuesday, "Mrs. Jeter sick but able to help get dinner." He "and Maude did a big washing by 10 a.m. Treated a sore ankle with pink cream."

Wednesday, he caught the 7:40 a.m. train for Fort Smith. At the factory, Manager Ed Spinks showed him the contract with the United Walnut Company. He took the 3:30 train to Mulberry where George Stubblefield and a crew of four prepared logs to ship to Fort Smith. At Stubblefield's request, he gave him \$5. The next morning when the crew loaded the logs on a flat car and a box car, he made the bills of lading and would carry the receipts to Spinks. He scaled three loads of logs hauled "by Stubblefield and a Mr. Purdy ... the roads very bad, loads light." He records paying the men who helped load the cars \$1.80 and \$5 to Dr. (Fred R.) Duncan.

He then spent much of the rest of the day "up town watching Farmers Union talk and sell cotton." The new organization that began in Texas in 1901 had attracted enough members in Arkansas to hold a state convention in Hot Springs in 1905. He noted the price of cotton was 11.5 cents a pound and they sold 125 bales from their ware rooms. A mule buyer was in town paying from \$75 to \$125 for small mules to be used in the nearby coal mines.

He made three trips to the post office, Friday, January 10, two days after he saw her in Fayetteville, "looking for a letter from wife and not getting one." He bought another tablet and envelopes, was weighed, "tipping scales at 220." His height, though he doesn't mention it, was 6'4".



Mayo E. Jeter and granddaughter Marie Gill, 1903

He expected "wife" and Marie in Fort Smith, Saturday afternoon. The letter came, he met the train. They went shopping to buy Marie a sweater, \$1.25; leggings, \$.50; mittens, .10. He slipped Marie a quarter. They checked into the LeFlore Hotel and Marie rode the elevator for the first time. "She thought it was so funny." Sunday, they toured the city by streetcar — 26 miles for 30 cents.

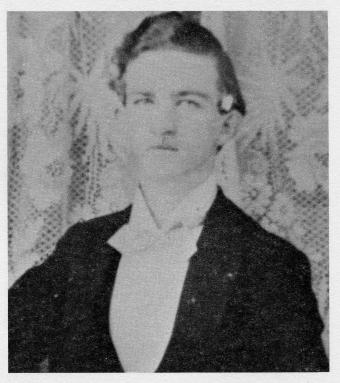
Monday, they began their search for a new home. "Met with Mr. Donaghue (Sam Donaghue owned the LeFlore). Looked at four acres of ground. Price \$1800." Mrs. Jeter and Marie took the one o'clock train to Fayetteville and he returned to Mulberry to supervise the loading of walnut logs.

The entry for January 17 explains what happened to the walnut logs at the Eagle Box Co. They were turned into egg crates and butter tub staves. A car of each was loaded for shipment.

A phone call from Fayetteville, he received at 5:10 and returned at 7:30, left him "very unhappy. Don't expect to sleep tonight. Phoned Spinks and asked him to come to hotel and arranged to leave on the morning train."

He arrived in Fayetteville at 9 a.m. His walk to the Gills took him past Evergreen Cemetery. Graves were being dug for funeral services for Colonel Graves, Mrs. Patterson, Mr. Burgins, Lee Moore, and two babies.

"Found wife better." He took the buggy to meet his younger daughter, Nellie Gilstrap and baby, who came on the Frisco from St. Paul. That evening he called his younger son, H.A. Jeter (Bert) in St. Paul about work in Fort Smith.



Harry Albert Jeter, son of Mayo E. Jeter, 1898.

Sunday, "Mrs. Jeter suffered with pain in head all day." They called Dr. A.L. Gregg, who left medicine that enabled her to rest. "Maude, Nellie, and Mary Gill went to church leaving baby with Sam and me. She cried for over an hour and then went to sleep. I felt so sorry for her and tried to comfort her. I stayed in the house all day with wife."

Maude and Nellie took the children with them the next day when they went to the depot to see college boys parade in uniform. "Wife much better. After dinner, I went to factory with Sam and helped make a little sled for the children. Marie and Melba delighted with it."

The next morning at 4 a.m., he went to the factory with Sam, "Began to make another sled. William Sweeny and I finally figured one out of a sycamore board. Had it finished by 12 o'clock. A dandy. Sure had fun while I was making it."

He was back in Fayetteville, Sunday, February 9. The weather was warm and rainy. The family was well. Had a fine dinner. Pleased he didn't sell the lot he owned in Oklahoma City. He took the 10 p.m. train for Fort Smith, it broke down at Winslow. "We had to stay an hour before we could get out. I slept most of the time only when two boys would raise the window to look out, would let in the cold. I finally stopped that and had two boys mad as long as I was on the train. Arrived in Fort Smith at 3:20 a.m. Went to LeFlore and went to bed."

He was eating breakfast when Jesse Gilstrap and his son, Jim, came into the dining room of the LeFlore the next morning. They were probably there to talk with Fanny Gilstrap's brothers and lawyers about settlement of the estate of her father, Jacob Yoes. "I had a few minutes talk with them. I was glad to see them and would have visited with them but it was work time. I went to the factory. Didn't do much in the morning but in the evening I helped scale a load of cull walnut."

The diarist looked in vain for a boarding house where he and his wife could stay for \$10 a week. At one, he was in a room he thought he had rented, washing up, when a man came in and said it was his room. The landlady expected Jeter the night before. When he didn't come, she rented it.

At another, where he went to look for a room, the landloard was holding a man's baggage for his board. The man drew a gun. "The boss didn't argue his case and I didn't wait to see if I could get board."

Saturday, February 14, M.E. Jeter went to St. Paul. His stay was brief — between trains — about three hours, the time it took the train to go to Pettigrew, unload and load passengers and freight, turn around and return to St. Paul.

There was time enough to "eat dinner at the Glendale Hotel with Nellie Gilstrap, talk with Charlie Gilstrap about locating a factory in Fort Smith, also a conversation with McCoy, to the store to see Walter Gilstrap, and a few minutes at the bank with Jake. Met Alf Williams at the depot. Talked with him about the tie business and he seemed to think the walnut market was shot to pieces. I laughed. He was singing a different tune a month ago."



Sons of Jesse and Fanny Gilstrap, L to R: Back row, Walter (Marguerite's father), and Charlie. Front row, Jake, William and Jim, Fort Smith, 1906.

Charles Gilstrap was secretary-treasurer of the McCoy-Ritchie Lumber Company. Charlie's brother-in-law, William McCoy, was president of the firm. Walter was manager and part owner of Dutton Mercantile Co. Jake, cashier of the new St. Paul bank, was the younger brother of Walter and Charlie. Alf Williams of Fayetteville bought railroad ties from sawmills on the St. Paul branch of the Frisco.

On the train, the diarist "talked with Brother Stockburger," the Presbyterian minister from Fayetteville who held monthly services for the congregation in St. Paul, in which Mayo and Mollie were charter members.

At the depot in Fayetteville, "I met Brother Coats and his wife. They were very sociable and I liked their appearance so much." Coats was a Presbyterian minister in Fort Smith.

On the train to Fort Smith, he had a long talk with Frank Mays, a Fayetteville lumberman, who "just returned from Washington, D.C. Said he had a 10-minute talk with the President and was well pleased with the results."

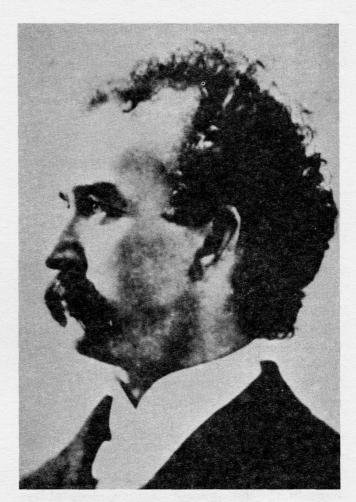
On the train back to Fayetteville, February 13, he "talked with Major True who had been to New Orleans and had a tumor cut out of his throat."

He took Valentines for the children. His wife, Marie, and Melba went to the depot with him to get the train to Fort Smith, the 15th. "Just had time to make the train. I believe driver of hack wanted me to get left. Found letters at hotel for me and two beautiful Valentines, one from wife and one from Marie and they were highly appreciated. Wrote letter to wife."

Along with frequent letters from his wife, he notes with appreciation receiving February 13, "a postal from Nellie. I thought it was so nice. Had Mr. and Mrs. Donaghue read it. They said it was so cute. Also showed them Marguerite's picture. They said she was just lovely."



Marguerite Gilstrap



Mayo E. Jeter's brother, Wm. T. Jeter, Lt. Governor of California 1896-1900.

Brother Will of Santa Cruz, CA, whose letter came February 13, was two years older than Mayo. They had not seen each other since 1876, shortly after their mother's death when Will went to California, studied law, served as Lieutenant Governor in the Democratic administration of 1896, was now president of a bank.

February 22. "Letter from wife enclosing one from J.H. Tharp and one from Martha Keester, said Freeman Summerville's wife dying, sad." J.H. Tharp was his brother-in-law, who lived in Gallatin, MO. Martha Keester was Mollie's sister, Freeman Summerville, her brother. They lived in Chillecothe, MO.

February 19th, the day he "found some nice houses to rent, too high to buy," he met Mr. Nelms, "selling lots in Oklahoma City, offers a premium. Nice appearing young man." Oklahoma, former Indian Territory, became a State in 1907. The next day he introduced Nelms to Carrigan. "Think he will sell him some lots.

Frank Bretz bought three and I bought three in Apex Addition for \$1800. Ought to have one donated me for helping the agent." John A. Carrigan was a barber. Bretz formerly lived in St. Paul.

A few days later he "met the Russell boys for supper, introduced them to the Oklahoma City real estate man. He sold them four lots."

In another entry, "Mr. Nelms took Frank and me to the moving picture show. It was fine." He didn't think much of the show he and Mr. Nelms saw at the Opera House.

February 25. "Two postcards from Maude. She and Sam will be here tomorrow to see 'Madame Butterfly' at the Opera House. I tried to buy tickets. All sold out. Standing room tickets sold too. Went to moving picture show. Had a fine time. So many scenes. House was crowded. We went out and came back after part of the crowd left. Mr. Nelms paid all bills at the Bijoe."

He met the morning train from Fayetteville but didn't see the Gills get off. Jim and Cora Phipps were with them. They went to his room and ate at the LeFlore before the matinee. He "met them at the Opera House at 5:30, took them down Garrison Avenue to see the \$1200 rug, a beauty. Maude and Cora shopped at Kresses for the children. After supper at the hotel we took in a moving picture show at the Lyric."

Then they went to the Manhattan cafe for a "luncheon of fried oysters, new tomatoes, celery, baked beans, hot chocolate and cream. We waited and saw some of Fort Smith's 400. Had a fine time, going to bed at 12 o'clock. Expenses: show, .75; luncheon, \$3.35; hotel, \$5.60. Total \$9.75. Feel all right after having such a nice time."

He woke the visitors at 4:30 a.m. They ate breakfast at the Antlers. He went to the depot with them. "Bidding them goodbye, I returned to the hotel to write my diary of events."

Was his failure to see the Gills and Phippses get off the train a portent of the blindness that would come four years later?

Two days earlier, he wrote, "Had eyes examined by Dr. John M. Wallace. He just opened my eye, looked at it, said nothing wrong, charged me \$2.00, said come again, and when I get money to throw at the birds, I will gain more experience."

By now, he was known to realtors as a prospect. On the 17th, Roberts and Taylor were the salesmen who came to sell him a house. On the 22nd, he "went to real estate office to find

house to rent. Mr. Duncan of Fayetteville drove over the city. Found one, cheap. If wife likes it we will buy it. Saw many nice places, some reasonable."

And on the 25th. "Mr. Casey, Alf's boy, has some property he wants to sell. I promised him I would look at it. Never was so talked to death by real estate salesmen in my life. Think I will say I don't want to buy property."

He was also looking at business property. On the 18th he gave a realtor the letter from the McCoy-Ritchie Lumber Company in St. Paul about a site for a factory.

On the 23rd, "Charles Gilstrap came to my room and woke me at 8 a.m. Had me cash a check of W.C. Gilstrap for \$20. Real estate man, T.A. Boxley, drove Charles and me out to see what they had to offer. Then Charles and I walked to factory, met Mr. Spinks, looked over location, well pleased. Left on evening train for Dyer."

Real estate in Oklahoma City was of more interest. On Wednesday, the 25th, he mailed an advertisement to his son, Ed, in Pettigrew. Evidently, mail delivery was speedy, the ad appealing, for Ed was in Fort Smith, Sunday, March 1, in time for them to catch an 8:45 a.m. Midland Valley train to Warwick where they changed to the Frisco and arrived in Oklahoma City at 11 p.m.

"Went to restaurant, ate lunch, and then went up town to find street car to Brother John's."

John Preston Jeter, his oldest brother was born in 1836 on the farm his parents, William Griffin and Elizabeth Berry Jeter, bought shortly after they met and were married in New Salem, IL in 1832. The family moved to



John Preston Jeter (Mayo's brother), his wife Sarah E. Jeter and daughter Ollie.

Chillecoth, MO in 1857. He served the Union Army during the Civil War. He and his family had lived in Oklahoma City five years when Brother Mayo and his son, Ed, paid them a surprise visit.

They "got off the street car at the wrong place, walked around in the dark, went back to the street car and then got off, found we were right next to the house. Ollie Jeter was going in. She was frightened, wanted to know who I was. After a little explanation, we were cordially received. Brother John got up. After a pleasant talk and it was a late hour, we retired for the night. Expense: railroad fare, \$.20; dinner, .25; supper, .35; carfare, .10; total, \$4.90."

"March 2. After early breakfast, Brother John, Ed, and I went out to take in the city, going to my place first and then on street car out to Bristow where we looked over the Apex Addition. Not thinking much of it, we then took in the city by street car and on foot until noon, ate dinner with Brother, bade them goodbye, and passed our time looking over the city, taking in the view of the interior of the courthouse, listening awhile to the murder trial, then to the Frisco depot.

"Boarded train to Tulsa, arriving at Sapulpa at 9 p.m. Had to wait three hours for the Red River train. We ate lunch, then boarded the train for Tulsa, arriving at 1:30 a.m. Went to Brady Hotel for night. Met a pleasant couple from Prairie Grove."

They boarded the Midland Valley train at 7:30 a.m. Ed stopped off at Stigler to visit Joe Miller, his brother-in-law. "Glad to find wife and Marie at the LeFlore Hotel."

Ed and Annie, his wife, Helen Rochelle, her sister, and Raymond, Helen's small son, came on Wednesday, and after supper all of them went to look at some residential property owned by Mr. Roberts. "Ed and wife pleased with it. Marie liked riding the street car. Then we went to the Lyric and saw two moving picture shows. Marie and Raymond, leading the crowd, came back to hotel, and at 11 p.m., wife, Marie and I took the train for Mulberry, arriving at 2:40 a.m. Spent rest of night at the Bledsoe Hotel. Ed left for Fayetteville at 5:15 a.m."

Thursday, March 5. "After partaking of the good things at the breakfast table, went to the livery stable, hired a team, drove up to the hotel, took Marie with me to pick up George Riley. Then we let her out and he and I went to Arbuckle Island. Had dinner with a Mr. Hudson. Certainly did justice to it. We were ferried across Big Creek. Drove around the island, estimating the cottonwood and arranging to

buy it. At 3 p.m. we started for Mulberry, were ferried across the Big Creek, then a three-mile drive to the Arkansas River and were ferried across that. Our team became frightened once and we almost had a run-away. No brakes except one tug. Arrived at Mulberry at 6:30. Expenses: livery bill, \$2.00; board, \$1.00; dinner at Hudson's, .25; ferry, \$1.35."

The destination where he and George Riley drove the next day is not legible. "Got there at 11:30, found it a poor place for rafting logs. On our way back, saw a sawmill up against a cliff on the opposite side of the river. Don't think it was a legitimate business from the location. Made a hard drive back, arriving just at train time. Wife and Marie at the depot. The train was late. Off the track at Hartman, came at 5:10."

Saturday, while he was at the factory scaling up to 8,000 feet of lumber, "a realtor took wife and Marie out to see some property. Some locations she liked very well. Letters from Maude and Martha Keester. After wife gave me a hundred dollar talk about them we had supper."

Sunday, March 8, would be remembered as a red-letter day. In the morning, they "went on the street car to the end of the Grand Avenue line, looked at Mr. Krone's place and fine chickens."

Perhaps wife and Marie were resting after dinner when he "Met Mr. Casey and went with him to his residence. Found it very nice. Well pleased. After talking with wife, she wanted to see it. Went out on the street car. Met Mr. Casey at the end of the car line. He went back with us. Wife being acquainted with his wife had a nice visit. Wife pleased with property. Expect we will buy it. Mr. Casey and wife came back to the hotel with us and visited two hours. Invited him back in the morning to talk over the trade."

March 9. "Went to breakfast. After eating, saw Mr. Casey and bought his house and lot and horse and buggy for \$2500." He then went to the factory where he had a busy day. "After supper, we went on the street car to Mr. Casey's and paid him \$50 to hold the bargain in place. After one hour's visit we came back on the avenue where we took in a picture show and then the hotel. I was very tired. Marie has a cold. Wife getting ready to go to Fayetteville tomorrow. Expenses: hotel, \$2; tamales, .10; apples, .10; streetcar fare, .30; laundry, .90; payment on property, \$50; spoons, \$4.50; knives and forks, \$5; sugar shell, .75; butter knife, .75; total \$64.25. Received \$125 from Spinks.

Other business claimed his attention the day he bought the house. He went to the factory and finished unloading a car of ash. Then to the river to see about the raft. "We had a heavy rain last night. After dinner, wife, Marie and I went out to the Casey's and then walked to Mrs. Arbuckle's to see about buying her timber, finding her at 508 N. 20th St. We had a pleasant visit and propsect for making a trade for her timber. She wants to sell but offered it to Mr. Carroll of Charleston, whom I will have to make a trip to see."

He "did not get along very well," the next morning when he went to the river to help get out some logs in a raft. He called George Riley and "advised him to go to Arbuckle Island in the morning." He also "talked with Rosa Carroll at Charleston about timber on the island. Think she will sell."

He "rode out with Mr. Casey to see Mr. Lyman about a loan. Didn't do any business with him." He didn't feel well. "Limbs hurt me very badly today. Can hardly walk. Wrote a letter to wife and am very lonesome without her and Marie."

He felt well enough by morning to go to the river — it was up three feet — and help on the raft until 8 a.m. Then he "rode Spinks' horse to Mrs. Arbuckle's and Mr. Pettigrew's and made a trade for the timber. Had such a conversation with Mrs. Arbuckle about church affairs and most everything else, was glad to get away as I had other business to attend. Had some timber contracts typewritten. Gave one to Pettigrew to sign. Sent one to George Riley. Went out to see Mrs. Ingalls about timber on Arbuckle Island. Did not make a trade but will later on. Drove my own horse and buggy. Was offered \$125 for horse, wouldn't take it."

He "phoned Roe Hunt at Marble City. Said he would come move us. Expenses: hotel, \$1.15; phone, .40; moving picture, .10."

Mr. and Mrs. George Pettigrew signed the contract to sell the timber for \$50, Friday. And he and Casey went to the bank, "and arranged for some business in the future."

