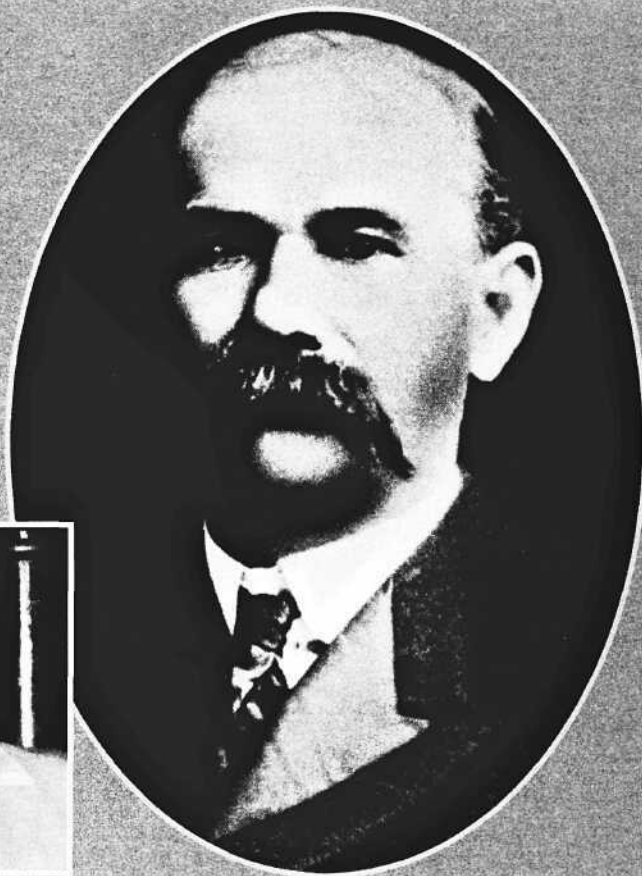


# The JOURNAL

## Gov. John Sebastian Little Family



### **A Look Inside:**

**Governor John Sebastian Little Family**

**Arkansas Tuberculosis Sanatorium**

**Wildcat Mountain Annex**

**A Personal View of a Young Woman's  
Time on the Hill**

**The Saints Among Us**

**Sebastian County Government and County Judges**

**Plus Regular Articles**



**Vol. 21, No. 2, September, 1997**

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# The JOURNAL

## Contents

VOL. 21, NO. 2

SEPTEMBER, 1997

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Contents .....                                      | 1  |
| Governor John Sebastian Little .....                | 2  |
| Jess Edward Little, M.D. ....                       | 9  |
| Children of Dr. Little .....                        | 10 |
| Arkansas Tuberculosis Sanatorium .....              | 12 |
| Wildcat Mountain Annex                              |    |
| Judge Joseph M. Hill .....                          | 15 |
| A Personal View of a Young Woman's .....            | 16 |
| Time on the Hill                                    |    |
| The Saints Among Us .....                           | 20 |
| Sebastian County Government and County Judges ..... | 21 |
| In Loving Memory .....                              | 23 |
| News and Opportunities .....                        | 25 |
| Genealogy .....                                     | 30 |
| Inquiries .....                                     | 32 |
| Book Notes .....                                    | 33 |
| Recipe for Roast Turkey .....                       | 34 |
| 1896 Newspapers .....                               | 35 |
| Index .....   | 41 |

**COVER:** Clockwise from top: Dr. Jess Edward Little, Gov. John Sebastian Little and sons of Dr. Little: Jess Little, Jr., Freed S. Little and Paul Little II; and bottom Donna Nelson.

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# John Sebastian Little: The Great Commoner 1851-1916

By Freed S. Little

John Sebastian Little was the third native born Arkansan to be elected governor of the State of Arkansas and the only native of Sebastian County to have served in that position.

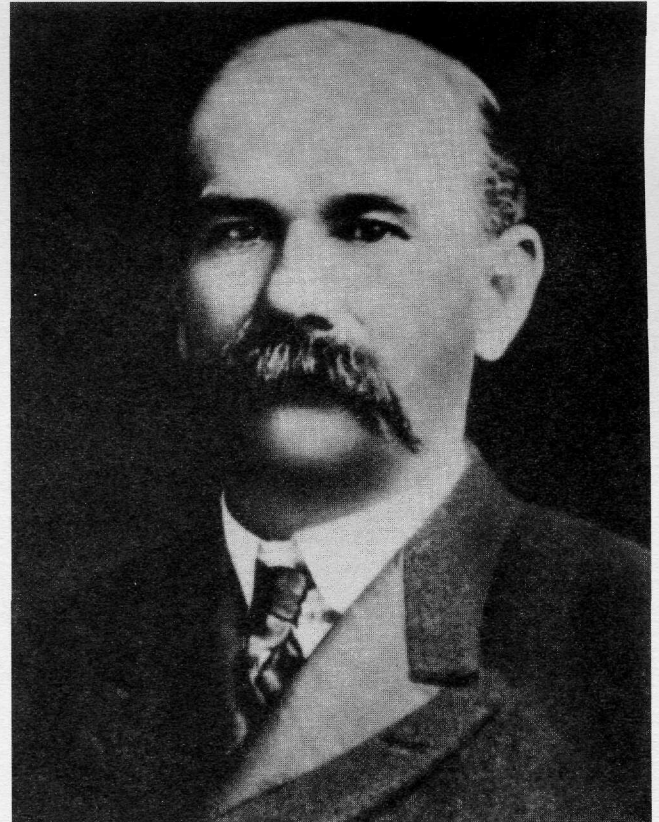
He was a true son of Sebastian County, having been born in a log cabin in Jenny Lind, Arkansas, on March 15, 1851. There are two other strong links that John Sebastian Little had with Sebastian County:

1. He was the first child born in Sebastian county after its founding on March 15, 1851. Because of this coincidence, he was christened John Sebastian Little. With time, his friends shortened Sebastian to "Bass" and he carried that nickname proudly for the rest of his life.

2. Also, his maternal Grandfather, Eaton Tatum, was Chairman of the Commission whose assignment was to redefine the borders of Crawford, Scott and Polk Counties and as a result of those deliberations carved out a portion of all three counties to create the new county, called Sebastian County.

## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- Bass Little achieved probably the most outstanding record of public service by a native of Sebastian County.
- As a young lawyer, he established the record of obtaining acquittals in 20 murder cases and between 60 to 80 other felony cases over a two year period.
- Prosecuting Attorney - 12th Judicial Circuit. serving three terms., 1877-84.
- State Representative - one term, 1884-85.
- Circuit Judge - 12th Judicial Circuit, 1886-1890.
- Chairman of State Judicial Convention of 1893
- Member of Congress - 53rd to 59th Congresses (1894-1907, resigning upon assuming oath of office as governor.)
- Key member of three major Congressional committees. When he left Congress he was ranked fourth in seniority in the House and ranking minority member of the House Judiciary Committee.
- Elected Governor of Arkansas with a majority of 60,000 votes, a record at the time.



Governor John Sebastian Little

- Governor Little's political career was rare in the annals of the state because it was never tarnished with defeat.

## BACKGROUND

Bass's father, Jesse Eaton Little, was born in 1818 in Pitt County, North Carolina. As the youngest of twenty children (his father, William Little, was a widower twice, both of his first two wives dying during childbirth). Only eight brothers and sisters of Jesse Little are known. One of them, Samuel, married Betsy Boone, sister of Daniel Boone and they had twin sons, Walter L. and Jasper N.

Jesse Eaton Little, being part of such a large family, after his Father's death, with a small inheritance, left North Carolina in 1838 and traveled overland with his older brother Gray, to what was then a part of Crawford County near the town of Actus, which was renamed Jenny Lind, just a few years later.

Jesse eventually met Mary Elizabeth Tatum, the daughter of Eaton Tatum. Mary Elizabeth Tatum was born in 1829 and married Jesse Eaton Little in Actus, Arkansas on July 10, 1845. She died in 1900 and he preceded her in death in 1887.

The couple's first born child, Thomas Eaton Little, was born August 25, 1849.

### **EARLY YEARS**

When John Sebastian was three years old, the family resettled to a farm just one and a half miles west of Greenwood, Arkansas, where his father had purchased 200 acres of land and had built a dog-trot type log cabin that became their home. That log cabin stands today. It was most probably built the preceding year, 1853.

When young John had completed four grades in log cabin schools in the county, the War Between the States was in progress, and the schools in the area were closed. At the close of the war, the Bushwhacker Wars began thus closing the door on all educational facilities until 1868 when he was almost seventeen years old. Up to this period of life he was also actively engaged in the discharge of the numerous and constantly-recurring demands of a farm boy.

But he was ambitious, and one winter his father was very generous in letting him skip most farm chores and he borrowed books from relatives and many other Greenwood townspeople and read day and night absorbing enormous amounts of knowledge.

The log cabin schools in the county offered no more challenge and he worked as town marshal of Greenwood for several years and with those savings and some family help, he attended the 1871-72 school year at Cane Hill College in Washington County, Arkansas then known as the "Athens of the Ozarks."

Upon returning to Greenwood, young John began teaching school while remaining on the farm and continued this for several terms. During this time he became interested in the law and began its study, his preceptor being Hon. C. B. Neal of Greenwood.

Young John was admitted to the bar at Greenwood in 1872 and in the fall of 1874 located at Paris, in Logan County, Ark., and commenced his professional career. During this time in Paris, he served in the State Legislature, became a noted trial lawyer and was elected prosecuting attorney for three successive terms.

At the time "Bass" began his law practice in Paris, coal had just been discovered in the vicinity in commercial quantities and that changed Paris to a boom town. For a young lawyer, there was more than ample opportunity to ply his pro-

fession. At the same time, he developed his oratorical and analytical skills. Soon his clients began to win their cases. As his reputation spread, men came to him to defend them from many types of felony charges. It was in defending these cases that he established the record of obtaining acquittals in twenty murder cases and between 60 to 80 other felony cases over a two year period of his practice in Paris.