Roe Hunt and George Riley came to the factory and he showed them around the two locations — the sawmill near the river, and the factory at 5th and C Streets. "They were surprised at the size of our logs. Offered Roe \$45 a month straight time and I think he will accept." Back at the hotel he had a letter from

Maude, "inviting me to her birthday dinner, Sunday, the 15th, and had to write her my regrets as I couldn't go having other engagements that must be seen to."

He was thinking about improvements on their new home. March 14, he wrote, "Had a carpenter measure the upper floor of our house and found it would take 1500 feet of lumber to lay floor and 2,000 feet of ceiling to seal the upper room and I put off the work until later on. I concluded to go to Fayetteville and get ready to move. I left on the Cannon Ball at 8 p.m., arriving at 11 p.m. Met Sam Gill at depot and went home with him."

He was there to celebrate Maude's 25th birthday before the mailman delivered his regrets. That evening they went to church, first, the Methodist, so crowded they couldn't get seats, and then the Presbyterian.

"We had a fine sermon and met many old friends." All were from St. Paul. The long time friends were Mr. and Mrs. Charlesworth (Cora Phipps' parents) and daughter, Hattie, who had recently moved to Fayetteville; Maude's former schoolmate, Kate Allen, a rural school teacher, and Mr. and Mrs. McCoy. Mr. and Mrs. Richmond were newcomers from the northern Great Plains. They built their house two miles west of St. Paul on a hill overlooking White River where the railroad bridge, the Red Bridge as it was called, crossed the river.

"We had a pleasant visit," the diarist wrote. "Mr. Richmond telling of his thrilling escape from the Custer Massacre in 1864, 147 killed out of 150. Only three escaped. Mr. Richmond was one of them. Expense, church .30." It was 1876 when General Custer and 265 men with him died when they met thousands of Indians at the Battle of Little Bighorn.

The Jeters' bed, pictures, and a carpet were in an upstairs bedroom at the Gills'. It is not surprising he completed packing by noon. He went up town to buy nails, visited with friends. "Jim Williams, George Pettigrew, Roe Reynolds and others. After dinner, hired a team to haul goods to the car." This was a freight car on the railroad track. He returned to the depot to meet Nellie and Walter and baby on the train from St. Paul. "We had a pleasant visit with children, partaking of a hearty supper." He then took the 11 p.m. train for Fort Smith.

In mentioning letters received (four, March 17), he listed the name and address of each correspondent — H.A. Jeter, his son, Bert, in Bacon, OK; Ed E. Jeter, Pettigrew, AR; Rev. J.H. Tharp, Gallatin, MO, (his sister Mary's husband); and Roe Hunt, Marble City, OK. He gave the address, Elk City, OK, but not the last name of Sister Mandy Lilly, whose letter, March 14, told of someone throwing a rock through the train window "and frightening several women considerably."

At the factory, Tuesday, he made long distance calls to George Riley about purchase of the timber on Arbuckle Island and to Frank Bretz "trying to get him to let Roe Hunt come and saw for us a few days. He couldn't spare him. Mr. Spinks and I fixed a place to dry and stack lumber."

stack lumber.

The household goods arrived Wednesday. He hired a team and hauled it out to the house, and "worked until a late hour putting down carpet and opening boxes. Found two glasses on pictures broken. Mr. and Mrs. Casey helped put down carpet. Stayed all night at home the first time. Had a good rest in our own bed."

At the factory the next morning he cut a seat for the water closet. Then he "went to Eads Brothers Furniture Co. and bought dining room table, \$40; two rugs, \$60; one set chairs, \$18."

He took his new horse and buggy to the depot to meet Mollie and they "drove to bank where we arranged to borrow \$1275 on short term. Paid J.L. Casey \$1050, came to the house. Wife highly pleased with rugs and furniture." They ate supper with the Caseys who were still in the house and had their first caller, Mr. Smith from Siloam Springs, a partner of Bert Jeter in the lumber business. "He wanted to buy 100,000 bricks from Mr. Spinks." Expenses totaled \$1189 and included hotel meal ticket, \$4; Casey, \$1055; Eads Furniture, \$102; hauling trunk, .50. He received \$108 from Spinks.

He took the day off from work, March 20, and he and Molly drove to town to buy furniture. A load of lumber was delivered from the factory and he built the water closet. A plumber was there "fixing the stove." Along with shopping for furnishings, the Jeters looked for seed potatoes in vain and he wired S.L. Gill there were none to be found. Expenses, he noted: stove, \$20; furniture, \$118; cooking utensils, \$2.50; dishes, \$7.55; nails, .10; plumber, \$2; buggy whip, .10; telegram, .25; something, — the writing is illegible — \$4.35. They ate breakfast and dinner at the hotel, supper at home, "and it was fine. Mr. and Mrs. Casey ate with us."

He took Jason Casey to the factory the next morning and sold him "1100 feet of culled oak at \$15 per thousand feet." Back home, he finished the water closet and began building a buggy shed. He took two good drives and bought horse brush and comb and feed. "Wife is feeling fine cooking on her new gas range. It is a great improvement over the wood stove."

That evening, he and Mr. Spinks left on the 11:20 p.m. train for Alma. "Arrived at 1 a.m. Slept with Mr. Spinks. George Riley came in the morning with hired teams ... drove over island looking at timber and huge drift covered with oil. Took train to Van Buren, found we couldn't get train to Fort Smith. Mr. Spinks and I walked across railroad bridge to street car and rode into Fort Smith."

He doesn't name the railroad on which he went to Charleston, the next afternoon, just writes "First ever on that line." He left at 3:45, arrived at 6:20 and checked into the Main hotel. He met Mr. Carroll and chatted with the landlord about politics and the Farmers Union. Mr. Carroll gave him "the right to move logs in the drift and advised parties on the island to sell us the timber.

"Mr. Casey was at the depot with horse and buggy. I came home by Kennedy Bros. Bought screen doors for house, laid brick wall to water closet. Brick, \$3.75; wash tub, \$5; screen doors, \$8; curtain poles, .70; oranges, .10; groceries, .55."

Wednesday, March 25. "Warm. High wind. I scaled lumber at United Walnut until 11 a.m. Then to factory. After dinner, scaled 5/8ths ash lumber for K.C. Mo. Marked 300 egg cases to go to Benton County Produce Co. Didn't get to work at home very much. Wrote Ed Jeter and Nellie Gilstrap. Received letter from George Riley with bill for car of cottonwood logs. Let contract to put screens on house of \$18. Work to begin tomorrow. Wife looking better all the time. The new home agrees with her. My corns hurt fearful today."

Friday, March 21. "Scaled lumber all day, was very tired when night came. Man put two screen doors on backward. Man hauled three loads of brick and I talked with a man about building a smoke house. Paid George Lyman \$21 on the Building and Loan. Left book with him. Didn't want to carry it around."

Saturday was a frustrating day at work. He couldn't get a car to load lumber at United Walnut nor reach Roe Hunt when he called Marble City, OK. "Back home, helping wife hang pictures, then up town to buy Easter toys

for children and groceries. Talked with Dr. Petit about doing some of his work over on my teeth. Dug a little ditch to get water out of my stable."

Sunday, March 29. "After breakfast up town on street car and out on Grand Avenue line, looked at house for sale with Mr. Casey. He went in the window and opened the door. We thought it was a good investment. Bought bananas and apples for wife. It was her 51st birthday." It was her 53rd. She was born in Armstrong County, PA in 1855, the seventh child of Azell and Ann Dickey Summerville.

"Took a nap after dinner. Then for a drive. Mr. and Mrs. Donaghue going along in their buggy. Drove over most of the city, seeing a great many new houses, some very handsome. Wife cooked a fine supper. I did justice to that, read papers and Bible."

Monday, March 30. "Went to United Walnut Co. for our cottonwood planks. Jones and Thompson argued about the grade but I contended for what I wanted and got it. Finished loading over 15,000 feet on coal cars at 4 p.m. ... talked with Spinks. Received a check for \$20. Had it charged to timber from Mulberry. Letters from George Riley, Bert Jeter, postal with pictures of the children from Maude, which we think are just fine and value highly. Mr. Spinks' daughter went to San Antonio today." Ella Spinks, a piano teacher, lived with her parents at 215 N. 6th St.

March 31. "At factory, figured loss in cutting four-inch ash 5/8ths. Loss, 25%. Unloaded car of cottonwood lumber. Bought wife toilet set, \$8, for her birthday. Letter from Nellie. Wrote I.W. Pryor, Brother Johnnie Jeter, Cecil Jeter, and Jessie Miller, St. Paul. Had a time carrying the 31-inch wide board for the table home in the buggy." (Cecil was Bert's 8-year-old son. Jessie Miller was a skilled timberman. The letter may have offered him a job.)

Often, his day at the mill was spent in scaling lumber, "a car of oak for butter tub heads." At the United Walnut Company, he "scaled and loaded 1685 feet of dry cottonwood for our factory." On April 13, he "scaled up to 7,000 feet of 5/8ths ash for a firm in Kansas City."

He noted troubles with the machinery several times a week. April 9, "We had to babbit the boxes." (Line them with a soft alloy). He hired a new fireman to replace the one who hadn't been able "to keep the steam up. He does about like the rest. No good. We built a new platform to replace the one on the carriage. It did much better."

April 13, he "put Roe Hunt and Clel Hazlett to filing the saw. Stacking had harmed the saw." The man he hired to set the ratchets "proved to be a good hand." At the end of the month the crew "out on a new saw and cut oak for Mr. Shaw. The saw worked fine after we got it on."

Beginning in April, the diarist noted his income. On Saturday, the 18th, "received salary check for \$15." On the 25th when he "paid off \$75 note at the Arkansas Valley Trust, Mr. Willis rode up town with me, telling how he was pushed for money, I told him I see that man every time I look in a mirror." On the 25th, "received a check from Mr. Spinks for \$30." Mr. Spinks gave him \$10 for the trip to Mulberry, April 28.

Though the weather was cold, breakdowns in the machinery at the mill troublesome, the diarist often notes his days are "fine" or "pleasant".

On April 4, "George Riley came home with me, first visitor to eat a meal in our new home. After supper we went to the Lyric, wife went along, had a nice time. Caseys moved most of their things and we spent our first night alone together."

They ate their first meal on the table he made, Sunday, April 12, when "Sam and Marie came on the Frisco at 10. We came home on the street car. Sam liked our house and furniture. Took a drive and then went over a large part of the city on four street car lines. Then to see the river until 6:30, Sam said he had to go home. We had thought he would stay the night. Bought Marie ice cream and took the street car home."

The Jeters were investing in improvements in their new home. On the 4th, he "put down carpets in the bedroom and bath. Wife helped move the beds and dresser. Man finished putting screens on the house. On the 6th, "Wife and I went up town to look for furniture. Purchased a fine suite for bedroom, \$135; four rockers, \$35; springs, \$10; mattress, \$13.50."

April 9th, he "called wife on the new phone from the factory." The next day, he wrote, "Man changed the phone today as the one we had was not good enough."

On April 4th, he "paid 25 cents for a sign, 904. But it wasn't until the 19th that he "saved a post for my front yard, brought it home, planed it off. Looks fine."

On the 11th, he "drove to the express office, loaded washstand and chair on buggy and hauled them home."

Charlie, his horse, was a great pleasure to him. On April 1, he wrote, "Horse felt good, Cut quite a swell. Bought \$3.35 feed for horse." April 6, "had horse shod. Left buggy to be painted and borrowed an old buggy to use until mine done." April 25, "Went to shop and brought my buggy home. Newly painted, it looks fine and wife well pleased with it. She washed it off. I helped carpenters fix the barn for horse and buggy. Roof only. One side. Marie and wife helped clean up the rubbish." April 29. "Dug a trench around barn, made a box to feed horse in." April 30. "This evening I took Marie and five of her little friends buggy riding. They had a fine time. Then wife washed all the mud off the buggy."

Sunday, May 3 was a pleasant day. "Mr. Nelms gave me \$15. Thought I helped him sell some lots." Maude and her little girls were there from Fayetteville. Maude, Marie and I took a drive out by the fruit farm in the early morning. About 10 miles, then back to the Frisco Depot. Met Sam Gill. He drove home with Maude and Marie. I had my shoes shined, went home on the street car. Sam, Melba and I drove out to the poor farm, about a 10-mile drive. Wife and I, Sam, Maude and children went to the cemetery to see the Eagles decorate the graves.

"Heard a talk by one of the members. Then we went on the Towson car to the Avenue, transferred to E Street, went to end of line then back on 11th Street to the Park. Maude, Marie, Melba and I had a ride on the scenic railroad. Had a fine time. To the LeFlore Hotel for supper. Back home we found the Caseys here. Then all of us got ready and went to the Torrey meeting." Torrey was an evangelist.

Sam went with him to the mill early Monday, just as he had gone to Phipps Lumber Company with Sam in Fayetteville. "Met Mr. Spinks, Kennedy & Moffett and went with them to the Box Factory."

When Spinks asked him to meet with John Arbuckle in Van Buren, "wife and I went as far as Van Buren on the train" with the Gills who were returning home. "Little Marie cried so hard to stay. Just as hard for us to let her go. How lonesome it is without her. We got off in Van Buren, went to a hotel and found John Arbuckle. Couldn't close trade with him until he talked with his boss. Back in Fort Smith by 3:15."

On May 9, he wrote, "Wife and I went after supper to the LeFlore Hotel, waited for Torrey's midnight march, which was headed by a band with a great crowd, about 4,000 people in all. We drove the buggy to the tabernacle where we heard Brother Schontz tell his experience, which was fearful, but he turns out a Christian man of great influence. We returned at one a.m. from a glorious meeting."

Friday, May 5. "Home early, after supper to Torrey meeting, heard a good sermon on giving excuses for not coming to Christ, found in Matthew 25. The subject was splendid and well handled. Glad wife and I had the pleasure of enjoying such a sermon. The world would be beautiful if we could only enjoy His teaching. Home by streetcar at 9:30."

May 17. "Mr. Pulvey came to supper and went with us on street car to the last Torrey meeting, his text, 'Don't put off the day of salvation'. Saw Reverend Coats."

In the second month in their new home, they had a chance to sell it. Mr. Casey had a buyer. "We priced it at \$2800." On May 9, "paid our first light bill, \$1.05 and \$20 on furniture."

He delights in the good meals his wife prepares. On the 18th, he "bought a gallon of dewberries from a little boy for 40 cents. Had some for supper. Wife made preserves and jelly." The next day "had dewberry roll and green beans. What a dinner! Wife is one of the finest cooks in Arkansas. She just knows to cook so you can enjoy." And on the 22nd, "After dinner we went up town on street car. I bought a fish, a basket of peaches and a straw hat. Had a fine supper. Wife always gets things right."

In that same entry, he also noted, "Neighbors asked wife to take two delegates to the WCTU convention and keep them three days. She didn't. They had their nerve! We being strangers. Ross Johnson came to see us, was in the house and touched me on the shoulder before I saw him and then I couldn't call his name for some time." (The W.C.T.U. was the Women's Christian Temperance Union, a national organization.)

At work, May 8, "A Mr. Smith came to inquire about car material for MVRR. Also a man to buy 14,000 feet of stakes for townsites." (MVRR was the Missouri Valley Railroad. The townsites were in Oklahoma.)

On the 14th, "Four men from Oklahoma City were in, want to buy the box factory. Mr. Spinks not ready to consider a proposal. Looked like men meant business."

He reported "bad luck at the mill." May 19th, "rope feed gave out. Belts broke. Men careless. Took saw off and hammered it and it did a little better." The next day, "saw ran fine until 4 p.m. Then as usual, box belt broke. The cause — several pieces of machinery not set right. Will go over them myself tomorrow." On the 22nd, "Did real well at the mill today. Moved boiler from veneer plant to mill."

May 26 he closed another deal for timber on Arbuckle Island. "Saw McCowen at the Southern Hotel and bought their cottonwood timber for \$250 and all cull logs with their brand for \$250."

Their first experience with the rains that would prove costly to the firm and other mills that stored logs on rafts in the Arkansas River and other streams came Sunday, May 24.

"This afternoon we dressed up. Wife in white suit, I with my white vest and went for a drive, almost to the Electric Park, when we saw rain coming toward us. So we turned, horse going 10 miles an hour. Our white clothes were soon covered with mud and we were wet to the skin. Had a hearty laugh at our appearance. One side of the shaft came down while we were driving at full speed and we came near having serious trouble. We drove home, dried off, ate supper, went to church, heard a good sermon by Brother Coats."

May 25. "Cloudy, cool breeze, river rising. 28 feet at 6 p.m. Mr. Spinks busy running his logs in a field near Poteau Bridge. After supper, wife and I drove down to the river to see the overflowed farms. Every kind of crop covered with water, several houses almost covered. Many families have left their home. Pitiful."

May 26. "River at 31 feet and still rising. Wife and I drove down to the Iron Mountain bridge where crowds were viewing the river then to the Poteau bridge. High waters all over Oklahoma. Loss estimated at \$10 million. Wife and I had a fine drive this evening."

May 27. "River gauge stood at 32 feet at 7 a.m. but began to fall within two hours."

May 30. "George Riley here to tell how things looked on Arbuckle Island. We had 70,000 feet of logs washed away."

That same day, he wrote, "We thought we would go to Fayetteville but I began to feel bad, suffered four hours, went to sleep. I was afraid I was taking smallpox."

May 31. "Still feeling bad. How pleased wife and I would be to have some of the children come and stay a week with us. We read our Bibles and spent the Sabbath as best we know how. Mr. Spinks phoned to see how I was. I rested well but my bones ached fearful. Had milk toast." June 2. "Wife made potato soup for breakfast. Relished it very much. Doctor came at 11. Said I was improving but would not get out for three days. Mrs. Searl gave wife a spring chicken and she made soup so good I forgot I was sick. I was presented with a beautiful spring bouquet from the superintendent of the W.C.T.U., Mrs. Searl, choice roses, honey-

suckle, striped grass with elephant ear background which gave it an elegant appearance and we appreciated it. Several callers during the day. A fine bowl of soup for supper. Expenses: Dr. Harding, \$2."

June 3. "Went up town in afternoon. Wife did some shopping. Saw Mr. Spinks. Talked about the future. Everything favorable."

June 4. "Up town to see Arkansas Travelers Parade, a mile long. Governor-elect Donaghue, ex-Senator Berry, many others. 15,000 people. Gorgeous decorations of purple and white. Five bands. One from Pine Bluff that took a prize in Washington, D.C. Our horse was frightened at a road engine, backed our buggy almost into the LeFlore Hotel. No one hurt. Drove out to greenhouse on Van Buren road and bought some house plants. Also some cabbage. Gave three heads away when we got home. Received two messages from Oklahoma City regarding property there."

June 5. "I went to factory. Surprise at home was to find Walter and Nellie and Marie. So glad they came. Walter and I drove up to see the Arkansas Traveler Parade. A huge crowd gathered to see them. We drove back home for dinner and then Walter and I drove around to the gas wells, brick plant, and several nice places. Home for a rest."

"Then I took Nellie in buggy to the avenue. Walter and Mrs. Jeter on street car. We went to Kresses store and then to Manhattan restaurant to eat supper, then stopped at depot. Walter left on the No. 6 at 8:30. We came home and after two hours visiting, retired. Expense \$2.93."