### **MARRIAGE**

While engaged in the general practice of law in Paris, he married in January, 1877, Miss Elizabeth Jane Irwin, daughter of Pleasant and Elizabeth Irwin, and a native of Logan County, Arkansas, born in 1861.

Five children were the result of this union: Paul, Jess Edward, Monte Olivia, Lizzie Lou and Thomas Eugene.

John Sebastian Little and his young family moved back to Greenwood in 1882. Except for those few years in Paris, Arkansas, he spent virtually his entire life in Sebastian County. Their homeplace in Greenwood was located on Division street (later renamed Bass street ). This was their permanent home until Mrs. Little sold it after the long illness of her husband became apparent.

### **FROM "BIOGRAPHICAL & PICTORIAL HISTORY OF ARKANSAS"**

From 1886-1890 Judge Little served as Judge of the 12th Circuit Court. But the following passages, referring to key aspects of his public career up to that time, are quoted from "Biographical and Pictorial History of Arkansas" by John Hallum and published by Albany Press in 1887 as they sum up the very essence of Judge Little, and the many characteristics that were the foundation for his success in life:

"To say that he was successful and discharged the duties imposed by the office satisfactorily would be leaving half unsaid, and to say that he was the ablest occupant of that office in the twelfth circuit would likewise be leaving half unsaid. He was eminently successful, his great forte lies, not in brilliant sallies of wit and flashes of oratory, or the display of great learning, but in an intimate knowledge of human nature, as developed in the average man, and in his wonderful capacity to utilize and apply it to every phase of a nisi prius (jury) trial.

He is sui generis (unique: one of a kind). I have never met a parallel, or any man who approached it. His learning is not from books, but from the great world of nature and the versatility of genius displayed in its application is wonderful, and at



times startling. His similies, his comparisons, his illustrations are all taken from the humble walks of life, and are adapted to the capacity of the simplest minds. He never goes beyond the capacity, the circumference of the average juror's powers of comprehension, and herein, before a jury he is strong and great and powerful, and when he takes his seat, all that he has said and done seems but the crystallization of simplicity, where the great and the small mind can meet, without discord or dissent, on common ground.

But I despair in the effort to photograph him with the pen; none but a master can do that. The pen of the biographer can neither add nor lend anything to his brilliant achievements. In 1886 he was a candidate for the office of circuit judge in the twelfth circuit, composed of the counties of Sebastian, Crawford, Logan and Scott, and carried every county in the circuit, both at the primary and general elections.

His affable and magnetic manner, combined with his great knowledge of human nature, are almost resistless factors in the political arena, and make him a great favorite with the masses and a Hercules in the pathway of an opponent before the people.

It was much feared by the old members of the bar, when it became known that he would succeed to the office of judge, that he would fall below the standard required for that high office, but these fears vanished after he went the first round of his circuit. So lawyers on the circuit tell me."

#### **CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE JUDICIAL CONVENTION - 1893**

After his term as circuit judge was completed, Judge Little practiced law in Greenwood for several years. In June, 1893 he was named Chairman of the State Judicial Convention. Press reports of the results of this convention were favorable.

The Vice President of the U.S. the Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson, was invited to the Convention to make the keynote address. Judge Little's stirring introduction of the Vice President not only made headlines but the favorable public reaction overall to Judge Little's accomplishments here sparked renewed interest in him to get back into the political arena.

#### **ENTERS CONGRESS**

An opportunity to re-enter public service arose in the summer of 1894 when then Congressman for the Western Arkansas District, the Hon. Clifton R. Breckenridge, was named Minister to Russia by President Grover Cleveland.

Judge Little won nomination by the Congressional Convention held August 16, 1894.

From *The Daily News Record* of Fort Smith, Ark., on that date:

"The convention was an entire success. "Bass" Little was nominated to fill both the long term and the short term, the latter being the unexpired portion of Breckinridge's time. The opposition expected on the short term nomination did not develop. In the caucus, it was shown that Little was far in the lead."

Congressman Little was an early appointee to the Indian Affairs Committee. He proved to be extremely knowledgeable of the state of affairs in the Indian Nation. The Indian Question was, at that time, one of the knottiest Congress had to deal with and being on the Indian Affairs Committee was one of Congress's most important assignments. On February 4, 1896, *The Arkansas Gazette* reported:

"Hon. John S. Little of the House Indian Affairs Committee is alive to the interests of the people of both Arkansas and the Indian Territory, and is securing more solid legislation than any other member of the committee."

At the beginning of the Congressional session in January, 1896 Judge Little was named as a member of the House Committee of Public Buildings and Grounds and Post Offices and Roads. In that same year Congressman Little was instrumental in getting the initial U.S. geological survey made in and around the Hot Springs, Ark. area with the ultimate result of the Hot Springs National Park being created.