Though he doesn't mention it, it was his 55th birthday. He was born June 5, 1853, in Menard County, IL, the youngest of nine children of William Griffin and Elizabeth Berry Jeter.

June 6. "Cloudy in the morning, clear and cool in the evening. Took Nellie Gilstrap and baby driving, went out by the gas works and Sunnyside fruit farms, making a 10-mile drive and back home by 10:30 a.m. We had a fine time.

"We had a few hours visiting after dinner and I received a letter from a Mr. Waggoner in Oklahoma city wanting me to come to Oklahoma City to protect my interests at once. After a council with wife, I went to factory and received \$15, bought a ticket and left on the Frisco at 4:20 p.m. Arrived at Mansfield, got shoes shined, and left at 7:40 p.m. on the Rock Island for Oklahoma City, arriving at 6:10 a.m. Ticket, \$4.45; supper, .50; shine. Did not feel very well."

June 7. "Went to hotel. Didn't meet parties I was looking for. Then I got on the Englewood street car to Brother John's. After breakfast, Brother John and I went to Mr. Waggoner's office where we talked over sale of property, showing my contracts. Mr. Waggoner said I could force the Pryor Company to deliver my papers or cause them serious trouble. I employed Lawyer Higby to get deeds. After dinner, Johnny Jeter Jr. and wife, Mr. Armstrong and wife, Obie Davis and husband came to see me. We had a pleasant visit and retired at 10 p.m. Streetcar fare .30."

June 8. "Brother and I went to street car and had another talk with Waggoner, made a contract with Higby to get my deeds and other papers from Pryor Investment Co. He found abstract, couldn't find deed, would get it when Mr. Pryor came back from Colorado. We said if papers didn't come at an early date we would file suit. They promised quick delivery. Brother and I had dinner with his daughter, Mrs. Obie Davis. Johnny Jeter Jr. took me to see his truck farm, returned to Brother John's for the night."

June 9. "Heavy rains. Brother and I went to Mr. Waggoner's office, called Mr. Higby, told him course to pursue if papers not there by Wednesday. Brother and I took dinner in the Oxford Restaurant. Bowl of milk and dish of potato being all the dinner the waiter brought him. I gave him my piece of chicken. We took dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong, brother's daughter. Sent telegram to wife. Expense of day \$1.15."

June 10. "Cloudy with another heavy rain. Four inches. All rivers washed out of banks and everything looking disastrous. Brother and I went down to close my trade. Went to Mr. Waggoner's office, phoned Mr. Higby. The Pryor Company had found deed. So we closed the trade, paying all parties, collected my rent. My total cost: Commission, \$120 for selling property; lawyer's fee, \$13.50; deed, \$6; recording mortgage, \$1.25; taxes, \$9.20; grand total, \$148.25 and \$815 to Pryor Investments Co. I got \$1050 in cash and \$400 in notes secured by first mortgage. Had my check cashed and kept my money with me. After getting everything straightened up I was ready to start home and found all railroads running into the city were washed out. I couldn't get away. Total expenses, \$150.20."

June 11, 1908. "Cloudy and warm, threatening rain. I went to the city on the street car to see if there was any chance to get out on any railroad running east and found them all out of business.

Sent message to Mr. Spinks telling him to phone my wife I couldn't get out before tomorrow. I went to brother's for dinner and back to the city in the evening to see if there was any chance to start home.

"Saw a team run away with delivery wagon, one horse falling down, the other running over him and staying on top of him. Nothing hurt but driver got his knee skinned. I had some fun with newsboys selling papers, telling them what to say to sell their papers. They would say it and sell a paper and then run. It was fun for me. Expense, \$4, carfare, .80."

June 12. "Cloudy and cool all day. After breakfast at brother's and bidding them good-bye, brother and I went down town to see if I could get a train out and found that I could leave at 9:30 a.m. on the Rock Island. I bought ticket and got on train of nine coaches, all of them loaded to their capacity. We started and began to find bad places to cross, at Harrah, the water was over the track on both sides and we ran through the water.

"For miles the water would run over the sides of the coaches and you couldn't see anything but the tops of telegraph poles. It was certainly a dangerous trip. We would be three hours going two miles and the river was still rising. All the high water we had to cross was on the Canadian River, which was higher than had ever been known before. The railroad suffered quite a loss. Expense of the day, \$10."

Saturday, June 13. "Cloudy, commencing to rain at 5:15 a.m. I arrived at Wister Junction, Okla. at 1:20 a.m. Stayed until 4:40 in the depot. Met a Mrs. (illegible) of Oklahoma City who was on the same train that I came on and was going to Fort Smith to see her children, who were in school. She kept busy keeping people awake in the depot. I enjoyed her very much. Miss Isah Lively got on the train at Poteau. I talked with her awhile. She looked very bad. She was going to St. Paul, Ark." (Isah Lively began her teaching career in Northwest Arkansas, was now teaching in Oklahoma. Her sister, Mrs. George Spencer, in St. Paul was dying. Miss Lively would take two-year old Helen, the youngest of the three Spencer children to live with her.)

"We had a heavy rain and wind storm from Cameron, Okla. to Fort Smith. I arrived in Fort Smith at 6:15 a.m. and took street car home. I found wife almost sick from worry about me. Neighbors were very kind, sending messages and consoling her. I spent day resting. In

evening, wife and I drove up town and bought a refrigerator, \$9, her a hat, and Marie some (illegible) for supper. Sam Gill came at 6:30. We were so glad to see him. Total expenses, \$36."

June 14. "Clear and cool all day. After breakfast, Sam and I drove around the city. After dinner, we drove to the depot and Sam took the train home. We went to the Poteau bridge and looked over our logs. We had rafted them. We bought a watermelon and basket of peaches, we sampled them, put some of them on ice for morning. Expenses \$1.50."

June 15. "Clear and cool. Roads drying out very fast. At factory, scaled walnut logs to load for Frank Brown of Fayetteville. Paid W.A. Willis \$168 on what I owed him. He gave me a \$10 discount so I settled in full. I also paid the Arkansas Valley Trust \$800 on note and \$10 interest and gave A.N. Lay \$11 for groceries. Also received deed from Oklahoma City."

June 16. "Our saw came back from St. Louis. Scotty tried it and said no one could run it and to send the saw back. It was no account. Old man (illegible) and I worked on it awhile, regulating feed and filing it. The saw ran fine, cutting lumber in good shape, only belts breaking. It ran all day, giving good satisfaction. Received a letter from Nellie giving us the news of St. Paul. We are always so glad to hear from children and friends."

June 17. "Went to mill early. We cut a nice lot of lumber. I had the men saw some hickory logs into axles ... Everything working fine at the mill. I sold four wagon loads of sawdust for \$1. Brought some home to put in the stable."

June 18. "Did not run sawmill. Wife went up town and exchanged her hat and pots and bought some dresses for Marie. She also attended the Macabees meeting at Mrs. Spinks. Met a Mrs. Minor of Chillecothe, Mo. and was acquainted with others. Said she knew Mrs. Smith. Well, I don't remember her."

June 19. "Engineer had to go to court in the afternoon. We hired a Negro to take his place. He couldn't keep the steam up but we had a good substitute. One carpenter got overheated. I took him to his home on South 18th St."

June 20. "I ran sawmill in the morning and stacked lumber in the afternoon. Cleaned up millshed. Worked four men. Took all the sawdust off belts getting ready for new ones. paid off my men. Received \$25 check for myself. Paid \$21 to the Building and Loan Association. I drove around Dodson Avenue on our way uptown where we spent hours buying a parasol for Marie, .60, and a nice glass pitcher and set of glasses for wife, \$2.25. Also had sodas at drug

store, bought two cantaloupes and a pound of barbecued beef for a good breakfast."

June 21. "Got up at 6:30, fed horse, ate breakfast, read paper, prepared water and took a fine bath for one hour. Wife dressed Marie for Sunday School. She went with Mr. Gelleny's children to the Baptist Sunday School. Helped wife scour knives with soft brick. Had a fine dinner. At 4:30 went for a drive. To church, heard a good sermon. Text, consecration. Was glad to hear of William Taft's nomination at the Chicago convention on the 16th. Expense, .20 at church."

June 22. "Went to the hardware store to see about buying another buggy. Hired another (illegible) from (illegible). He told me about Buck (illegible) getting his foot cut off trying to jump on a car at Mulberry. Also learned of Uncle Sam Welton being struck with paralysis and dying, Friday, the 19th. An old landmark gone. He will be missed around St. Paul. I think of him as a very fine man. Wife received a letter from Nellie at Ponca City, Ark. They were on a fishing trip and having a fine time." Nellie and Walter were with Ed and Annie camping on the Buffalo River.

June 24. "Had a letter from Mr. Waggoner of Oklahoma City wanting me to settle a grievance between him and Brother John. I will if I can. I went to the river and scaled several feet of the cottonwood Shaw sold to Spinks. Scaled some sycamore for refrigerator company. Wife, Marie and I went up town to moving picture show, stopped at drug store for ice cream sodas. Had a nice time. Expenses .40."

June 25. "Wife, Marie and I went to Electric Park at 7:30 p.m. We let Marie ride the merry-goround. She looked splendid, so graceful. We then went to the auditorium to see the moving picture. Home at 11:30. I bought ham sandwiches to eat when we got home. Very cool. We slept under two quilts. Expense .95."

"Saturday, June 27. A huge log to saw at the mill. Commenced at 7 a.m., worked on it until noon. Had all kinds of trouble. Finished it after dinner. Wife went up town and bought Marie white slippers and hose and we got ready to go to Fayetteville. Marie looked so nice, dressed in blue.

"We left home at 5:15. Missed the first streetcar but arrived at depot in plenty of time. I bought a chicken sandwich, two ham sandwiches, lemons and oranges. We left on the Frisco at 6:55, arrived at 9:20. Sam Gill to meet train with cab. We found all well and glad to see us. Expenses, \$7.80."

June 28. "Clear and cool. Total eclipse at 11:40 a.m. We forgot to look at it. S.L. Gill and I had a pleasant drive, came home and found Mrs. Gill had a table loaded with good things and we did justice to everything set before us. Wife and Maude went for a drive and called on old friends.

"Misses Hattie Charlesworth and Kate Allen came to call on Maude. Went to depot at 9:30 leaving the children asleep, poor Marie afraid we would leave her and we did, both of us feeling very sorry. At the lunch counter I bought coffee and sandwiches. We didn't get out of Fayetteville until 1:30 a.m. Expenses \$3.90."

June 29. "We arrived at 4:20 a.m. Hired a cab to bring us home. Paid him \$1. Lay down for two hours sleep and then went to mill after eating a light breakfast. Found my sawyer sick, had to get Scottie and we didn't get along very well.

Some of the pulleys wearing out."

This was a memorable day. The Jeters had their first ride in an automobile. He wrote in his diary, "Mr. Nelms called me at the mill. After supper, Mr. Nelms and Miss Gene Young invited us to take an auto ride. They came at 8 p.m. and we had a 50 mile ride over the best streets and roads. We enjoyed it so much. We will never forget our ride. It was delightful. We had refreshments on the Avenue. Everything was good. Total expense, \$1.35." (Mr. Nelms was the young man who sold him the lots in Oklahoma City.)

A new building was under construction for the box factory. The first reference to it was May 6. "Spinks began work on foundation for our new building at the plant. It will be brick — 80 by 100 feet, 20 feet high." June 30. "The men are geting along nicely with the new building." July 14. "Mr. Spinks down to mill several times, had a new man commence work on building." August 5. "I sold sawdust (.10) and paid Spinks in the new office. First exchange of money in new office." August 6. "Our new building now to the second story." August 19. "Men are getting along fine on the new building." August 25. "I ran mill and we did fine work, cutting out five car loads of logs in two days. We finished cutting for our brick building. The men putting on sheeting today." September 5. "Mr. Spinks gave me one of the pictures of the new building."

By September operations ran more smoothly. September 1. "Good day's work at sawmill. Unloaded two more cars. My men stood the work fine." On the fifth, he wrote, "We did the biggest day's work ever at the sawmill. Cut 12,000 board feet of lumber in nine hours. Everyone tired when night came."

On the 8th, he notes, for the first time in the diary, sending workers from the sawmill to the Eagle Box Factory's new building. "I stacked lumber with 10 men and had two men repair furnace and run resaw at upper factory. Did a lot of nice stacking and had four cars of logs unloaded on skids, more logs than we ever had on skids before, five in all."

September 11. "At mill at 6:40 I scaled two carloads of ash we bought from a Mr. Ray of Vian, Okla. Fine logs, 8,326 feet in the two cars. We received seven carloads of logs today. Unloaded three." On the 15th, "We cut ash and walnut. Made a good showing. Had one day's pile of lumber hauled to the upper factory to make into egg crates."

September 18. "Sent four men to help run the resaw at the upper plant. Had all material hauled from yard to the new building and put railroad rails on log skids to haul them up." The new day, "had two men clear the yard in front of our new building and two stacking lumber. We finished at four. Everything looked in fine shape. Paid men off at 4:30. I stayed with sawyer until 5:30." On the 22nd, "We moved into new offices in the morning. It looks fine." On the 23rd, "Had 10 men apply for jobs. Cut considerable ash today, some oak. ... At 5:30 men went to new office to be paid."

September 28. "Went to upper factory and had 4,000 feet of walnut resawed, sent two loads of rims to the Rim & Bow factory in finished walnut. Back to mill, began sawing cottonwood. Men had problems with rotary engine. Mr. Kennedy wants Mr. Spinks to discharge all his men and shut down until the first of the year. Mr. Spinks says he won't do it. Won't know until Joe Kennedy comes the first of the week. Hope he won't shut down." The next day, he "Put 21 walnut logs on the skids and cut them up. Got the cut off saw to humming and cut 4 loads of wood. Everything in good shape."

September 30. "A delightful day. We started the resaw at the upper factory and cut 10,000 feet of cottonwood in the morning. In the afternoon I helped them cut 2,000 feet of walnut getting done at 5 p.m. The boys broke the knives on the planer. Will have to wait for new knives. They are making some nice coffee boxes, also some saddle boxes for Murphy & Co."

Entries in July, August and September remind the reader of the harshness of working conditions in this era. They note injuries, firings and hiring.

On July first, "I changed engineers at noon, one man doing the work of two and keeping steam up all the time. Had several men apply for jobs, John Walker of Pettigrew among them. Several men from the large mills in the South wanting work. They say everything is shut down. No work to be had."

July 2. "One of my men cut his foot, had to lay off two hours and will be laid off several days. Had to turn off two men." July 23. "I hired a new sawyer. Didn't like him very much. Only kept him nine hours." July 27. "Had to hire a new engineer. Think I made a good exchange, got a white man for a Negro." July 29. "I didn't feel very well this morning. Went to mill. Looked like everything went wrong. Finally I got angry. Fired two Negroes and nearly fired sawyer. About noon, everything began to change and we finished with a nice day's work." August 6. "At mill, ratchet setter took sick, had to hire another one."

August 7. "I hired one man, turned one off and two quit. We didn't have enough men to work so we ground the saw, had one man chop wood, one fix the furnace. Used the money from sale of sawdust to buy ice. Hired a ratchet-setter who had worked for United Walnut Co." August 8. "One end of a board we were taking off a lumber car flew off and hit a Negro on the neck almost putting him out of business." August 10. "Hired two men."

August 11. "Hired an extra man." August 18. "One man burnt out. I hired another." August 19. "I hired another man to keep in case one burned out."

August 25. "I hired two extra men, one lasting just two hours." August 27. "Hired two extra men to help stack lumber." August 28. "Had men stacking lumber and loading logs all day. Several men got overheated." August 29. "We ran sawmill until 3 p.m. when the sawyer thought he had ruptured himself." August 31. "Hired two new men, one a big stout one."

September 9. "Arrived at mill at 6:40 a.m. One man absent, one sick. I hired two men and stacked lumber with all the crew until 10:30, then put two of them to sawing, broke feed rope and ran into some nails causing saw to be damaged but we did real well after all. Received a great many logs from wagons."

The work week included most holidays. July 4, Wednesday. "Delightful day. Worked at mill all day." Labor Day. "Don't think anyone worked but my crew at the mill. We cut lumber until 3:30 then stacked. At 2:30 a house right at mill caught fire in some way. I had my crew go help them get out most of furniture. Three or

four women and an old man occupied the house. None of them any good. A blessing to the mill it was burned."

September 14. "Election day. I didn't vote nor did any of my men. Ran the mill until 5:30 p.m." This was the Democratic primary. The next day, he "hired a new man and he is a tooter." September 16. "At 11:30 sawyer ran the saw on a spike, almost ruining the saw and causing me to fire three men."

He didn't, however fire the sawyer, who the next day, "ran on to three spikes and tore into two saws. Didn't get much done but stacking lumber."

And he seemed skeptical when workmen told how hard they were trying. September 24. "No steam at mill. Fireman and sawyer tried to fix a check valve. Claimed they had been up most of the night. I put all hands to stacking lumber. About nine o'clock, the sawyer began to saw. He would run the saw awhile and then hammer. Kept this up all day. Made me so mad I couldn't stay under the shed but I kept working with him. Got about a half day's work done."

September 25. "Our sawyer didn't get along with the saw very well. We had to hammer it several times." September 26. "Had a fair run at the mill until about 11 then the saw began to run bad. In reply to Jack Hunt wanting a job I said men are too plentiful to run after him."

The reader is reminded of the continuing problems of maintenance at the sawmill. June 28. "We didn't get along very well. Some of the pulleys wearing out." June 30. "I worked at mill all day. We put in two new friction pulleys and cut some fine box boards. Had to replace axles. We had a car of oak logs brought in today. Sam Womble set ratchet. We put in new friction pulleys. Had to replace axles. We had a car of oak logs brought in today. Cut some fine box boards." July 11. "The sawyer ran the saw into a spike and had to take it off and (illegible) it." July 24. "Our lace leather was no good. Sent Scotty up town in my buggy to buy lace leather, C handles and eye handles."

Five entries in August took note of repairs. On the 10th he "Went to the Avenue and bought feed rope and then back to the mill and changed the lace leather." On the 12th, "Main belt broke and delayed us some but we had a nice run." On the 19th, "We got all the flues in the boiler. Tested it with water and will commence to put it up the first of the week." And the 27th, "Had John Saylor and Henry Wallace fix our engine." August 31, "I ran the mill, cutting 10,000 feet of lumber and stacking considerable. We had four cars of logs in the morning and unloaded two of them."

The diary reminds us that quality control began, for those who bought from the mill, with an inspection. July 6. "Phoned wagon factory for inspector. He came and took up all our wagon material. I also sold him our box boards at \$3 per foot, 13 inches wide and finished lumber." July 11. "Mr. Ballman came with his inspector. We loaded all that was inspected but the inspector never came back so we didn't get our car loaded." August 11. "Lee Elliott inspected for Ballman Furniture. Did not get one car loaded." August 20. "I had a car loaded with box boards for Box factory. We had a fair inspector."

Many of the entries during July and August were about improvements in their new home. He added a cellar and smokehouse and land-scaped the lawn. On July 16, "Had a load of lumber hauled home to make my cellar and smokehouse."

July 22. "Drove over to Dyke Brothers Lumber Yard and bought four pounds of cement, four barrels of lime, 3000 shingles, 1500 feet of flooring, windows and doors, columns for porch. Came home. Mr. Hartley took out dirt for our walk in front of the house and I made some changes in front, making the corners round instead of square and will fit in on front porch."

July 23. "Mr. Hartley laid brick today. They look fine. Concrete and shingles delivered. Rain stopped concrete work." July 24. "Mr. Hartley finished laying my walk. I paid him \$5.50 for his work. I scattered dirt over yard, loosened up one side of yard. Wife set out sweet violets. I set out some Bermuda grass. We want to beautify our place."

July 26. "Turned water on new walk." July 27. "Bought a cycle-end stave at hardware store, came home and cut weeds in yard." July 29. "I had a Negro commence to dig my cellar at 10 a.m. He did very well. I borrowed a wheelbarrow from Mr. Brogan and wheeled some of the dirt to the yard." July 30. "Had some lumber hauled home. Hired a carpenter to do some work for me. Men getting along fine with cellar. I hired a Negro to fill up yard and level it off. He did fine. Wife and I covered cellar and carried some flooring upstairs. I hung screen door."

August 3. "I sodded some of the yard." August 5. "I cleaned floor upstairs and set out grass." August 6. "Carpenter at house will have to do better or quit." August 7. "Carpenter got along better with the ceiling."

August 9. "I swept upstairs. Put up soap tray and some pictures." August 10. "My carpenter worked four hours and ten minutes. I cut weeds

in the yard." August 20. "I had lime, doors and windows for the smokehouse and cellar delivered today." August 21. "I came by Dyke Brothers Lumber Yard and ordered six sacks of cement for smokehouse and cellar. The men got part of the concrete down in the cellar. Didn't get along as well as they should."

August 22. "I brought the bricklayer with me when I came home. Then drove over on (illegible) road and got a Negro to help finish the concrete in the bottom of the cellar. After supper, wife and I drove up town and looked at furniture at several places. Bought a rolltop desk, bedstead and mattress. Paid \$50."

August 24. "Mr. Bredlow delivered the bed and desk. We like them so much. We got up at 5 a.m. and had a time getting our bed and springs upstairs. Paid my bricklayer \$4.20 for his day's work. Also had a load of lumber hauled. 50 cents. Bought 18 sacks of cement. August 26. "Cellar and smokehouse look fine. Will look better when finished. Workmen doing a good job."

August 27. "Wife and a little girl and I went up town and bought some window blinds." August 28. "Had to buy 700 bricks to finish my house and get more lumber from Dyke Brothers." August 29. "Came home at 5:30 and paid off my brick man, \$7.50 and helper, \$9.15. Carpenters got porch up at back door." August 31. "Carpenters finished covering smokehouse today." September 1. "I cleaned out cellar and piled up some planks for fence. We began building the fence today between our lot and Greens' house."

September 2. "Went by Dyke Brothers and ordered more lumber to finish house and fence. Carpenters almost done, put in the windows. I cleaned off part of the yard this evening." September 4. "Negro is plastering the cellar." The next day he was paid "7.50 for work this week," and finished the work, September 10.

References to neighbors were noted increasingly during the summer of 1908. June 30. "Mrs. Hughes and Mrs. Searls and children called on us and stayed until a late hour. Wife had a nice time all day." July 15. "Our neighbor, Mrs. Hughes, burnt her foot badly today, turning over a tub of scalding water."

Sunday, July 19. "Sat on porch waiting for paper. It didn't come. Mrs. Searls gave me her paper and we read the news. We visited across the fence with Mrs. Searls and Mrs. Hughes." July 23. "Mrs. Searls gave us some very fine steak and onions for supper. I enjoyed it." July 26. "Mrs. Searls gave wife a beautiful begonia."

August 9. "We got up at 6 a.m. and wife milked cow for Mrs. Searls. She and children leaving at 1 p.m. for Paris, Texas. Mr. Casey came for three quarts of milk which wife gave him." August 13. "Wife finished washing and what she can say about Mrs. Searls' cow is aplenty. Kicking with all four feet at once. She doesn't want any more cows to milk."

August 16. "I cleaned upstairs and helped wife milk Searls' cow. Paper gave notice of Lou Searls being implicated in robbing Tom Powell's saloon. He seems considerably worried about it. Evidence seems strong against him. I hope he is innocent."

August 18. "Mrs. Searls came home at 5:30 a.m., glad to get back and wife was glad to have her back, tired of milking the kicking cow." August 31. "Sharpened lawn mower for Mr. Searls and used it on our yard. Mr. Searls wanted me to see if I could get him a job on the road for the Eagle Box Factory."

Although the Jeters didn't have a cow, they kept chickens as we learn in an entry, August 12. "Mrs. Spinks came out to the mill. She called wife. Didn't find her at home. She was out feeding chickens."

Mollie and Mrs. Spinks became friends. June 30. "Mrs. Spinks drove down to factory to get the number of our house. She came to see my wife. They had a nice visit. Wife thinks Mrs.

Spinks is such a nice lady." September 21. "Mrs. Spinks and wife came down to factory in Mrs. Spinks' buggy, had a fine time, have made arrangements to go to Fayetteville, Friday afternoon."

September 25. "Went to LeFlore Hotel at noon. Wife and Mrs. Spinks there. Took one o'clock train to Fayetteville. Went back to mill. At 5:30 I went home with Mr. Spinks for supper. Then we came by street car to my house and I showed him around the cellar and smokehouse. He was well pleased. Then we went to his house. Going to bed at 11 p.m. Had a nice time."

September 26. "When I phoned home my wife had returned from Fayetteville at 11 a.m. and I came home for dinner."

September 30. "Mrs. Spinks and Mrs. Jeter drove in Mrs. Spinks' buggy to box factory and mill. Wife was calling on Mrs. Brogan when Mrs. Spinks came after her."

#### (To be continued in September issue)

(See the September issue of The Journal for the concluding part of Mayo E. Jeter's diary and more family photographs. The concluding portion of the diary, which ends with a January, 1913 entry, continues the story of the activities of the Jeter family, business and widening circle of acquaintances in Fort Smith.)

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#### Edwards Fentress Funeral Homes, Inc.

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#### ✓ Fort Smith Convention and Visitors Center

2 North B Street Fort Smith, AR 72901

# The History of Christ the King Parish

Mary Ann Evans

#### THE FIRST CHURCH

The year was 1926. The city of Fort Smith was growing as an industrial center with a population of 31,000. There were three Catholic churches in the city — Immaculate Conception, St. Boniface and St. John's. The bishop of the diocese of Little Rock, the most Rev. John B. Morris, felt the necessity to establish a fourth parish to accommodate the growing Catholic community. He appointed Rev. John A. Flaherty to select and purchase ground for a new church, and to be in charge of its construction.

Father Flaherty selected a site on what was considered the outskirts of the town, on the corner of Greenwood Road and the present South S Street. The property was surrounded by woods and open fields. A frame house stood on the corner of what is now South R Street. Both South R and South S Streets were unpaved at the time. Pavement ended on South Q Street, where Ballman school is located. A municipal golf course was situated between Dodson Avenue and the church site.

Ground for the church was broken on the feast of Christ the King on Sunday, October 30, 1927. The church was named in honor of the feast day and construction of the church began.

feast day and construction of the church began.

Original Christ the King Church, built in 1927.

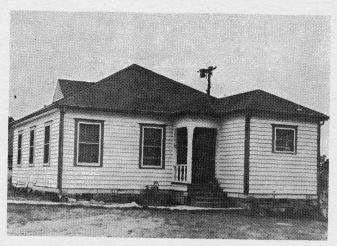
The church, constructed of native stone, was Spanish Mission in design — 35 feet wide, 83 feet long and had a seating capacity of 158 persons. The stone walls on the inside were left in their rough state and the woodwork was torched instead of painted. A cross, made of the same native stone as the church, surmounted the structure. The pastor had a small apartment behind the sanctuary.



Sanctuary of the original church.

The altar, which came from the St. Joseph Hospital in Hot Springs, was the only altar in Arkansas which had been dedicated by a cardinal. It was dedicated in Hot Springs by Cardinal George Mundelein of Chicago when he dedicated the hospital.

The little church of Christ the King was dedicated at the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, June 1, 1928. Bishop Morris officiated, assisted by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. P.F. Horan, Rt. Rev. Msgr. B.F. Fuerst, Rt. Rev. Msgr. H. Wernke and Rt. Rev. Msgr. J.P. Fisher, who served as master of ceremonies. The solemn High Mass which followed the dedication was celebrated by the Very Rev. Msgr. T.L. Keany, assisted by the Rev. Fathers W.J. Tynin and Lundregan as deacon and sub-deacon. Father Flaherty acted as assistant priest. He was also assigned as pastor. Sr. M. Katherine, R.S.M., was in charge of the musical program, assisted by a choir from St. Anne's Academy.



**Old Rectory** 

In November, 1928, Father Flaherty was compelled to resign his pastorate because of illness. For two months services were conducted by priests from Little Rock, and the first Christmas Midnight Mass was celebrated by the Very Rev. Msgr. E.P. Garrity of St. John's Seminary faculty.

In January, 1929, Father J.F. McBarron was appointed pastor, to be succeeded by Father Tynin. He was followed by Rt. Rev. Msgr. John P. Fisher in February, 1932, who initiated plans for a parish school, and also worked to reduce the parish debt. Msgr. Fisher died in September, 1933, and Rev. J.F. Murphy served as pastor until February, 1934, when Rev. Joseph G. Laughlin was appointed to fill the vacancy left by Msgr. Fisher's death. During Msgr. Fisher's tenure of eleven years the parish continued to grow and many improvements were made, including a rectory and the erection of Jewett Memorial Hall. The little frame house on the corner of South R Street was removed and the Hall was built on the corner of South R Street and Greenwood Avenue. It was named in honor of Charles Jewett, K.S.G. (Knight of St. Gregory, a title of honor conferred by the Vatican), who donated most of the money for the building. Rev. Laughlin was followed as pastor by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph Gallagher, who served from 1945 to 1947. Then Father Otto P. Butterbach was appointed as pastor by the then bishop, Most Rev. Albert L. Fletcher, D.D.

On the very cold night of January 26, 1948, disaster struck. The church caught fire, and Father Butterbach, who was asleep at the time, was awakened by the assistant police chief, B.H. Looper, who told him the fire department had already been called. Despite their efforts,

the fire continued to burn, and when the flames were finally extinguished, only the roof and walls of the church remained. However, the Tabernacle was saved.

With only a shell of their former church remaining, the parishioners set about the task of rebuilding and replacing. They did this with determination and dedication. During the rebuilding, Jewett Hall was used for the Sacrifice of the Mass.

Committees were formed and contracts let. According to a yearbook issued in 1954 by the Mothers' Club, the building committee consisted of the following: Ed Leding, Mary Dorpinghaus, Mrs. Tom Daly and Arthur Kainpschror. The finance committee was composed of Dan McMahon, J.R. Rapley, Tom Brogan, Arch Degen, Bill Schmidt and Wm. A. Baker.

Money was raised by the various church organizations by holding an annual bazaar and other fund-raising activities such as serving dinners and selling hot dogs and hamburgers. Dinners were prepared and served in Jewett Hall and at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Cooking was done on an old gas iron stove in the Hall, but there were no facilities available at the Knights of Columbus Hall, and cooking was done on a two-burner gas plate. One of the ladies involved in those early fund-raising efforts recently recalled, "We washed dishes in a #2 galvanized tub by kneeling on the floor, behind a partition so we couldn't be seen by the diners. We washed enough dishes in that tub to float a battleship. And we 'toted' that old tub to the K.C. Hall when we served hamburgers and hot dogs there."

During the rebuilding era a carnival set up business on the western back lot of the church property (where the present playground and baseball field are located). The carnival was stranded in South Fort Smith due to financial problems and they made their headquarters in a defunct stove factory and wheelbarrow plant. Two of the Christ the King women parishioners built a stand on the church grounds and cooked breakfast for the carnival employees every morning, and served hamburgers and hot dogs for the evening meal. S.H. Kress Company donated a hot dog machine.

The carnival company in return set up rides—a ferris wheel, merry-go-round, games and rides, and Christ the King parishioners had booths for selling hot dogs, hamburgers and snacks on weekends. Proceeds from the rides and concession booths went to the church building fund.

## **PASTORS 1927 — 1994**



Rev. John A. Flaherty First Pastor, 1927 — 1928



Rev. J.F. McBarron 1929 — 1931



Rev. W.J. Tynin 1931 — 1932



Rt. Rev. Msgr. John P. Fisher 1932 — 1933



Rev. J.F. Murphy 1933 — 1934



Rev. Joseph G. Laughlin 1934 — 1945



Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph A. Gallagher 1945 — 1947



Rev. Otto P. Butterbach 1947 — 1960



Rev. Edwin J. McCormick 1960 — 1969



Rev. Thomas P. Reynolds 1969 — 1974



Rev. Bernard G. Malone 1974 — 1980



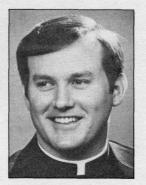
Rev. Milton Lange 1980 — 1983



Rev. Fredrick B. Zarrille 1983 — 1984



Richard M. Strock 1984 — 1989



Thomas G. Marks 1989 — 1992



Msgr. Royce R. Thomas 1992 — Present

In August, 1948, reconstruction began. Since there was no longer need for the pastor's apartment at the rear of the church, the plans for the original church were revised to include a sacristry and boiler room, and a new addition, 12 x 30 feet, was built on the rear of the building. The old rock walls were covered with steel and lath and plastered; the old wooden ceiling beams were replaced with steel and covered with pine boards. The ceiling was insulated and had recessed lighting. The communion rail was made of marble from Carthage, Missouri. The Tabernacle was refinished. The floor was covered by Holstein rubber. Beneath the rubber floor, a 6-inch concrete floor contained a radiant heating system. The lumber for the pews, Arkansas maple, was donated by Linder Bros. of Kensett, Arkansas, and the pews were built by Petit Jean Lumber Co. of Fort Smith. The stained glass windows were the work of a famous artist, Emil Frei, of St. Louis, and were symbolic of the Seven Sacraments and the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. The choir loft was enlarged and afforded additional seating capacity. The Baptismal font was located to the rear of the entrance. A complete set of Roman vestments were made by Sr. Mary Claudine, O.S.B., of St. Scholastica Convent.

On Christmas Eve, 1948, the parishioners of Christ the King assembled for the celebration of Midnight Mass in their rebuilt church.

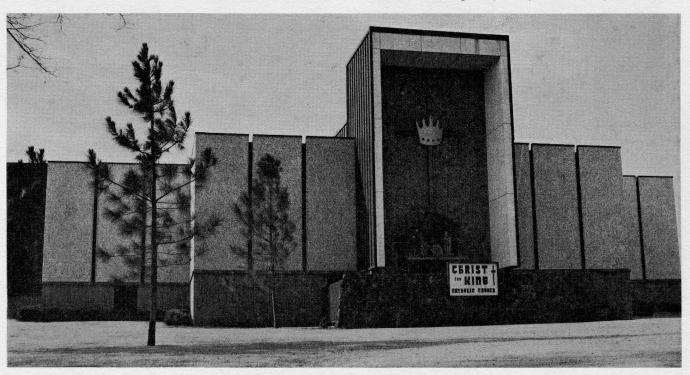
#### THE NEW CHURCH

As Christ the King Parish grew, the little mission church was barely able to accommodate the congregation at Sunday Masses. This necessitated a larger, more spacious structure, on ground large enough to provide ample parking and landscaping. Father Butterbach, followed by Rev. Edward McCormick, who became pastor in 1959, started laying aside funds for the erection of a new church. The congregation continued to raise money in the usual way — holding an annual carnival, together with other fund-raising fun fetes such as bingo, bunco parties, dinners, etc.

A site was selected across the street, where South S Street and Greenwood Avenue intersect, and ground was broken for the new church on Sunday, March 12, 1972. The ceremony was blessed by Msgr. William Galvin and Rev. Thomas Reynolds, the pastor assigned to the parish in 1969.

The church was dedicated on Sunday, December 3, 1972, by Bishop Andrew J. McDonald.

The building was designed by Edwin Drimmel, architect, and features a new concept, with the back of the building facing the street and front facing the parking area, with side doors facing east and west. All the windows and tapestry were designed and executed by Robert Harmon, designer and craftsman, of Arcadia, Missouri. A large tapestry is a focal point of the



New church.



Sanctuary of new church.

interior of the church, and reaches from the ceiling to the floor behind the high altar. Two large stained glass windows, reaching from ceiling to floor, form part of the interior walls of the church. The following explanation of the symbolism of the tapestry and windows is copied from a brochure obtained at the rectory of Christ the King Church:

#### THE TAPESTRY

"The tapestry is a visual statement of the Triune God in symbols. The circle has traditionally been used by the Church as wholeness or completeness. In the tapestry may be found three circles, the top one containing the eye, symbolizing the wisdom of God the Creator. The middle circle contains the flame, symbolizing the dynamic power of the Holy Spirit. The bottom circle, resting behind the Tabernacle, contains the fish, symbolizing the mystical reality of Christ among us. The three circles rest on a highly stylized vine.

"If you look closely within the pattern interconnecting the circles there will be found forms which may be read as equal signs. Then the circle forms would read that Christ is equal to the Holy Spirit and is equal to God the Father.

"At the top of the tapestry may be seen the crown, which is surmounted by the cross, symbolizing the fact that this is the parish of Christ the King."

### DESCRIPTION OF THE LARGE FACETED GLASS WINDOWS

"The most prominent symbol within the windows is the tree — the tree of life, in this case a pine tree highly stylized. The pine tree puts out roots and finds nourishment even in the poorest soil.

"In the central bottom portion of the window will be found the image of the fish used as a symbol of Christ. The roots of the tree around the fish are meant to suggest that the energy for the tree of life is drawn from Christ and His sufferings which are portrayed by the purple area around the fish. The trunk of the tree moves upward from the fish and out in three main horizontal branches from the center. These branches hold symbols which suggest three levels or three types of Christian faith and experience.

"The Stations of the Cross are nestled in the lower branches and speak to the historical reality of Christ's suffering for man. Moving upward in the window, stylized flames symbolizing Pentecost or the coming of the Holy Spirit, are shown resting on the second extension of the branches. On the third and upper level of the branches, twelve doves are used as symbols of the Apostles. The doves were often used in Byzantine mosaics in the early cathedrals."

#### THE FRONT WINDOW

"This window is a very free form interpolation of the more formal visual statement made behind the altar.

"In the upper portion of the window may be seen the eye, symbolizing the wisdom of God. This rests in a somewhat stylized cloud form.

"Directly below may be found the dove, symbolizing the Holy Spirit in a descending movement.

"The Chi Rho at the base of the window under the crown and resting on a mound of earth may be read in a poetic way to suggest the Incarnation and Annunciation."

#### THE SIDE ENTRANCE WINDOWS

"The side entrance windows are meant to symbolize man's activities in the secular world.

"The window facing the airport contains symbols of the earth, the sun and the moon and the milky way — in other words, outer space and man's excursions to the other planets.

"The window facing the school is meant to symbolize man's intellectual and scientific exploration of the atomic and molecular structures here on earth.