During his long career in Congress, Judge Little was a close friend of two of the House's most ambitious and well known members, William Jennings Bryan of Nebraska and Champ Clark of Missouri. Congressman Little sponsored Bryan's visits to the Fort Smith area during several of Bryan's races for the presidency. They had become fast friends because in Congress they were the champions of the "Free Silver" movement which wanted the U.S. to be on the Silver Standard. They felt this would be most beneficial to the country because the U.S. was rich in silver, much more so than gold.

The movement for a "Silver Standard" received much enthusiasm as seen from the headlines of the *Commercial-Appeal* in Memphis, Tenn. in 1896:

"Giants of Four States battle for Free Silver's Cause - Five thousand democrats enjoy a feast of oratory - Hon. J.S. Little of Arkansas opens with a stirring speech - Followed by Hon. W.J. Bryan of Nebraska, Senator A.J. McLaurin and Private John Allen of Mississippi and Editor E.W. Carmack of Tennessee."

Congressman Little was also a leader of the prohibition forces on Capitol Hill. In 1896 he intro-

duced a bill to ban alcoholic beverages from the House of Representatives. This bill passed and was hailed by many prominent national figures.

He also fought during his entire tenure in Congress against trusts and monopolies. Even though the fight was not finished when Congressman Little left the House of Representatives in 1907, the battle was finally won in 1911, when litigation as the result of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act which, among other things, resulted in the dismemberment of the great Standard Oil Trust, operated by John D. Rockefeller.

Little had no really serious opposition during any of his Congressional campaigns and seemed to look after his constituency's interests well, as typified by this report from the Booneville Democrat of May 9, 1901: "Hon. John S. Little of Greenwood, is our congressman now, and if you want any national relief tell your troubles to him. By the way, it would not be amiss to remark just here that we have the ablest congressman in the whole Arkansas delegation. We are all proud of 'Our Bass.'"

#### **GUBERNATORIAL CAMPAIGN**

The campaign for the governorship term of 1907-1909 began in the summer of 1905. The main issue had been the "stewardship" of Jeff Davis's three terms as governor. Davis was running for the U.S. Senate and he immediately championed John S. Little's candidacy for governor.

Little was his own man, that was almost his campaign theme because Jeff Davis had jumped to support his candidacy. Davis was a bitter enemy of Judge Little's opponent, Attorney General Robert L. Rogers.

The Booneville paper of December 14, 1905 listed Ben Cravens and Judge Byrne as candidates for Congress to replace Judge Little who was running for governor. Cravens was successful in gaining the Congressional seat.

During the campaign there were attempts to "link up" Judge Little and Jeff Davis. But Little continued to deny this and with his integrity, clean living and honest life as examples, he was never seriously questioned, certainly by those who knew him well.

The race was a long and exhausting one for Congressman Little, already in frail health. At three different times, Little wished to leave the race because of nervous exhaustion and begged to be relieved. But Jeff Davis and his lieutenants kept Little's hesitation to themselves and pressed him to continue the race. But "for one three week period Little was forced to stop his campaigning and go home and rest after he nearly collapsed

from nervous exhaustion", this quoted from both Jacobson, Life Story, 124,128-129 and Niswonger, Arkansas Democratic politics 230-234.

#### **WINS GOVERNORS' RACE**

In the Democratic primary in the summer of 1906, Little defeated Attorney General Robert L. Rogers, carrying all counties in the state but three. In the November 1906 general election, Little defeated Republican John I. Worthington.

Entering the governor's race as an underdog, Little won the race with a majority of 60,000 votes, a record at the time. In doing so, he had ultimately gained the support of the entire Arkansas Congressional delegation, outgoing governor Jeff Davis and many other prominent citizens of the State.

During the campaign, Judge Little heard many "rumors" that certain citizens had been solicited by his camp to serve on various state boards, etc. in return for his support. Judge Little in all his campaign speeches pledged that he was "independent" of anyone who made these types of promises and that selections would be made only after his election. He also pledged that although he was supported by Jeff Davis and others that he was "independent minded and his own man".

Nevertheless, he appointed John H. Page as his private secretary. Mr. Page had served as secretary of the Jeff Davis-dominated State Central Committee for several years. He had also been secretary of the Board of Charities which Davis made an essential part of his organization. "The appointment would seem to indicate that the present administration will dominate the incoming one" concluded further research reported on p. 161 of "Arkansas Democratic Politics, 1896-1920" as referenced above.

Governor Little perhaps realized, too late, this appointment was not to his benefit. In fact, he had been hearing rumors that Mr. Page and others were party to many of the misrepresentations made during the gubernatorial campaign purportedly in Congressman Little's name. He only remedied this problem when shortly after his inauguration, he appointed his son, Paul, as his private secretary replacing Mr. Page.

#### **INAUGURATION AS GOVERNOR**

On January 18, 1907, Judge Little took office as Governor of Arkansas before a large crowd at the State Capitol and in the House Chamber in the presence of a joint session of the two branches of the General Assembly and various other visitors.

"His inaugural address indicated he wished to enter upon a constructive program such as better schools, including high schools for the rural



population – additional antitrust legislation, the abolition of the convict-lease system, an improved drainage and levee system and better roads.

“He proposed a free textbook program for all school students. A bill was later proposed and passed on this issue. As for the new State Capitol, he urged its completion. Governor Little was given credit later on for his continued interest in this project and his successor followed his policy to get the new state capitol built within five years.”

In Vol. 11, p. 238 of the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* favorable comments were made regarding certain parts of this inaugural address: “One illustration of the newer concept of governmental responsibility may be found in a message of Governor J.S. Little before the 1907 General Assembly:

“The State government owes to her laboring people, employed in dangerous vocations, to pass all proper and needful laws to secure to them or their families in cases of death, the right to recover in damages proper compensation for all injuries received while in the discharge of their duties under their employment, not the result of their own negligence, but received as the result of the negligence of their employers or fellow servants.

“Today Little’s political philosophy sounds reasonable enough, but as of 1907 it was frontier thinking, and as of 1880 it would have been sheer political madness.”

Governor Little in this speech, also strongly supported the growth of the University of Arkansas system.

“Many members of the legislature – especially those who considered themselves progressives – were impressed by the substance of Little’s speech and by his apparent willingness to pursue his goals with tact and moderation” according to *The Arkansas Gazette*, January 19-20, 1907.

#### **JEFF DAVIS’ CONTINUED INTERFERENCE IN STATE AFFAIRS**

Governor Little was very tired and frail after the long and arduous gubernatorial campaign that lasted well over a year. Shortly before his inauguration, more people continued to present themselves to Governor Little purporting to have been told by third parties that those third parties represented him and made various promises for “political appointments”. Governor Little told these people he did not represent him, he had been independent minded as he had stated in most every speech he made during the campaign and then he dismissed them.

Evidentiary information makes it appear that

Jeff Davis was behind all of this and it was what one would call today a campaign of disinformation. Rumors plus other publications in the 1920’s attributed this campaign tactic to Jeff Davis. It was apparent at the time that Davis wanted to try and continue his domination of the state political machinery, even as a U.S. Senator!

To give the reader some insight into Jeff Davis’ political manipulations it is suggested the following magazine article and book be read:

“A Karl Marx for the Hillbillies” by Rupert Vance, published in *Social Forces Magazine* Vol. 9, Dec. 1930 and *The Wild Ass of the Ozarks: Jeff Davis and The Social Basis of Southern Politics*, a book by Raymond Arsenault published by Temple University Press, 1984.

#### **END OF PUBLIC CAREER**

Governor Little’s political career was rare in the annals of the state because it was never fished with defeat. He was highly principled, known for his sense of fair play and was a deeply religious man. It is believed that his fragile physical condition at the time and his severe concern over a possibly partially “fished” election because of the irregularities noted above, caused him to go into a very deep, severe depression. With modern medicine, this condition can be readily treated and generally cured.

When it became apparent that his condition was not improving, he resigned the governorship about a month after the inauguration. Although in and out of clinics and sanitariums, he never fully recovered and died peacefully of pneumonia on September 8, 1916 in Little Rock.

*The Fort Smith Times Record*, September 11, 1916 reported:

“The funeral train traveled first to Fort Smith and Governor Little’s remains were taken to the residence of his son, Paul, where Governor Little’s Fort Smith friends were given an opportunity to pay their respects. Later, the funeral train proceeded to Greenwood. A delegation of Masonic lodge members and citizens will meet the party at Greenwood. Extra coaches will be provided for those from Fort Smith who desire to attend the obsequies and the train will be held at Greenwood until 12 o’clock noon.

“The services will be conducted by the Rev. William Sherman of Fort Smith, presiding elder of the Fort Smith district of the M.E. Church South and Governor Little’s former pastor. Services at the grave in Greenwood cemetery will be conducted under the auspices of the Masonic Lodge of which the deceased was a member of long standing. The remains will lie in state at the Church at Greenwood from 9 until 10 o’clock.

There will be a general suspension of business in that city throughout the morning of the funeral.

"The pallbearers will be composed almost entirely of former associates of Governor Little. The active pallbearers will be Thomas B. Pryor, Claude Thompson, Cleveland Holland, Fort Smith; R. O. McConnell, R. A. Harper, Marshall Strozier, Judge Ezra Hester and R. W. McFarlane, Greenwood.

"The honorary pallbearers will be S. F. Lawrence, John H. Holland, Fort Smith; T. A. Norris, J.W. Bell, J. H. McConnell, T. J. Harper, C. D. Murphy, C. R. Owsley, George Melton and R. T. Gorham, Greenwood."

### **MEMORIAL SERVICE IN U.S. DISTRICT COURT - FORT SMITH**

This memorial service was held several days after the funeral to give the bench and bar an opportunity to pay tribute to the memory of life and service of John Sebastian Little.

The newspaper story covering this memorial service is quoted partially because it summarizes so well all the things in the life of John Sebastian Little that made him so special to so many people:

"Chancellor W. A. Falconer expressed his opinion that Judge Little was not surpassed as a teller of anecdotes in the illustration of his arguments even by President Lincoln, admitted to be the most shining example of that style of oratory. Chancellor Falconer confined his remarks to the mastery of Judge J. S. Little of speech, and told of the perfect mastery he had over his audiences. On account of the differences in their ages, Chancellor Falconer had no personal contact with Judge Little in the court room.