"Looking at the window from the inside, the upper left hand area symbolizes fire and sun, the clouds, air and fish, the water (the Greek concept of the elements as earth, air, fire and water). The other five panels extend the idea of earth in the lower left hand corner where a plant is shown with its roots in the earth. In the lower

right hand side may be seen the form of an amoeba, moving through the water. The central areas of both left and right may be read as cross sections of plant stems as seen through a microscope with one exception, the insertion of the shamrock. In the upper right hand panel may be seen patterns which symbolize the atom."

#### THE SCHOOL

Christ the King school opened in September, 1949, in Jewett Hall. It contained three class-rooms, cloak rooms, and lavatories. It consisted of kindergarten and four grades. The first pupils, 42 in number, were taught by the Sisters of Mercy of the St. Louis Province. A school cafeteria was added in November, 1950.

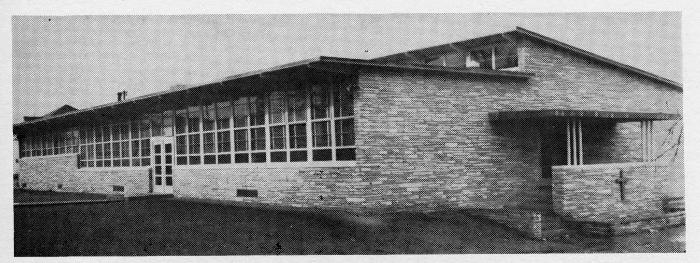
As the enrollment grew, grades 5 and 6 were added and a lay teacher, Mrs. Helen Schmidt, joined the faculty as kindergarten teacher. An elevated floor was built and was used as a fourth classroom and also as a stage.

It became increasingly obvious that a new building was necessary to accommodate the growing enrollment. And on April 29, 1953, ground was broken on church property between South R and South S Streets. The building was completed by the following October, and a further addition was built in 1957.

At the present time the school consists of pre-school through sixth grade, with an enrollment of 205 students. There are seventeen lay faculty members, including Mrs. Pam Byrd, principal.



Parish Hall Temporary School



**Christ the King School** 

During the same time the school was being rebuilt, the old rectory was dismantled and a new, 2-story rectory was constructed on South S Street. In June, 1958, Father Butterbach and the assistant priest, Father McDaniel, moved into the completed building. During its construction the priests resided in rented quarters on South S Street.

#### THE PARISH CENTER

As the parish grew, and various activities and organizations expanded, parishioners felt the need for a larger, more complete church center. Jewett Hall was dismantled and replaced in 1987 with the present parish center. A large auditorium, a stage, restrooms, a lobby furnished with appropriate furniture, and a large, modern, well-equipped kitchen were included in the design. The kitchen adjoins a lunchroom for the school children who attend Christ the King School which is adjacent to the parish center. A long, glass-fronted hall, looking toward the parking lot and the "old church" is part of the front entrance to the building. The building is used by the parish organizations throughout the year, and is rented, for a fee, to non-parish groups who need the space for meetings or festivities. A parish-wide Thanksgiving dinner is served annually in the Center.

The little mission church is used as an auxiliary meeting place.

The little mission church that was conceived in 1927 has grown into a complex that includes a new, large church building, a parish center, a school, the rebuilt church, a two-story rectory and a large playground that is used year-round.

Christ the King Parish celebrated its Golden Jubilee in 1977.

The information for this article was obtained from microfilm at the Fort Smith Public Library, from records in the church files at the rectory, from interviews with original parishioners and from a yearbook published by the Mothers' Club in 1954.

#### TAX TIP

Consider a gift of appreciated property.

The tax law allows you to deduct an amount equal to the value of your contributions. One way to support the Fort Smith Historical Society while reducing your tax bill is to donate appreciated securities instead of cash.

By donating appreciated stock you can obtain a deduction for the current fair market value, plus you avoid paying taxes on capital gain you would have realized if you had sold the

stock.

Specific questions on taxes as they relate to your situation should be directed to your tax advisor.

If you have a story, an article or photographs that you think would be interesting and suitable for publication in The Journal, please contact one of the editors, Amelia Martin or Sarah McCullough: c/o Fort Smith Public Library, 61 South 8th Street, Fort Smith, AR 72901, or telephone 783-1237 or 646-9542.

# A Tale of Two Cultures: Intellectual and Occupational Liberty in Fort Smith and Luo Yang

by Leo J. Mahoney<sup>1</sup>

#### FUNDAMENTALISM: AMERICAN AND CHINESE

In a Westark Community College classroom not long ago I had occasion to make cursory remarks about the history of ancient Persia. Along the way I happened to mention some of the debt that Western civiliation owes to the great Persian theologian, Zoroaster. He seems to have invented the notions of Satan and angels, Heaven and Hell which Judaism and Christianity later borrowed, recast and elaborated into the efficacious and colorful images familiar to us all.

My comments were interrupted more than once by polite hand-waving and alarmed facial expressions among several students who had previously made known to the class the Fundamentalist nature of their religious conviction. On this particular day they stopped my lecture to inquire whether I was conscious of any sort of contradiction between my attribution to Zoroaster of the origins of certain ideas familiar to them as fervent Christians and the intellectual ground or fundament of their belief.

As I apprehended their question raised in a serious manner, I, too, adopted a serious pose in making a response to it. I replied that there were two answers to their question. First, as far as I am able to tell, Zoroaster is the historical source of the theological ideas I had attributed to him. Second, and rather more important in light of their concern, at no point does Scripture make the claim that Jesus Christ was the originator of such concepts as Heaven and Hell, devils and angels. Because I happen to be a believer — although not a Fundamentalist one I added that it was probable that Jesus quite sensibly employed the common stock of ideas and beliefs of the times in pursuit of His public ministry, and that a number of notions understood and accepted by Israelites in Jesus' lifetime are traceable to earlier Persian sources.

About five months before the Westark classroom colloquy on Zoroaster with several of my students there, one of my graduate students at the People's Liberation Army's Foreign Languages University in Luo Yang, China, put a similarly serious fundamentalist sort of question to me during one of a series of lectures I was giving there on modern American diplomatic history. The topic of this particular day's lecture was what some writers have called "the New Manifest Destiny" of the United States during the 1880's and 1890's.

My very bright, very polite, very effervescent student wanted to know whether "the American imperial impulse" of a century ago was an "inevitable result" of "economic motives" operating inside the psyches, emotions and probably even the bodily cells of American empire-builders of the age. It was, and is, a good question. In its own way every bit as thoughtful and anxious and serious-minded as the question raised by my other eager, youthful, convicted American Fundamentalist students in recent weeks.

If I believed in economic motives (I don't), and in inevitable results (I try not to think of myself as such), and imperial impulses (somewhat closer to the truth, but still an anachronistic — and far too democratic — idea), I'd have answered my intelligent graduate student on the spot. Obviously, the question is a complicated one and, as with all such questions, the complications tend to be the handiwork of the questioner.

I thought it wise to put her off for a few days. After class I went back to my quarters to meet my son, Stephen, and the two of us bicycled several miles into Luo Yang for lunch at one of our favorite Chinese restaurants located in what is called Guangzhou Market. Stephen, who was not quite 22 years old at the time, was teaching several undergraduate classes in American conversational English at the University.

Back at home later that day I began to set down on paper my answer to the question about the American imperialists of a century ago. In constructing my response I was aware that my intelligent Chinese student was a devotee of what might be called the Maoist school of Marxist fundamentalism. It was clear to me that her question was raised with the specific intention of evoking from me a direct response

to a central Marxist tenet — the idea that all human activity springs from material conditions of life.

In fact, I would not have been a bit surprised to have learned that her query was suggested to her by one of the tenured professors at the University whose duty it was to keep an eye (and an ear) on my classes. My own view of academic espionage - more politely called evaluation of teaching — is roughly as follows: If the Foreign Languages University-PLA found it useful to pay someone to spend his time attending to what I did with my time, then clearly I deserved a substantial raise in pay. As a wisecrack this sort of remark is sure to raise eyebrows if not hackles in certain quarters. But there was also and unmistakably a profoundly serious aspect to my student's question about late nineteenth century American overseas antics.

Chinese scholars these days sense that they have reached a crucial intellectual crossroads. Their Maoist Marxian fundamentalism is no longer a tenable faith to them (if it ever was in most cases), but they do not have a viable philosophical substitute — or, if you prefer, a theological one - for it. To be blunt about it, thirty years of Mao Zedong's harebrained statist ideas of economic motivations and the fundamental determinants of material conditions of livlihood and human culture turned China into the most democratically impoverished, bureaucratically misgoverned, culturally insipid civilization in the world. To wit, fifteen years ago the giant Chinese military machine managed to lose its own war with Vietnam. Mao's death in 1976 came not a moment too soon to allow the rescue of his country from yet another generation which failed to learn how the world really works. As my acadmic supervisor at the University once put it, "Mao Zedong was too much of an idealist". (He meant to say, "a utopian". I replied, "Is that what it's called here?" I was not his favorite American.) Still, Luo Yang is chock full of massive cement statutes of Mao, right arm raised high in what to all the world outside of China is not so much a cordial greeting as a facist salute. (Stephen's exquisitely and — thank God — irreverently American initial reaction to Mao in concrete: "So that's the guy they named mayo after!")

Eventually, the typewritten answer to my student's question ran to four pages. I handed them to her at the end of the next class session several days later. She never mentioned the subject again. By contrast, I expect my American Fundamentalists to question every statement I

make that bothers them. That is my idea of real fundamentalism, and I wouldn't have it any other way. In fact, I think that all my colleagues at Westark especially value those among their students who attend to their classes with arched and critical ears.

#### **OUTLOOKS: FORT SMITH AND LUO YANG**

Fort Smith boasts a rich and varied cultural life. Having lived in the city for more than four years, I am still learning just how diverse and vibrant its cultural activity is. It is likely that many people here are not aware of it, but Fort Smith has a mosque among its many houses of worship. Not long ago the Old Fort Museum featured an exhibit of the city's recently acquired Southeast Asian cultural heritages. Then, too, one of the prize-winning historical essays read publicly at the burial of Fort Smith's sesquicentennial time capsule, in December, 1992, was penned by a young Hispanic-American pupil of one of the city's junior high schools.

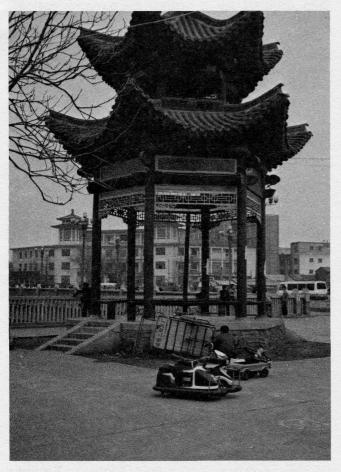
Nor is it difficult for most of us to become patrons of the arts here. Theater, music, painting and sculpture, as well as more popular and less demanding arts and crafts, all flourish inside and just outside of Fort Smith's boundaries. The city is also the site of several distinctive radio and television stations.

Consider as well that our denizens can find a good meal in Chinese, French, German, Italian, Mexican and Thai restaurants which dot the cityscape and afford the discriminating diner a surprisingly broad range of culinary choice. Add to all this stimulating fare a large number of public and private academies, well-stocked libraries and plentiful museums, a dozen popular motion picture houses, private and public venues for the performing arts, athletic leagues with teams for both sexes and (almost) all ages, several vital social support and family assistance agencies, and the plethora of good-doing and spirit-boosting civic associations — well, to put it simply, there are few plausible excuses for personal boredom and lethargy amid the bustle of life, thought, commerce and art that makes this city a dynamic hub of its region. In many ways, then, Fort Smith is a microcosm of America in the 1990's. To date it has not found its own cantoring Whitman or idolizing Frost to sing hearty praise to its many worthy aspects.

By contrast to Fort Smith's unsung cultural riches, poor vast Luo Yang in China's ancient Henan Province has little to offer by way of public diversion and community spirit. In this city of about a million people there are a number of motion picture houses, dance halls,

public parks, an historical museum and a botanical garden. Luo Yang has several colleges and technical institutes. It is in some respects a thriving modern metropolis. In others, it could not be more different in motivation and spirit from Fort Smith.

On one Sunday morning in April I was invited to give a talk at a privately owned English language school in the city. About forty bright, attentive, polite people showed up for the lecture on a topic I can no longer recall. However, I do remember the necessity of very carefully explaining what I meant by the English words "library" and "encyclopedia". At the time, I was not able to tell whether my American English had gotten by my listeners, or if they had not heard of the things I was describing. Not that any news I may have imparted to them would have mattered much. Along all the sidewalks of the city, at intervals of a hundred



Gazebo on what was called The English Language Corner in Luo Yang. On Sunday morning, a Mr. Yuan (the director and proprietor of a nearby English-language school) would play host to three or four dozen local citizens who had an interest in and desire to learn English. Ordinarily he would also invite a native English speaker — there were seven of us in the city then — to join his group. Behind the gazebo is a large building housing a Chinese antiques store and gallery.

feet or so, loud speakers continually blared patriotic anthems, ballads for dining, rousing marches for rising and going to work, soothing serenades for the homeward bound. A particular favorite of mine and Stephen's was Richard Wagner's wedding march, although we were never sure what it may have meant to the Chinese. And, of course, one cannot fail to mention the regular broadcast of news programs. One is never quite alone in Luo Yang.

As for the faculty at the Foreign Languages University-PLA, their attitude to the life of the mind might be summed up succinctly in the following curious relation. Last spring there were living in Luo Yang exactly seven native speakers of English. Stephen and I, of course, were two such characters. Two others - an elderly Mennonite missionary couple — were employed by a city technical college as English teachers. We never met them, but we know of their presence in the city from two young British women at the Luo Yang Teachers' College and a young American from Georgia (also an English teacher) in something called the Luo Yang Building Materials University. (I was never able to fathom the true purpose of the lastnamed institution, and it would not surprise me to learn that it had none.)

One day in May Stephen and I decided to invite the two British women to the University. The idea was to give our students a chance to talk to native English-speakers from England and, willy-nilly, to give the young ladies an opportunity to get across town to our campus and have a look at it. This is what happened:

- 1) We informed the University's Foreign Affairs Office (FAO) that we wanted a car and driver to fetch and return the two English lasses to and from the University. They acceded to our request. Among other things, the FAO's cooperation in the project meant that everyone on campus in any sort of official academic position knew that the two British teachers were coming to the school and when they would be arriving.
- 2) The British women arrived on campus and were escorted by Stephen to his office in the undergraduates' English Language Building. As Stephen and his guests ascended the stairs to his second story office, the officer in charge of the building dismissed all of Stephen's students and sent them packing out of the place.
- 3) Our guests were served a light supper at our apartment and walked with us afterward to the new undergraduates' lecture hall where I was to speak to 75 military students and about a dozen or so civilian (tuition-paying) students

enrolled in my "Aspects of American Society" course. I introduced the British teachers to the class, asked them to say a few words of greeting to the assembled students, and gave an abbreviated lecture on the topic of the evening. Then, I invited interested students to come to the front of the room and chat in person with our guests. Not a single military student accepted the invitation to speak to the British teachers.

4) About three weeks later Professor Yan, director of the American Studies Institute at the University (as well as its chief ideological censor), asked me to accompany him to the Luo Yang Teachers' College and introduce him to the two British teachers there so that they might be invited back to the University at some future date. Or so he said. While the British women were on the campus of Foreign Languages University, not a single member of the foreign languages faculty expressed the slightest interest in meeting them. Since they had not been officially invited, it was not conceivable to arrange to meet them or even to recognize their presence. Shortly after the events I have just related occurred, we discovered that the FAO knew all along about the five other native English-speakers in Luo Yang last spring. They simply chose to ignore them.

### LIBERTY: THE PLA UNIVERSITY AND SOUTHSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

In one of my current courses at Westark Community College there is enrolled an intelligent, eager senior student from Southside High School here in Fort Smith. She has expressed an interest in pursuing a theatrical career and, in fact, has appeared in a leading role in a recent performance held at her high school. I am no reliable judge of dramatic talent and skill — except perhaps of my own which is minimal in each case. It is clear, though, that this youngster is completely free to make her way in the world of the theater to the farthest extent of her desire and ability.

Though they were never intended as such, it is true that Southside High School is not Eton or Rugby and that Westark Community College is not Oxford or Cambridge. Yet it is true as well that there are a great many less desirable academies in the world than those which have been established in Fort Smith. There are also many less desirable fates than the one thus far chosen and cultivated by the youthful thespian in my Western Civ I class.

As cases in point, what follows is a tale of two Chinese students of my acquaintance. Their

names are fictitious but their stories are actual enough.

Miss Yin is by now a graduate of the English Department of the Foreign Languages University-PLA in Luo Yang. I met her by chance on the campus one sunny morning in March while I was filling thermoses with boiled water from the spigots at what Stephen and I quickly took to calling the water wall. As she was a civilian student she was free to become a regular visitor to our quarters and, in company with a friend of hers, she arranged with Stephen to receive a free weekly American English lesson from him. In return Miss Yin and her friend added their extensive knowledge of the city to that of our growing list of civilian student guides. In a word, Stephen and I got around Luo Yang and Henan Province with very little assistance from University officials. They were not happy about our literally free-wheeling (bicycling and busing) behavior, but we did not really care how they felt about it.

Early in June Stephen and I began to keep a close eye upon our spending habits since we were planning to leave China during the third week of the month. I was a bit startled after my class late one morning when my son told me he'd loaned twenty American dollars to Miss Yin. The amount was more than a month's wages for most Chinese; in fact, Professor Yan's monthly salary was only half again greater than the amount Stephen had given to Miss Yin.

The explanation of Stephen's extraordinary beneficence is that, while I was teaching graduate students in the History of American Protests course that morning, Miss Yin showed up at our apartment and tearfully prevailed on my son to lend her the money. It seems that she needed "mei yuan" - variously translated as "real money," or "rich money," or "sweet money;" that is, American dollars — in the event she might have to bribe her pre-arranged employer to continue to honor his agreement to hire her after her graduation in July. If he refused to stick to the deal, Miss Yin's entire career — the entire remaining years of her working life — could end up at the mercy of any provincial bureaucrat who owed any other similar scoundrel a favor payable in human labor. As it was, Miss Yin was under the impression that after a few years of apprenticeship as an English-language translator for a government-owned machinery factory she'd have a chance at a transfer to a branch office in Rio de Janiero. Since she was not a wealthy student by any means, this particular arranged

employment might well be the only chance Miss Yin will ever have to leave Henan Province during her lifetime.

The second tale is about a Mrs. Yang, a 34-year-old wife, mother, and teacher of what passes for International Relations courses at the Foreign Languages University in Luo Yang. Shortly before Stephen and I returned to Fort Smith, Mrs. Yang got welcome news of permission for her to spend the 1993-1994 academic year studying at Nanjing University where her husband is already at work in the graduate program of the same school.

For the first month of our residence in the University Mrs. Yang, whose English is quite good, audited one of my graduate courses. During the third week of March Stephen and I had a serious quarrel with the FAO and, thereafter, Mrs. Yang stopped attending my classes. The position of women in Chinese society — even cultivated, professional women — is an extremely vulnerable one. Mrs. Yang, whose husband was far away in Nanjing, had no choice but to sever her public association with me and Stephen once we'd defied the University's bureaucratic mandarinate.

Still, from time to time, we ran into Mrs. Yang in our travels about the campus. On such occasions it was painfully clear that she was distraught at having to remain outside our social and intellectual circle.