"Judge Frank A. Youmans, of the United States District Court, also paid a high tribute to Judge Little, telling of the great assistance and encouragement that had been given at the time Judge Youmans, a green country boy, had come to Fort Smith to engage in the practice of law. He was fortunate in getting a desk in the building that was being used as a court house and there Judge Little dropped in on him frequently in the evenings and encouraged and assisted the young lawyer, treating him as an equal.

"This trait of Judge Little of treating every one as his equal was one of the traits that was emphasized by all of the speakers and was responsible for his being known as "The Great Commoner" of the state.

"Judge Joseph M. Hill, Judge J.F. Read and J.B. McDonough, who were starting their careers at the time Judge Little was on the bench, paid eloquent tributes to him and acknowledged the

assistance rendered them at the beginning of their careers in this city.

"Judge J.V. Bourland, United States District Attorney, T. B. Pryor, R.W. McFarlane and R.A. Rowe, of Greenwood, and Sam Chew, of Van Buren were among the others who bore testimony to the cleanness of Judge Little's life, the loveliness of his character and his generosity, declaring that no community had ever suffered greater loss through the death of any one man, than had this county in the death of John Sebastian Little.

"He was the most generous man I ever knew, testified T.B. Pryor, after recounting the many courtesies he had received at the hands of Judge Little. He was the only man I ever knew who went out of his way to hunt up opportunities to dispense charity to aid his fellow man by cheerful, wholesome advice, a loan or a donation.

"The resolutions of the bar association, presented by Judge Joseph M. Hill, have been ordered placed on the records of the United States Court, the Chancery Court and the Circuit and are as follows:" (Note: these resolutions basically recited the life of John Sebastian Little).

"Signed by Committee Members: Joseph M. Hill, James B. McDonough, Ben Cravens, John H. Holland, Sam F. Lawrence

"Judge Frank A. Youmans, of the United States District Court, presided and Chancellor W.A. Falconer and Judge Paul Little sat with him on the bench"

John Sebastian Little's widow, Elizabeth Jane, had witnessed her father's murder by Bushwhackers in 1866. She overcame many other hardships in life including her husband's illness. She was a very strong person, which gave her the resolve to overcome those hardships. She remained a widow for 37 years and died September 15, 1953 in Van Buren, Arkansas.

### **THE JUDGE LITTLE AND SENATOR JOHN L. MCCLELLAN RELATIONSHIP**

Throughout his active public life, many parents named their children for John Sebastian Little. None more well known than John Sebastian Little McClellan, popularly known as John Little McClellan, U.S. Senator from Arkansas for many years.

"In 1896 a letter from Sheridan, Ark. plopped into the Washington mailbox of Arkansas' Democratic Representative John S. Little. It bore the news that constituents Isaac and Belle McClellan, intended to name their newborn son, John Little McClellan in honor of the Congressman.

To his namesake, John Little promptly sent \$5. Belle McClellan, a lovely woman with a fine



singing voice, died three weeks after John's birth. On her deathbed she made only one request: She asked that Congressman Little's \$5 be used to buy her newborn baby a Bible.

When McClellan was eight years old, he wrote a letter to Congressman Little and received a reply. His letter told of his efforts in the cotton field and of a prize he had won by submitting a theme to the Democratic Central Committee. The following letter, dated November 7, 1904, was Congressman Little's reply to the young McClellan:

"Master J.S.L. McClellan  
Sheridan, Arkansas

My Dear Little Friend:

I received your very welcome letter of Nov. 2nd and was very glad to hear from you. I supposed you had about forgotten me, and your letter was therefore a surprise as well as a pleasure to me.

I think when a boy gets large enough to pick seventy five pounds of cotton a day, he is getting to be quite a man. I remember when I was a little boy working on the farm, and it is to me a matter of pleasure to recount my boyhood days on the farm. I know you must be a very smart and industrious boy to do as much work. Your letter is a credit to any boy of your age.

I note the copy of your speech, that you recited to the Democratic Central Committee, and I think it mighty fine and I have no doubt that in the future, you will reach honor and distinction as a citizen and public man but to do this requires industry and hard work, and an honorable and upright life.

Believe me my dear boy.

Your sincere friend,  
John S. Little"

This letter to John Little McClellan was framed and displayed in a place of prominence in the reception room of his Washington office. The Senator remarked many times to his own family and friends and to several members of the John Sebastian Little family through the years what an inspiration that letter had been to him from the very first day he received it. This letter is housed with the collection of Senator McClellan's papers at Ouachita University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

#### **RELATIVES OF JOHN SEBASTIAN LITTLE WHO ENTERED PUBLIC SERVICE**

An Uncle, Mark Thaddeus Tatum, the son of Eaton Tatum, was appointed Deputy Sheriff of Sebastian County in 1858, serving four years. In 1861 he was appointed to make the assessment of Confederate taxes of Sebastian County, and in

May 1862 enlisted in Co. D., 36th Regiment, Arkansas Infantry as a third lieutenant. He rose rapidly in the ranks to major. Later, for his bravery and meritorious conduct in battle, he was promoted to lieutenant colonel and ended the war with that rank.

Another Uncle, John Eaton Tatum, who was Colonel Tatum's younger half-brother, served in the Arkansas Legislatures of 1897 and 1899. Served as City Attorney of Greenwood for two years, Circuit Clerk for six years and was elected Circuit Judge of the 12th Judicial Circuit of Arkansas 1922-26.

John Sebastian Little's older brother, Thomas Eaton Little, was also a lawyer and passed away suddenly early in his second term as Treasurer of the State of Arkansas, in 1901 at the age of 52.

The following sons of Judge Little were all active at various times in the Sebastian county political arena:

Paul Little, was a graduate of Georgetown University School of Law. In 1911 he entered public life with his election for two terms as prosecuting attorney; then was elected Circuit Judge of the 12th Judicial Circuit and died early in his second term in 1919.

Jess Edward Little, M.D. was a member of the Holt-Krock Clinic during the 1920's and 1930's. He served as Chairman of the Democratic Central Committee of Sebastian County in the early 1930's.

Thomas Eugene Little, served as Sebastian County Tax Assessor during the late 1930's and early 1940's.

#### **SUMMARY**

It is sad to note that Governor Little's active public life was cut short at age 55, before the fulfillment of his great potential. His keen intellect, innate understanding of human nature, the ability to take complex facts and simplify them so that the average person could easily understand them, his great public speaking ability, warm personal nature, magnetic personality, and deep religious convictions, made for a very large circle of friends and in his public life, he was a great favorite of the electorate.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The author, Freed Sebastian Little is a grandson of John Sebastian Little and the son of Jess Edward Little, M.D.

Most of the information in this article is also contained in the book, "John Sebastian Little - A Biography" by Freed Sebastian Little. Published 1993, which has fully documented footnotes.

# Jess Edward Little, M.D.

By Freed S. Little

Jess Edward Little, M.D. was born in Greenwood, Arkansas October 8, 1880. He was a son of the late Governor John Sebastian and Elizabeth Jane Irwin Little of Greenwood.

He spent his early years in both Greenwood and Washington, D.C. where his father served as Congressman for the Western District of Arkansas. At the time he was ready for high school, Greenwood did not have those facilities, so he attended the University of Arkansas High School at Fayetteville with his older brother, Paul and was Salutatorian of his graduating class of 1896. In 1896-97 he attended one year of pre-medical studies at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.

In the fall of 1897 he entered the University of Nashville Medical Department (later merged into Vanderbilt University School of Medicine) and graduated in 1901. His internship was at Nashville General Hospital.

Early the following year, he moved to McAlester, Indian Territory, where he entered into the private practice of medicine. Shortly thereafter he met and married his first wife, Hattie Hailey. They had one child, John Sebastian Little II, now

deceased. He became a Director of the First National Bank of McAlester. This marriage ended in divorce.

Dr. Little moved to Little Rock where he had several business interests and met and married his second wife, Floy Kimbrough Witt of Conway on May 5, 1915. Shortly thereafter, he entered into the private practice of medicine. Two children were born while they lived in Little Rock, Paul II born in January, 1917 and Jess Edward, Jr. born July, 1918.

In 1921 the family moved to Greenwood where Dr. Little entered private practice and purchased *The Greenwood Democrat*, a weekly newspaper. The great fire in Greenwood in 1922 burned part of the town square area and both his offices and those of *The Greenwood Democrat* were completely destroyed. This calamity, plus the fact that he sensed the impact of major medical advances during this 1901-1922 period, caused him to move the family to St. Louis, Missouri, where he attended Barnes Hospital for nine months while studying dermatology and urology (at that time a combined specialty) and was certified as a specialist in that field.

In 1923, the family moved to Fort Smith where he accepted an invitation to join the Holt Clinic (later Holt-Krock Clinic) and St. John's Hospital, as a specialist in dermatology and urology and he also continued in family practice.

Another son, Freed Sebastian Little, was born in May, 1926. In 1930 Dr. Little was elected to succeed Henry Armstrong as Chairman of the Sebastian County Democratic Central Committee, a position he held for several years.

In 1939 he was appointed superintendent of the Benton unit of the Arkansas State Hospital and in 1942 transferred to the Arkansas Tuberculosis Sanatorium at Wildcat Mountain in Fort Smith as resident physician. He died March 16, 1954.

He was a member of the Masonic bodies, Woodmen of the World, Fraternal order of Eagles, the First Presbyterian Church, Sebastian County Medical Society, Arkansas Medical Society, and the American Medical Association.

His wife, an active member of both the DAR and UDC, died in Fort Smith January 8, 1968.



Jess Edward Little, M.D.