One day late in May Stephen and I dined in the American-style restaurant in the Luo Yang Peony Hotel in the city. We naturally enough struck up a conversation with two Americans from Iowa who were in town for a spell as expert consultants to Luo Yang's huge meat packing plant management. Before we left the restaurant the Americans gave us several recent newspapers they had bought on holiday in Hong Kong. Our generous compatriots had no reason to know it, but British and American newspapers are rare and precious commodities in China's interior provinces. We were most happy to accept their largesse and wish them our best regards during their remaining time in China.

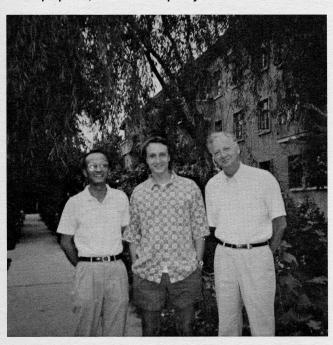
For several days we pored hungrily over our printed treasures from Hong Kong. Stephen even employed sections of the papers in his English lessons, although he ruefully (and amazedly) reported that his students dismissed the news stories as propaganda. Exactly when it occurred to me I cannot now recall, but at some point I fixed on the idea of giving the newspapers to Mrs. Yang. Her line was international affairs, and the Hong Kong newspapers were full of reports from all of the capitals of the former British Empire.

I telephoned her at her quarters and asked her to come by and pick up a "useful surprise". This communication caused her no discomfort as by this time news was out of our plan to depart Luo Yang in a few days time. Mrs. Yang had already arranged with a friend of hers whose father managed Henan Province's jade works to sell us some exquisite souvenirs at favorable prices.



L to R, Leo and Stephen Mahoney with their driver, Mr. Liu, and his "Benz" as he called it, in the drive in front of the Luo Yang Peony Hotel (where the only western-style restaurant in town was located).

She arrived at our door about a quarter of an hour after my summons and I handed her a plastic bag stuffed with the Hong Kong newspapers. She thanked me and departed quickly into the night. I remember thinking that I'd probably never see her again, but it turned out that I was mistaken. About half an hour later I answered an urgent knocking at the door to confront her alarmed expression and extended hand. She gave me back the plastic bag full of newspapers, turned rapidly on her heel and



L to R, Professor Yan (Director of the American Studies Institute, Foreign Languages University — PLA in Luo Yang, and Leo Mahoney's boss), Stephen Mahoney (visiting Instructor of American English), and Leo Mahoney (visiting Professor of American History). Building in background is apartment building where the Mahoneys lived in China.

disappeared into the night. I was dumbfounded. Later, it dawned on me that Mrs. Yang had not taken time to read the newspapers from Hong Kong. Moreover, she obviously did not feel safe in disposing of them herself. Why else would she have brought them back to me?

Several days later, when I got back to Fort Smith, one of the first things I did was to purchase a newspaper. I had not yet met the Southside High School senior who is planning a theatrical career.<sup>2</sup>

#### **FOOTNOTES**

- Leo J. Mahoney is an Instructor in History and Political Science at Westark Community College in Fort Smith. With his son Stephen, who is now at the University of Arkansas in Little Rock, Dr. Mahoney spent the Spring Term teaching in Luo Yang, Henan Province, China. He wishes to express his gratitude to the President and Board of Directors of Westark Community College for their kind generosity in granting a partial sabbatical to him during spring, 1993.
- 2. One of these newspapers, South China Morning Post, "the most independent local English-language newspaper in East Asia", has recently been purchased by "a megarich friend of Beijing". Soon, it would seem, my young Chinese professor will be able to read it publicly. Emily MacFarquhar, "A Crucial Test for Reform," U.S. News & World Report, 24 JA 94, p. 56.



L to R, Leo Mahoney, Professor Yan, Stephen Mahoney, and three graduate students who were in both American History seminars.

# Poets and Poetry

by Sarah Fitzjarrald

### CAROLINE BUERGLER Girl on the Verge of Becoming a Great Poet

Caroline Buergler, 11 years old, is the daughter of Bill and Lucy Buergler of Fort Smith and is the youngest poet that we have had the pleasure of reviewing. She is fifth in line of her parents' seven children.

She has been writing poems and stories "occasionally for fun" since she learned to read and write.



Her hobbies include basketball, water skiing, swimming, volleyball, tennis and reading. She attends Immaculate Conception School in Fort Smith and will attend Trinity Junior High school next year.

Her poem, "When I Move To Many Places," which was submitted to *Highlights for Children* magazine and published when she was seven years old and in the second grade, was brought to our attention by Susanna Fulgham, Amelia Martin's granddaughter. I quote from Susanna's letter: "I was looking through some old 'Highlights'

and I found this poem. It was written by a little Fort Smith girl ... and from what I see, she has some talent. I thought you might be able to write an article on her. I'll even give you a title — 'Girl on the Verge of Becoming a Great Poet.'" (Susanna and Caroline are about the same age.)

#### WHEN I MOVE TO MANY DIFFERENT PLACES

When I move somewhere It will never be the same With all the memories I have left away.

I never want to move away. Most people want to move away. Not me. No sirree.

It makes me feel sad Leaving everything I've had. I wish there was no such thing As moving away.

It makes me feel mad. It makes me feel sad.

Caroline Buergler, Age 7 Fort Smith, Arkansas Highlights for Children March 1991

#### **DOROTHY DOUGLAS**

Dorothy Douglas was born and educated in western New York state and studied for two years to be a dental technician. She later worked for a United States Commissioner where she met Ralph Rawlings, Special Agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, whom she later married. They moved from New York to Arkansas where she has lived for over 45 years. Her husband died in 1975. They had four children, twelve grand-children and one great-grandchild.

She is now married to Dan Douglas, also an ex-F.B.I. Agent. He has four children and five grandchildren.

Douglas has been picking up courses at Westark Community College for many years and is still enrolled there in writing courses. She has also been writing poetry for many years for her own enjoyment and for her children and grandchildren.



**Dorothy Douglas** 

She has been a member of the Fort Smith Branch of the Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas since 1988 and contributes greatly to the group. One of her poems, "Chapter II," was recently published in *Active Years*.

Also an artist, some of her work has been exhibited at the Fort Smith Arts Center.

#### MY SPECIAL VALENTINE

Valentines are special,
There's no denying that.
They're filled with loving memories
And scrapbooks that grow fat
With lacy cards and little notes
My children wrote to me.
I keep them in a special place
Where they will always be.
And through the years they have increased
From "grands" along the way.
My very first was Sam —
He's 25 today!

#### CHAPTER II

Don't ever go back to the old homestead. The memory is fraught with despair When you try to recall all the things that you loved, And you find they are no longer there.

The old house that once seemed tremendously large

Has shrunk since the time I was small. The beautiful yard where I played as a child Is no longer there at all. The fields have been sold and some small houses built.

All very close to each other.

The barns are torn down, no sign of the farm That belonged to my father and mother.

Don't ever go back to the old homestead. Keep the memories of youth in your heart. You'll always know that regardless of change Your life had a wonderful start.

#### DORIS K. FERGUSON

Doris K. Ferguson has been composing rhymes and verses since she first learned to read and write. Her poetry career really took off, however, when she was in high school in Texas after winning a statewide student contest.

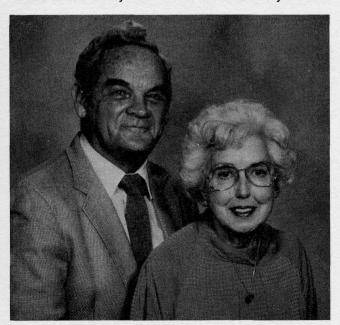
She married early and housewifing and mothering took preference in her life.

She married Harold Ferguson in 1967, after they both had suffered failed marriages. Together they raised an eight-year-old daughter. Harold finished work on his Doctorate Degree in Education and his career took them to live abroad for three years.

Later she took a writing class at the University of Houston, won their student contest in poetry, and became a member of the Texas State Poetry Society.

She has won many local, state and national poetry contests.

For five years she wrote a column about poetry which was published in the Deer Park (Texas) *Progress/Broadcaster.* She was president of the San Jacinto chapter of the Poetry Society of Texas for three years and was secretary of the



**Doris Ferguson and husband Harold** 

Houston PST at the same time. She has also sponsored and judged poetry contests for students, as well as judging many contests for the Oklahoma and Texas Poetry Societies.

She also owned and operated a publishing company to publish small books of poetry.

Ferguson became a member of the Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas in 1986, two years before moving to Arkansas.

She has been a member of the Fort Smith Branch of PRA since 1988 and is currently serving as its president. She and Harold reside at Mountainburg, Arkansas, and are active members of the Presbyterian church there.

Versatile and accomplished, she can take the reader to great heights with lines such as, "When you decide for me, it is time for eternity / I'll go and know that it is the greatest time of all. / Lord, I shall come, aching with mysterious joy, and / Running .... all the way home." (From her poem, "Song For My Maker.")

Or with her delightful imagination she can take the reader on another kind of joy ride.

#### TRICK OR TREAT

"A witch?" "A Witch!" I heard them say.
They passed me, spat, and went their way.
Whispered of dogs which howled in the night
And small, shrill bats whirling in flight;
Of flower beds dead where I passed near;
Loss of some talents that they held dear;
A young man they knew whose eyes had
turned white

And all of his dark hair fell out overnight.

They spoke to the sheriff and charges were filed. I stood for the judge like a meek, frightened child. He spoke of the charge as archaic, unsound; Of evidence lacking, or as yet unfound. Sneered that the items were trivial coincidence. Interpreted my pose as quiet innocence. In regal disdain, I swept out of the room: Laughed in the courtyard and flew off on my broom.

(Both poems are from her book, "Blessings, Curses, Rhymes & Verses," Driftwood Publishing, Inc.)

# Book Notes

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

#### CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCE

\* \* \* \* \*

by May Gray

Hardback, 64 pages. Price is \$10.00. Availble in Fort Smith at Chestnut Books, Old Fort Museum, Vivian's Book Shop, the Solid Rock Bible Book Store, Now and Then Shoppe, Inc., and in Van Buren at Christmas and Spice and Everything Nice, and Betsy's. It can also be ordered from Golden Quill Press, Francestown, New Hampshire 03043, \$10.00 per copy plus \$2.00 postage and handling.

May Gray has done it again. Christmas Remembrance is a collection of poems which take the reader from the Christ child in Bethlehem to the delight in children's eyes on Christmas morning. Even more, through meditation, prayer, celebration and recollection, Gray has captured the images and meaning of the deep and insightful spirituality of the universal pictures that are so dear to our hearts.

Christmas Remembrance is a sparkling treasure which should be added to your family classics and read again and again at Christmas time. The very essence of its beauty adds yet a new freshness to the permanent, yet ever-changing theme of Christmas. Each poem glows like an old-fashioned ornament in firelight or catches your breath like a patch of new-fallen snow.

Christmas Remembrance is May Gray's seventh book of poetry. She has also written a book of prose and poetry and is the recipient of numerous awards.

Her honors include the Poetry Society of America "Dylan Thomas" award, a book award from the National League of American Pen Women, contest awards from the Kentucky State Poetry Society and the Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas.

Her poetry has also been published in *Our Christian Home and Family; Kentucky in American Letters; Poets of the Midwest; Arkansas Poets' Roundtable Anthologies; The Christian Science Monitor; Good Housekeeping; Poetry Digest and The Teacher.* 

Gray has been an active church member, PTA president, member of the P.E.O Sisterhood, the Eastwood Garden Club, Sparks Hospital Women's Board and DAR. A native of Kentucky, she has been a resident of Fort Smith for many years.

Reviewed by Sarah Fitzjarrald

#### THE RIVER is a WICKED WITCH

by Hazel Presson

Paperback. Price is \$8.00. Available at Vivian's Book Store, Chestnut Books, Airport Restaurant, Fort Smith Convention and Visitors' Bureau, Westark Book Store and Coleman Pharmacy Gift Shop on Grand Avenue. Copies may also be ordered from the publisher through Vivian's Book Store, 400 North Greenwood Ave. at \$8.00 plus \$2.50 postage and handling.

The River is a Wicked Witch is a novel set in the Upper Louisiana Territory in the nineteenth century and tells the story of a young girl, Lucie Valliere, who was the only surviving member of her family after deadly attacks of swamp fever.

She is determined to hold on to the family plantation, lying adjacent to the Mississippi River, in spite of the impending flood, a depleted work force, a new and hostile overseer, and an immediate need for money.

How the young heroine manages to do all this is one of those rare and highly enjoyable books which keeps the reader turning the pages.

After the levee gives way, taking the plantation and the baronial house, Lucie goes to New Orleans to attempt to borrow money. Even her Uncle Andre cannot help her so she tells him, "I've decided to marry me a rich husband!"

From there the story picks up its pace even more — more romance, intrigue, some brawls and a kidnapping.

The River is a Wicked Witch is Presson's first novel. A professional writer, she has seven textbooks to her credit, including a state-adopted history of Arkansas, plus six supplemental textbooks in journalism which have been used throughout the USA.

She also has four decades of teaching to her credit, teaching young adults journalism and English in junior high and high schools. She also taught at Westark Community College and conducted extension courses from the University of Arkansas.

In preparation for her teaching career she attended Westark Community College (formerly Fort Smith Junior College) and the University of Arkansas, where she received her bachelor's and master's degrees. She later received special training in creative and professional writing in summer sessions at Columbia University, the University of Minnesota, the University of Oklahoma and many regional workshops.

As polished as is her literary craft, her genius lies in the deep insight she gained from teaching young adults. She knows human nature; consequently, her fictitious characters are painted with the true brush of realism. They are allowed to work out their own destiny, to their credit or discomfiture.

We await her next book. And as for *The River is a Wicked Witch*, I can't wait to see the movie!

Reviewed by Sarah Fitzjarrald.

# News and Opportunities

#### FORT SMITH HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1994 ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, April 7, 7:00 P.M. Westark College's Conference Center

The Echols Conference Center is the former Echols Elementary School and is located at the corner of Waldron Road and Kinkead Avenue (see map insert in front of *Journal*).

Guest speakers will be Jim Lair and Neal Kimmel of the Arkansas American Civil War Association who are writing *The American Civil War In Arkansas*, a history of the Civil War action in Arkansas which is scheduled to be released in April 1995 to commemorate the 130th anniversary of the end of that national confrontation.

### THIS IS A PROGRAM YOU WILL NOT WANT TO MISS!

All Civil War buffs, Society members, people who had ancestors (either Confederate or Union) who fought in the Civil War battles in Arkansas, and the general public are invited to attend. This is a rare opportunity to hear these men speak. Invite your friends and come.

#### FORT SMITH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

To cut costs, the 10' x 36' Garrison flag will be flown only from May 1 to October 31 and on special occasions or by request during the winter months. A 10' x 20' storm flag will be flown during winter months, November 1 to April 30. Please make requests several days in advance if you wish to have the large Garrison flag flown during winter months. The staff will be happy to work with you.

The Old Fort Militia, a "friends" group to the National Historic Site, needs your help. The Old Fort Militia was formed to provide support to the National Historic Site, and they have outlined two projects to accomplish. The first is to restock the old Commissary building to its original state, and the other is to make a path along the Arkansas riverfront for area citizens to enjoy. For information on helping out the Old Fort Militia, please call the Chamber of Commerce at 783-6118.



# FORT SMITH TROLLEY MUSEUM ACTIVITIES

The Trolley Museum annual open house and beginning summer hours will be May 1, 1994 at 1:00 p.m. The public is invited to the open house.

1993 was an eventful year for the Trolley Museum. Over 40,000 people have ridden the streetcar thru its third season of operation. Extension of the track to run beside the National Cemetery was begun and should be completed this year.

A 6,000 square foot annex has been added to house additional acquisitions obtained during the year. Fort Smith Light and Traction cars #10 built in 1902 and #221 built in 1926 have been returned to the museum. #10 can be restored to run and #221 will be restored as part of a dwelling as it was used when the system closed in 1933. This completes the collection of all the four known remaining Fort Smith streetcars. Car #224 took part in the Riverfest that was moved downtown for the first time.

#### **EVERETT WAKEFIELD. 101**

Everett Wakefield, a resident of Methodist Nursing Home, celebrated his 101st birthday on December 8 with a party in the nursing home's dining room. He was born December 8, 1892 in London, Ark. and grew up in the Lowes Creek Community near Charleston. He and his late wife, Violetta, lived in Fort Smith for 80 years.

Wakefield is a former employee of T&F Office Supply and Remington-Rand Typewriter Co. where he serviced typewriters for 45 years.

In 1991, he earned the title of the nursing home's Valentine King.

#### OMA CATON, 100

Oma Caton, who was 100 years old on Sept. 22, prizes her independence, and is proud of the fact that she can still put both of her hands flat on the floor without bending her knees. She and her family celebrated her birthday with a party at her home.

She was born Sept. 22, 1893 to George Washington and Helen Reddy Marr in their farm home outside Cecil. She had a brother, James Henry, and a sister, Bell. She has three half-

sisters, May, Ethel and Eva, and three halfbrothers, Arthur, Winfried and Nolan, all of whom are still living.

Oma Marr married William Lytle Caton on Dec. 28, 1913. They were married almost a half century and had two sons, Paul of Euless, Texas, and Lytle Grey Caton, who lives near Oklahoma City. She has seven grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Caton has authored and self-published approximately 200 inspirational religious pamphlets and a small inspirational book, "Devotions Out Of My Heart," which was reviewed in *The Journal* on page 48 of Volume III, No. 1, April, 1979.

#### NEWS CHRONOLOGY JULY 31, 1993 — DECEMBER 1993

Sources for the compilation are the Fort Smith Southwest Times Record, Window on Westark and Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce.

#### **JULY 1993**

31st — Work begun on renovation of Roselawn-Holy Cross Cemetery at 5403 North O Street. The project, which will include clearing Sunnymede Creek, restoration of Roselawn Pond (to include a gazebo, a bridge to the island in the middle of the pond and 10 American flags along the bank), and a \$10 million construction project that will include the largest abbey mausoleum built in the United States during the past 50 years. The project will create around 200 temporary jobs and 25 permanent jobs.

#### **AUGUST 1993**

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15th — Open house for public to tour new science wing and renovated auditorium at Northside High School. The \$1.2 million expansion of the science wing includes new lab facilities and 10 added classrooms. Renovation of the auditorium, which was built in 1923, included replacement of wooden seats with 861 metal, cushioned seats, new air conditioners and carpet. School alumni and contributors provided the \$70,000 necessary to replace the auditorium seating, and air conditioners were donated by Rheem of Fort Smith.

16th — Todd Wooten, a junior at Southside High School, took part in an eight-day leadership conference in Columbus, Ohio. He was one of five Arkansas students selected among the group of 200 high school students from the United States and 20 other nations taking part in the Hugh O'Brian Leadership Congress.

16th — Floods along the Mississippi River and the Ohio River Valley brought back memories of flooding in Fort Smith, particularly the worst flood ever experienced here in 1943. Concern about the 3.1-mile Rice-Carden Levee, part of more than a six-mile levee on the city's northwest corner, has a 400-foot gap, city administrator Strib Boynton said. Efforts to fix the levee, he said, have so far failed, and the system that protects Fort Smith's northwesternmost cropland won't put up much of a fight if another flood hits.

28th — The Grand Slam Golf and Batting Training Center opened for business. Construction of the golf-game learning center at 5300 South Zero Street was begun early last March.

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28th — U.S. Border Patrol agents, Fort Smith Police and Arkansas State Police rounded up 70 illegal aliens during a raid on Fort Smith's north side.

30th — Helen Taggart, who taught at Trusty Elementary School for forty years, celebrated her 97th birthday.

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#### SEPTEMBER 1993

2nd — Good Ol' Bill's Arkansas Skillet Cookies caught some political flack, according to Phil White, president of the Fort Smith-based Fort Biscuit Company. And as a possible political balance to Good Ol' Bill, White said he may produce a line of crackers marketed as Ross' Budget Bites.

3rd — A Fort Smith poultry rendering plant was threatened to lose its water discharge permit if \$52,500 of fines levied against it go unpaid, city administrator Strib Boynton said. (Ho, Hum.)

\* \* \* \* \*

13th — Bill Bardrick, principal of Northside High School, named 1993 Principal of the Year by the Arkansas Association of Secondary School Principals.

\* \* \* \* \*

28th — Sebastian County Judge W. R. "Bud" Harper and Fort Smith city administrator Strib Boynton said that a second shot at a county-wide sales tax election would probably not be made until late this winter or early spring, due to budget woes. (Ho, Hum.)

Pushed by increased sales tax collections, Fort Smith city revenue for August climbed 9.4 percent from a year ago, according to the city finance department.

#### OCTOBER 1993

2nd — Besides Cisterna, Italy, Fort Smith has yet another sister city. It is Fort Smith, Northwest Territory, Canada. It is a town of nearly 3,000 inhabitants, sits on the border with Alberta and is snuggled beside the Slave River, bearing an uncanny similarity to our city, according to Emory Dockery, Jr., executive director of the Darby Foundation. (Mayor Dennis Bevington and his wife Joan Bevington visited Fort Smith and returned to Canada on October 9th.)

7th — Fort Smith paid \$78,276 to relocate seven Burying Beetles found on the Fort Chaffee land where the new landfill is being built. The cost of about \$250,000 is expected to be levied against Fort Smith citizens over the 10-year life of the landfill, to capture and save the beetles. (This story appeared in the February, 1994, *Reader's Digest* Magazine in the section, "That's Outrageous".)

7th — Fair officials said the economic impact study of the Arkansas-Oklahoma State Fair revealed this year's festivities gave a \$1.8 million boost to the economy.

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20th — State Rep. Carolyn Pollan of Fort Smith won the Arkansas Dental Hygienists' Association's legislative smile contest for the northwest district. The contest was held in observance of the 80th anniversary of the dental hygiene profession. The association wants to focus attention on the importance of preventive oral health care and the role of the dental hygienist in providing that care.

21st — Ground broken for new downtown Fort Smith postoffice, bounded by Garrison, Towson and Rogers Avenues and South 10th Street.

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28th — A new hybrid vehicle was devised and put together by several University of Tulsa students, using an electric motor from the Fort Smith-based Baldor Company plus a four-cycle gasoline generator. Because of the future need for low- or non-polluting forms of transportation, Baldor chairman Roland Boreham, Jr., said he was happy to donate the equipment to the project.

### — • — NOVEMBER 1993

6th — P. K. Holmes II was sworn in by District Judge Franklin Waters as the new U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Arkansas.

6th — The unemployment rate for the Fort Smith metropolitan statistical area, which includes Sebastian and Crawford Counties in Arkansas and Sequoyah County in Oklahoma, was 6.0 percent for October. That number was down from 6.1 percent in September and 7.3 percent in October 1992.

6th — Gerber's Baby Food Products has introduced a new baby food into its line, Gerber Graduates, for children between the ages of 15 months and three years. This new product is keeping the 550 Fort Smith Gerber employees busy.

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7th — Jaydeep Desai, 11-year-old Fort Smith boy, saved his grandmother's life by calling 911, and his parents, or anybody else who could help, on an extra line in the Terry Motel, owned by Bhavana and Jyoti Desai, who were in Texas. His grandmother, Malavika Desai, was unable to breathe, due to an impending diabetic coma.

8th — Evelyn Kendrick, long-time citizen and member of Quinn Chapel AME Church, was spotlighted with a brief biography of her life and dedication to helping many members of the community during her lifetime.

12th — Fort Chaffee Commander Col. Thomas Cannava and retired Army Lt. Col. Ernest Smith unveiled a memorial monument to the 717 Tank Battalion that was formed and trained at Chaffee 50 years ago. The monument is placed at Fort Chaffee's Honor Plaza outside the post headquarters.

16th — Northside High School accepted recognition for its National Quiz Bowl championship and celebrated the school's being named a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the Department of Education.

18th — Ground broken for new Arkansas Best Corporate headquarters and Cornerstone Place Shopping Center at Old Greenwood Road and Gary Street. Headquarters building will be a five-story, 190,000-square-foot structure. A 30,000-square-foot retail center, two-story parking deck, daycare center and restaurant will also be built on the property.

#### — • — DECEMBER 1993

13th — Lois Miller, director of the Fort Smith Girls Shelter for eight years, plans retirement on January 1, 1994.

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14th — What was once Westark Community College's science building, renamed Bess and Hill Williams Lecture Hall, became a part of the division of business.

27th — Gordon Askew, stockbroker for Edward D. Jones & Company, enjoys a hearty sense of humor. His humorous ways recently earned him a victory in a humorous speech contest sponsored by Toastmasters' International.

29th — Fort Smith residents who annually leave about 10,000 Christmas trees at curbside for disposal by the city, were urged to take them to Super Rent Enterprises, 3616 Towson, where they could be ground into mulch for gardening, according to Dan Reikes, assistant director for community services in the city. The service was offered at no cost by Super Rent Enterprises.

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# Genealogy

#### **CROSS CEMETERY**

N. Dale Talkington of T. P. Productions, P.O. Box 1311, Tehachapi, CA 93581-1311 has donated a copy of *Cross Cemetery, Greenwood, Arkansas* to the Fort Smith Historical Society and it is available for research in the genealogy room at the Fort Smith Public Library. In addition to an inventory and history of the cemetery, Mr. Talkington and his coauthor, Deone K. Pearcy, have included a great deal of other helpful genealogical information.

Other publications by Talkington and Pearcy are: The Silent Cities of Grant County, Oklahoma, Cemetery's, Funeral Home and Newspaper Accounts: Tributes of Blue, Obituaries of Civil War Union Soldiers Buried in Oklahoma; Birth & Death Notice Index To Selected Oklahoma Newspapers 1871-1937; and Oklahoma Death Notices and Obituary Index To The Daily Oklahoman 1947-1971.

Pearcy has also published two books of Pearcy family genealogy.

#### SOUTH SEBASTIAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The South Sebastian County Historical Society has been reorganized and is again publishing *The Key.* \$10.00 annual membership dues include a copy of *The Key.* Back copies of *The Key* are available at \$7.50 each plus \$2.00 mailing cost. Address is: South Sebastian

County Historical Society, P.O. Box 523, Greenwood, AR 72936.

The society is looking for photos of the green streetcar used as a concession stand across from the Greenwood High School. The car sat on the I. M. "Ike" McClendon property. If you have a photo we may copy, or know where one is available, please contact Luan Moore, president of the society at the above address.

#### ANCESTORS IN TENNESSEE 1796 OR BEFORE?

In honor of the Tennessee Bicentennial in 1996, the East Tennessee Historical Society is sponsoring a new heritage program titled "First Families of Tennessee". The purpose is to honor the state's first settlers and to identify their descendants. Anyone who is directly descended from a person living in Tennessee when the state was admitted to the Union in 1796, or before, is eligible for membership in this permanent remembrance of his family history and the Tennessee Bicentennial. Current Tennessee residence is not required. Applicants are asked to submit an application and prove descent back to an ancestor who was in Tennessee by the time of statehood in June, 1796.

For more information on this exciting project, or for an application form, please contact the East Tennessee Historical Society, P.O. Box 1629, Knoxville, TN 37901-1629 or call 615-544-5732.

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The 1994 National Genealogical Society Conference in the States will be held in Houston, Texas, June 1-4. Theme for this conference will be Exploring A Nation of Immigrants — Houston Style. For more information contact: 1994 NGS Conference in the States, 4527 17th Street, North Arlington, VA 22207-2399.

Genealogical Institute of Texas summer GIT conference will be held in Dallas, Texas, July 25-29, 1994. GIT, led by an impressive list of well known and respected genealogists, again will feature the only weeklong, intenstive genealogical instruction available in Texas or the Southwest. Tuition costs \$250 if postmarked by April 23, 1994; \$275 after that.

For an information brochure containing complete course descriptions, or to preregister, write to: Genealogical Institute of Texas, PO

799004 — Box 118, Dallas, TX 75379, or call (214) 233-9248.

#### GORTONS-HALES-BARRETTS-DAYS

In her new 300+ page book, *The Ancestors and Descendants of Minnie Hale Gorton*, Carolyn C. Volpe includes five heads of families who came to Plymouth in the Mayflower in 1620 and over 100 more who arrived in New England before 1650. Contact Carolyn C. Volpe, 4025 Pulitzer Place #218, San Diego, CA 92122 for more information and price.

#### **WORLD WAR I RECORDS**

For World War I military records write to National Personnel Records Center (Military Records), GSA, 9700 Page Bldg., St. Louis, MO 63132.

#### MARRIAGE RECORDS OF THE INDIAN TERRITORY

(The following information was received from: Checotah Public Library, P.O. Box 366, Checotah, OK 74426.)

Marriage records of Oklahoma are recorded in the office of court clerk located in the various counties of the state. Prior to statehood (1907), marriages of white citizens, in that part of the state known as the Indian Territory, were recorded in the various recording Districts of the United States Federal Court. A number of the court clerk offices contain these records.

The following table shows a list of the counties in which these records are kept, the county seat, number of volumes in the office and the period of time covered:

COUNTY	COUNTY SEAT	VOLUMES	FIRST ENTRY	LAST ENTRY
Muskogee	Muskogee	28	July, 1890	November, 1907
Carter	Ardmor	12	April, 1895	November, 1907
Pittsburg	McAlester	13	June, 1900	November, 1907
Craig	Vinita	10	July, 1902	October, 1907
Atoka	Atoka	3	June, 1897	November, 1907
Bryant	Durant	2	July, 1902	October, 1905
Latimer	Wilburton	1	July, 1906	November, 1907
LeFlore	Poteau	3	June, 1897	November, 1907

#### JUDICIAL DISTRICT

- 1. First Division, established 1890, covering the area of Cherokee and Creek Nations with Muskogee as court seat.
- 2. Second Division, established 1890, covering the area of Choctaw Nation, with South McAlester as court seat.
- 3. Third Division, established 1890, covering the area of Seminole and Chickasaw Nations with Ardmore as court seat.

#### LATER DISTRICTS FORMED

- 1. Northern District, established in 1895, covering the area of Creek, Seminole and Cherokee Nations, with Vinita, Miami, Tahlequah and Muskogee as court seats.
- 2. Central District, established in 1895, covering the area of the Choctaw Nation with South McAlester, Atoka, Antlers and Cameron as court seats (later moved to Poteau).
- 3. Southern District, established in 1895, covering the area of the Chickasaw Nation with Ardmore, Purcell, Pauls Valley, Ryan and Chickasha as court seats.
- 4. Western District, established in 1902, covering parts of Northern and Central District, with Muskogee, Wagoner, Sapulpa, Wewoka, Eufaula, and Okmulgee as court seats.

(Ragland and Simpson)

# 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.

REDING/REDDING/REDEN/REDIN: Who were parents of William Reding b. 1789 in NC, Joseph Reding b. 1812 in NC, Joseph Reding b. 1817 in TN, Isaac Reding b. 1815 in NC, Lemuel Reding b. 1815 in NC and Caleb Julian Reding b. 1920 in TN? Could be sons of William and Millie Reding or Samuel or Isaac Reding of Hardin Co. TN. — Billie Beckman, 374 East Avocado Crest Road, LaHabra Heights, CA 90631.

HOLMES/BAILEY: Searching for any Holmes that are related to John Edward (Ed) Holmes, b. 1876 Ark. M/1 to Rosa (?) and lived in Yell County Ark. Children by first marriage are: Bennie T. Holmes b. 1897 Ark., Alve or Alvin L. Holmes b. Okla., Ervin J. Holmes b. Okla., Bertha M. Holmes b. 1904-05 Okla. He married Susie Pearl Bailey in Hartman, Johnson Co., Ark. March 30, 1909 and moved to Mountain View, Kiowa Co., Okla. He was supposed to have brothers: Ben or Benjamin Holmes and Hardy and Monty Holmes (twins). — Elizabeth Langley, 6405 West Browntown Road, Huntington, AR 72940.

MOONEY: Need information on Richard Mooney born 8 April 1871 to Isaac Mooney and Anna C. Downs Mooney. Also burial records for Cecilia, Clementine, Seny, Anna C. Downs Mooney. 1875 in Washburn Twp., P.O. Blackjack. — Sharon Garrison, P.O. Box 253, Hanna, OK 74845-0253.

GRIMMET: Need names of parents of James Porter Grimmett, said to have been born in Pine Bluff, Ark. on 16 July 1876. His siblings and their birthdates are: Elizabeth, 6 Oct 1866; Theodoshia, 9 Nov 1867; Margaret Catherine, 1870; William Warren, 18 Aug 1873; Robert Thomas, 25 Feb 1879; Lee Joshua, 9 March 1885; John Harvey, 25 March 1892. — Kathleen Cline, 10343 Kaywood, El Paso, Texas 79925.

BROTHERTON/THRASHER: Researching Brotherton family, TN to AR in the 1830's. Also Franklin Thrasher and wife Fatha, Crawford County, Ark. 11 July 1840. Family stories say two of his daughters married, one a Morgan and the other a Matlock, stayed in the area when Franklin and Fatha went to Texas in 1847/48, apparently taking at least two sons and two daughters with them. A son, Thomas, m. Mary Gipson (or Gibson) in Ark., later moving to Paris, TX with wife and small child. — Joel Jay Thrasher, 8705 Jackson Ave., Manassas, VA 22110.

ROW/BOYER: Need information about Rosa M. Boyer (Mrs. Clarence) Row, of Jenny Lind, AR. B. 1887 in Crawford Co. Kansas, dau of Nelson James and Martha Jaye Boyer of Liberal, Mo. Married Clarence Row in 1904 in Crawford Co., KS, moved to AR sometime after 1920. Had several children: Mildred, Mary, Reba, Merle, Nadine and Maxine. Died about 1945. Would like to make contact with at least one of her survivors so that I can complete this portion of the Boyer family history. — Jim Ross, Rt. 1, Box 49-H, Pleasanton, KS.

McGEE, Miles Franklin (nicknamed Bud), b. 4/12/1863 (ILL?), who were his parents; did he marry in ILL, ARK or OK on 6/8/1890 to ADALINE COVENTON of Mt. Home? Who was his first wife? He d. 2/25/1918, bu in OK. My grandparents, Floyd F. and Dollie Mae (Oller) McGee spent their lives in Fort Smith and are both buried there. Other grandfather was born in Morrilton, AR and married in Conway Co. AR (Holton - Elder). — Patricia H. Engst, P.O. Box 2904, Huntsville, AL 35804-2904.

Under separate cover I have sent you a rendering of the old "Fort Smith". The Fort is depicted in the days that my great-grandfather, Joseph Howard Bailey, M.D. was intermittently assigned there as Post Surgeon. Dr. Bailey was the father of William Worth Bailey, M.D. and the father-in-law of my grandfather, James W. Buell, M.D. — William Curtis Adams, M.D., 3416 Autumn Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76109-2606

MOORE/BOSTIC/WHITE/WINTERS: Need information on following: Charles Isaac Moore, born 8 Sept 1801 in Benton County, married Rebecca Elizabeth Jane Bostic on 21 May 1821 in Fort Smith, and his parents, William and Emma (White) Moore. Parents of Elizabeth Jane Bostic were William Ashberry and Minnie Vianna (Winters) Bostic. — Charles Moore, 520 South 100 W, Salina, UT 84654.

Thank you so much for your answer to my inquiry ... Enclosed is \$15.00 for membership in the Fort Smith Historical Society.

My husband was born in Hartford, Sebastian Co., Arkansas, so I am naturally interested in the Morrisons in that area. The maternal side of his family was named Buck and were from Franklin and Logan Counties. In the late 1800's my grandparents and great-grandparents were

in Sebastian Co., mostly in the Hackett and Slatonville areas, before moving on to Oklahoma and Texas ... names I am interested in at that point are: Tabor, Parker, and Miller. My gr-grandfather James R. Tabor died at Slatonville. His wife m/2 Green B. Anderson of Slatonville. — Mrs. Wynell Morrison, 4941 E. Sooner Dr., Fresno, CA 93727.

PELLY/WILKERSON: Need information on the Pelly family who were former owners of the land now occupied by the Fort Smith Oak Cemetery. I am particularly interested in a Lydia Ann Pelly who married John Wesley Wilkerson. Mr. Wilkerson died in 1875 in Fort Smith and I am interested in him and the Wilkerson family as well. — Kathy Reed, 244 West Grand, Gardner, Kansas 66030. PH: 913-856-4012.

# In Loving Memory

#### WARREN McCULLOUGH

Warren "Mac" McCullough, 77, the husband of Sarah Fitzjarrald McCullough, associate editor of *The Journal*, died November 22, 1993, in a Fort Smith hospital.

He was the retired owner of McCullough Concrete Septic Tank Company Inc., a member of Christ the King Catholic Church and a World War II Army veteran. He was also a proof reader for *The Journal* and a caregiver, helper and daybrightener for many, many friends and disabled persons. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, M. Kay Pickering of Apollo Beach, Fla., and Mary C. Ferrari of Indianapolis, Ind.; a son, Warren Wesley of Columbia, La.; a sister, Elizabeth Smith of Golden, Colorado; seven grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Fort Smith Historical Society, 61 South Eighth Street, Fort Smith, AR 72901 or to Christ the King Catholic Church, 1920 South Greenwood, Fort Smith, Ar 72901.

#### CARL R. ATKINS

Carl R. Atkins, 72, died Aug. 13, 1993. He was a retired Fort Smith city clerk, past commander of American Legion #31, area coordinator of A.A.R.P., served as city manager of Brinkley, auditor for Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration and a member of Park Hill Church of Christ. He is survived by his wife, Billie Sue; a son, Michael P. Atkins of San Francisco; and a brother, Billy G. Atkins of Ozark.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Arkansas Boys and Girls Ranch, P.O. Box 3964, Batesville, AR 72503 or the charity of the donor's choice.

#### JANE DAILY TENNANT

Jane Daily Tennant, 73, member of the Fort Smith Historical Society and wife of FSHS board member, Lawrence S. Tennant, died Oct. 23, 1993, in her home. She was a homemaker and a past-president of the Fort Smith Public Library Board, the Rosalie Tillis Foundation and St. John's Episcopal Church Altar Guild. Interment was at St. John's Columbarium under the direction of Edwards Funeral Home.

She is survived by her husband; a daughter, Susan T. Kartzke of New Orleans; two sons, John L. of Frisco, Texas, and T. Ralph of Clarksville, Tenn.; and three grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. John's Episcopal Church or the Fort Smith Public Library.

#### **VIOLET LOVE SIBLEY**

Violet Love Sibley, 103, of Fort Smith, formerly of Osceola, died Nov. 29, 1993, in Fort Smith. The widow of Rife sibley, she is survived by three daughters, Corinne Rhodes of Osceola, Martha Bushanan of Blytheville and Violet Isaacks of Fort Smith; a son, David of Little Rock; 13 great-grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Osceola and Fort Smith First United Methodist Churches.

#### HARVEY M. HOPPER

Harvey M. Hopper, 92, died Dec. 8, 1993, in his home. He was a retired owner, operator of Harvey Hopper Plumbing Company and of Arkhola Gas Equipment Co., past president of Arkansas Plumbing Association, a charter member of Fort Smith Engineers Club, deacon of First Presbyterian Church, past president of Rotary Club, 32nd degree Mason, member of UCT and Amrito Grotto, served on the board of the Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce and was elected justice of the peace for Sebastian County five times.

He is survived by his wife, Lucille; a daughter, Nan Hawkins of Little Rock; a son, Bill M. of Centreville, VA; six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

#### JOHN M. YANTIS

John M. Yantis, 75, well-known Fort Smith businessman and civic leader, died Nov. 3, 1993. He was the retired president and chairman of the board for the former Mid-America Industries and involved in other businesses, past-president of the Fort Smith Chamnber of Commerce and head of many of the city's major charitable fund drives. He was the first president of the Fort Smith United Fund, the predecessor to the United Way of Fort Smith, and past president of the Fort Smith School Board and the Urban Renewal Authority.

The most physical evidence of his love for his city was possibly the donation in 1985 of the landmark fountain which bears his name in the small triangular park in downtown Fort Smith.

He is survived by two daughters, Sarah Yantis Plunkett of Kansas City, MO, and Julie Yantis Schultz of Fayetteville; two sons, Marshall of Fort Smith and John M. Yantis, Jr., of San Francisco; a sister, Lucy Thompson of Fort Smith; and nine grandchildren.

Memorials have been established with St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church Building Fund, 2701 Old Greenwood Road, Fort Smith 72903 and the Fort Smith Girls Club, 1415 South 31st St., Fort Smith 72901.

#### LAWRENCE "BUZZ" WOOD, SR.

Lawrence "Buzz" Wood, Sr., 84, died January, 4, 1994. He had been an employee of the W.P.A., the old Twin City Bus Lines, and was a retired employee for the City of Fort Smith.

He was a member of the Quinn Chapel A.M.E. Church, played in the Negro Baseball League, and later owned and managed several semi-pro Black Baseball teams. He helped form the Eighth Street Boys Club and served as one of the Board of Directors until it was incorporated into the Fort Smith Boys Club system. He helped to organize

Little League Negro Baseball teams and coached and managed one of the teams. In his later years he became a permanent fixture at the Jeffrey Boys Club.

His wife of 51 years, Charlotte Elizabeth Driver, who he married on January 25, 1932, preceded him in death. He is survived by two daughters and their husbands, Dorothy Mae and Al Gene Perry, Sr. of Fort Smith, and Patsy Louise and Jimmie Gean Prater of Tucson, Arizona; a son and daughter-in-law, Lawrence, Jr. and Dewilla M. Wood of Fort Smith; sisters, Ardelia Paden and Evelyn Kendrick, both of Fort Smith, and a brother, Ernest Wood of Fort Smith; six grand-children, eight great-grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

#### DR. SUE DEVERO

Dr. Catherine Sue Devero, 58, of Fort Smith, died February 6, 1994. A retired Southside High School teacher, she was a three-time winner of the National Joint Council on Economic Education's national award recognizing her programs teaching economics to high school students. She was a member of Immaculate Conception Parish, where she taught religious education classes. She had been active in Fort Smith Pride and was a former member of the Sparks Regional Medical Center Advisory Board. She completed her bachelor's degree at Texas Women's University and her master's and doctorate at the University of Arkansas.

She is survived by her husband, Lawrence A.; three sons, Phil of Dallas, Greg of Basking Ridge, N.J., and Ed of Tulsa; her mother, Catherine Boyd of Siloam Springs; a sister, Helen Selig of Hot Springs; and four grandchildren.

Burial at Calvary Cemetery was under direction of Edwards Funeral Home.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Fountain of Youth, 1408 Cavanaugh Road, Fort Smith, AR 72903; or to the Western Arkansas Alzheimer's Association, 322 North Greenwood, Fort Smith, AR 72901.

#### MARY GOEBEL TERBIETEN

Mary Goebel Terbieten, 94, died Feb. 6, 1994. She was the retired owner of Goebel's Restaurant and a member of St. Boniface Catholic Church, the Fort Smith Symphony Association and Musical Coterie. Burial at Calvary Cemetery was under direction of Fentress Funeral Home.

She is survived by two daughters, Gesine Fowler of Fort Smith and Mary dosher of Ruston, LA; eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Boniface Catholic Church.

# He Made the Morld a Better Place

By Jack Moseley, Editor of Fort Smith Times Record (Published in Times Record on November 14, 1993)

It was neither the first nor the last time he would know hunger, but it must have been one of his proudest moments. The only food in the tenant farmer family's shack was a chunk of lard and some flour. The little boy wrote a note to his father, who was a mute, asking if he could use the shotgun to try to kill something to eat.

The shotgun was old and sometimes would not fire. The child's father had only one shell for the gun. Carefully, the boy took aim and fired at a covey of quail from an open window.

He killed five birds, one for every member of the

If any child ever had reason to be filled with hate or envy, it was that little boy. When he was 14, his older brother left Booneville in search of work in the Kansas wheat fields and never returned. Responsibility for the family fell on Walter's shoulders.

Most of the time, he put meat on the table with his exceptional hunting skills. And whatever the family had for Christmas came from the boy shipping off hides of animals he had killed and selling them to Montgomery Ward. There was no time to finish high school.

His mother always insisted that the Lord would take care of the family, even when a landlord evicted them, leaving them with no money, no shelter and very little hope.

"I did swear to my mother, though, that I'd grow up, buy me a gun and kill that landlord," he told me once. "That man hurt us so much."

But Walter loved and believed his mother. And with his sweat, the Lord continued to provide for the family.

The young man started preaching the love of God when he was 17, although he did not have a paying pulpit for five years.

The Civilian Conservation Corps offered steady work and a paycheck that would help his parents and siblings. Later, the frail young man would work at the tuberculosis sanitarium in Booneville. where he would contract the dreaded disease and be confined as a patient for a year.

Always the breadwinner, Walter wanted to learn. With no high school diploma, he passed an entrance exam to win admission to Ouachita Baptist College. Without a job and only his faith, he moved his family to Arkadelphia, where two rural Baptist churches soon offered to pay him \$5 a sermon if he would preach to the separate congregations on alternate Sundays.

Walter completed college and was ordained in the First Baptist Church of Booneville. And for 62 years, my friend Walter Watts served in the rural churches of western Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma. Some Fort Smith preachers were critical of my friend for the very reason he was my friend he spoke up for what he believed. To me, that's the measure of a man, and stoop-shouldered, wiry, little Walter Watts stood 10-feet tall in that department.

I guess that might explain why he was not invited to preach very often in the bigger city churches.

He believed church was a place of worship, not showmanship. He thought churchgoers "are smart enough to get the message the first time; you don't have to make your point six different ways to make them understand. A good sermon is short and leaves the congregation with one good thought to carry them through the week, not a whole mess of different messages."

For a while, my friend visited a different church each week and scored it on friendliness, music, worship and the quality of the message from the pulpit. It upset some folks that he sometimes wrote his admittedly biased evaluations without disclosing the name of the church in letters to this

Walter said religion was "good news" and positive, not full of doom and gloom. "You can get the bad stuff without going to church, right off the TV news."

Walter loved to laugh and tell jokes. He drew cartoons and wrote clean, funny limericks. He loved to bowl in the Seniors League, and always dropped by my office when he would bring in the league scores each week.

Officially, Walter retired from preaching three different times, but I don't think he could quit doing what he loved so much. Last Sunday, a little Baptist church at Talihina called and asked if Walter could fill the pulpit on short notice. He cheerfully agreed.

Walter drove his wife to South Side Baptist Church, where she teaches a seniors' class. "I'll always love you," his wife said as she stepped out of the car.

"And I'll see you later," Walter said softly.

At the hour of worship in Talihina, Walter had not come inside the church. Concerned, members of the congregation looked outside and saw his car on the parking lot.

They found Walter dead in the back seat, his

Bible open on his chest. He was 79.

I'm ready to go when the Lord calls me," he told me once, "I've had a good life, but I don't want to rush things. I'm still having fun down here."

I failed to mention that Walter Watts got stuck with a nickname when he was a kid. Because of his positive outlook, everyone around Booneville called him Happy. And as sure as there's a God in heaven, heaven is a happier place because he's there, just as this is a better place because he passed this way.

Life, luck and -30- —JACK MOSELEY.

**FOOTNOTE:** Walter was visiting residents of an area nursing home not too many years ago when he came face to face with the landlord who had evicted his family from that Logan County farm. "I

held his hand and said a prayer. My only emotion toward him was pity," he recalled. Walter Watts was a credit to the word Christian.

(Editor's Note: The Rev. Walter Watts Sr., 79, of Fort Smith died Sunday, Nov. 7, 1993. An active Baptist minister for 62 years, he was a member of South Side Baptist Church, the American Bowling Association and the National Rifle Association. He was also a contributing feature writer and frequent letter writer to the **Times Record**.

He is survived by his wife, Wanda; a daughter, Grace Fletcher of Fort Smith; two sons, Bob of Fort Smith and Walter Jr. of Van Buren; a sister, Hazel Gaither of Arkadelphia; a brother, Frank of Green River, Wyo. and six grandchildren.)

### 1894 Newspapers

FORT SMITH ELEVATOR
February 23, 1894 to March 9, 1894

Abstracted by Helen Harper and Amelia Martin from microfilm at the Fort Smith Public Library. Typed by Cynthia Bedell.

#### 

The "Burgess" Gun
12 Gauge Repeating Shotgun
Latest-Quickest-Simplest-Softest
Double Hits in 1-8 seconds
Three hits in one second
Six hits in less than three seconds
Will Wirsing
Corner of Forth Street and Garrison Avenue

K.L. Bills
Jeweler and Optician
-- Keeps on hand a Full Line
Watches, Clocks, Jewelry, Silverware,
Optical Goods, etc.
Work and Goods Warranted
718 Garrison Avenue -- Fort Smith

\_ • \_

Bring or send your game to Kelly & Sons, the butchers, 1208 Garrison Avenue. They will pay the highest market price for all game sent to them.

The Indian Territory
Charles Sullivan, a member of the Creek
Council, died last week.

The Elevator today contains the announcement of Hon. C.E. Breckenridge for re-election to Congress.

#### 

Richard Mansfield will appear at the Grand Opera House in March in Beau Brummel.

Mr. Mose Taylor, Tahlequah I.T., we are unable to say why you do not receive your paper. It is mailed to you from this office every week. We are inclined to believe your loss is due to the carelessness of Uncle Sam's post-office employees.

John Harley, well known in this city, was stricken with paralysis one day last week and now lies in St. John's Hospital in critical condition.

Will Shulte, the livery man is in possession of a pair of ferrets. He bought them in Ohio and will keep them about his stables to destroy rats.

Miss Cora Malone of Waldron, and Mr. Eudel, a commercial traveller, were married at Van Buren last week.

We understand the school board will offer to loan one half of the purchase price on each lot sold at the reserve sale on the 12th of April. Interest will be 8 percent, with semi-annual payments.

Mayor Hoffman, the Development Association, the Chamber of Commerce, and all the real estate dealers of the city are in receipt daily of inquiries about the country and the reserve sale. The sale will begin on the 12th of April.

Mr. Charles A. Bernie declined to accept the nomination of alderman from the Second Ward.

More than 120 acres of the 200 acres of land asked for by the Fort Smith and Van Buren Electric Light and Power Company has been donated .... among those who have contributed most willingly are the Oak Park Land Company and Col. W.M. Cravens .... Those who assist this great enterprise have the interests of the city at heart......

#### CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEETING

The directors of the Chamber of Commerce held their regular meeting Monday night at their rooms, and the following members comprising the entire board were present: Col. J.H. Clendining, John Matthews, Geo. Sengel, H.E. Kelley, W.J. Murphy, Henry Strother, M.D. Hooten (Henton?), J.M. Sparks, Eugene Henderson, John Smith P., and R.H. Adair, secretary.

The subject of railroad rates and accommodations was discussed at some length and a plan of action mapped out...

Other matters of interest were taken up and handled in the usual way.

Mr. Adair stated that he is daily in receipt of communications from parties at a distance asking information concerning the coming reserve sale, and that he has been sending out from 15 to 30 letters per day containing circulars and other printed matter.

### — ● — DEATH OF MR. JOHN COLBERT

Mr. John Colbert died at his residence last Sunday afternoon ... His funeral took place Tuesday afternoon, Rev. S.H. Mellvain conducting the service. Interment was made at the National Cemetery.

Mr. Colbert was 50 years of age. He had lived in Fort Smith for a quarter of a century, and had an enviable reputation as a man and a citizen.

#### DIED

About 6 o'clock, Thursday morning, February 22, 1894, Mrs. Bonnie (?) Harder, beloved wife of Mr. Andrew J. Harder of Franklin County, Arkansas, aged 25 years. She was the eldest daughter of Mrs. Catherine and D. Webster

Flanagan, Esq. and was married in 1886. ... was buried at King burial grounds. A husband and three children are left to mourn.

#### — • — U.S. COURT NOTES

Sam Watkins, larceny; jury trial, guilty.
Thomas Smith, introducing; jury trial, guilty.
Keit Ball, introducing and selling liquor; jury trial, not guilty.

John Blair, robbery; jury trial, guilty.

Alfred Portman, introducing and selling liquor; jury trial, guilty.

Noble Deanie, assault; jury trial, not guilty.

Jim Brooks, assault; jury trial, verdict of not guilty returned from box.

Boston Barnett, introducing and selling liquor; jury trial, not guilty.

Tobe Jefferson, introducing and selling liquor; jury trial, not guilty of selling but guilty of introducing.

Herman Hill and Frank Miller, receiving stolen property; jury trial, not guilty.

Freeman Spann, introducing and selling liquor; jury trial, not guilty.

John Pickton, introducing and selling liquor; jury trial, not guilty.

Prill Hamilton, assault; jury trial, not guilty. Alex Duncan, assault; jury trial, not guilty.

Sam Hart, assault; jury trial, not guilty.

Alfred Turner, assault; jury trial, guilty.

Annie Perry, larceny; jury trial, not guilty.

William Q. Dunnigan, manslaughter; case decided to be beyond jurisdiction of this court by reason of the fact that it was alleged in the indictment that Deft was a white man, when as a matter of fact he was an adopted citizen of the Choctaw Nation. When the facts were discovered as above stated the government consented for the jury to return a verdict of want of jurisdiction and had the case referred to the grand jury.

Green Taylor, assault; jury trial, not guilty. John Stewart, larceny; jury trial, not guilty. Zack Holland, adultery; jury trial, not guilty.

#### **SENTENCES**

Following are the sentences imposed upon parties who plead guilty to introducing and selling liquor:

Walter Flippin, 50 days in jail and \$120 fine. John Coon, 40 days in jail and \$100 fine. Walter Perry, 30 days in jail and \$100 fine. Jesse Cogswell, 20 days in jail and \$20 fine. H.H. Phelps, 1 hr. in jail and \$10 fine.

#### **JAIL ARRIVALS**

Joe Francis, a white man, was arrested two and one half miles from Broomfield for passing counterfeit money. He is credited to Deputy Andrews.

Walter Perry, white, was registered on a charge of larceny. He was arrested 2-1/2 miles from Tunake and is credited to J.S. Chatwell.

Thomas and J.P. Jefferson and Thomas Wyene, white men, charged with larceny, are credited to Grant Johnson. They were arrested near Wetumpka.

Lafayette Terry, white, charged with larceny, is credited to S.T. Minor.

T.S. Fitzwater, white, was registered on a charge of larceny and is credited to W.R. Conden. He was arrested at Nowata.

Hugh Cochran, an Indian, charged with introducing and selling, is credited to Will Preston.

James Martin was registered on a charge of larceny and is credited to Ed Jackson. He was arrested 12 miles east of Nowata.

Isacc DuVal, white, was registered on a charge of introducing. He was arrested at Vian and is credited to J.C.C. Rogers.

Stephen A.B. Bomers, a white man, was registered on a charge of larceny. He was arrested 23 miles northwest of Nowata and is credited to Ed Jackson.

W.A. Miller, white man, was registered on a charge of intimidating. He was arrested at Olio, Scott County, and is credited to Frank P. DuVal.

Green Thompson, and Steve Gaddy, white, was registered on a charge of assault. He was arrested 12 miles east of Tanapak and is credited to S.T. Minor.

H.H. Phillips, white, was registered on a charge of introducing. He was arrested three miles from Texanna and is credited to J.B. Tee.

Wm. Grape, charged with robbing United States mails, is credited to W.C. Smith. He was arrested at South McAlester.

John Coon, Tobe Jefferson, John Coppick and Sam Watkins were committed by order of the court.

#### **DEPARTURES**

Discharged from custody — James Burk, Jamison Johnson, Steve Gaddy.

Discharged on bond — Kiet Ball, George Waldron, Charley Johnson, Rufus Buck, Tom Sugar, Joe Standifer, John Brody, John Picton, John Ford, Peter Hamilton, Sam Hart, H.H. Phelps, Charles Moneypenny, Jack Pope.

Democratic City Ticket For Alderman First Ward — J.B. Forrester Second Ward — Charton A. Birnie Third Ward — T.J. Smith Fourth Ward — T.F. Reynolds Fifth Ward — James Thompson

#### 

J.M. Weaver, of Van Buren, who embezzled funds of the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad while acting as its land agent, has been sentenced to two years imprisonment in the penitentiary.

#### DEATH OF JUDGE J.L. HENDRICKS

Judge J.L. Hendricks died at his home on Seventeenth Street in this city last Wednesday morning ... The cause of death was erysipolas.

Judge Hendricks was born in Taladega, Ala., and was 35 years of age ... graduated in law at the University of Mississippi. Came to Fort Smith in 1881 ....

His funeral took place from his late residence. To his bereaved wife and children the sympathy of a host of friends is extended.

Monday the bill granting the Fort Smith and Van Buren Electric Railroad the right to build across the Arkansas River near Van Buren passed the Senate. This is an important step in one of the greatest enterprises now before this section of the country. Our people should now take hold and see it given the encouragement to push it to early completion.

Mr. John M. Marshall of Mansfield aspires to be the surveyor of Sebastian County for the next two years.

#### A CALAMITY

Mr. C.P. Wilson had the misfortune to lose most of the carp from the fishpond ... During heavy rains the dam forming the pond gave way and emptied itself in a branch which empties itself into the river.

#### **DEATH OF JOSIE BOLLINGER**

Josie Eva, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Frank Bollinger, died in this city Monday afternoon, age 4.

Mr. Joe Wright, of this city, and Jack Ross were married near Howards school house, in this county on the 28th....

Luther Chaney has been taken to Greenwood to stand trial for horse stealing.

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por a portrait of the person(s) named is on page indicated.

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- 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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