# Children of Dr. Little

## Paul, Jess Edward Jr., Freed S.

### **PAUL LITTLE II**

Paul Little II was born in Little Rock, Arkansas January 15, 1917, the first child of Dr. Jess Edward and Floy Kimbrough Witt Little. He attended public schools in Greenwood and Fort Smith, graduating from Fort Smith Senior High (now Northside) in 1935.

He graduated from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, with B.A., B.S. and LLB degrees. During World War II he served in the Army Corps of Engineers retiring as a major in 1946.

He was Law Clerk for the late Federal Judge Harry Lemley in Texarkana 1946- 1947, leaving to attend New York University where he received LLM and Doctor of Law Degrees. His doctoral thesis was published by Little, Brown and Co. in 1952 titled "Federal Income Taxation of Partnerships" with revisions made and republished in the late 1950's.

He was an Adjunct Professor in the Graduate School of Law at NYU for nine years and until 1959 practiced law with several Wall Street law

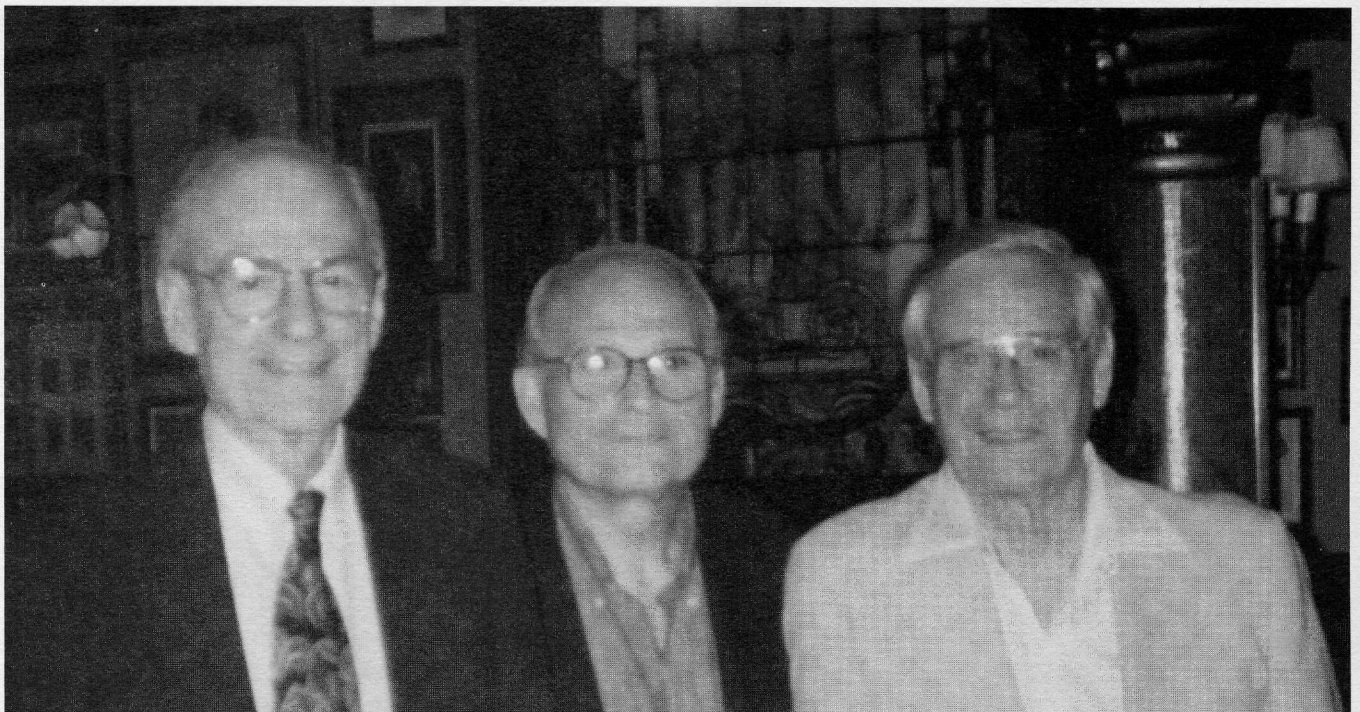
firms before being recruited by Mobil Oil Corporation as its first Corporate General Tax Counsel, which position he held until retirement.

After retirement, he was a tax consultant for Mobil Oil at their Washington, DC offices for ten years and served "Of Counsel" to the Washington law firm of McClure & Trotter (now McClure, Trotter & Mintz) until 1990 when he retired.

During his years with Mobil, he served several terms as Chairman of the American Petroleum Institute Committee on Taxation and on a Congressional subcommittee charged with recommendations on rewriting the partnership provisions of the tax code.

He married his first wife, Earlene Upchurch of Fort Smith in 1937 and the marriage ended in divorce in 1980. The children of that marriage are Paul III, White Plains, New York and Mrs. John Roberts (Linda) of Scarsdale, New York and three grandchildren, Melanie, John and Jeffrey Roberts of Scarsdale, New York.

Paul and his second wife, Rose Marie, reside in Houston, Texas



Left to Right – Jess Little, Jr., Freed S. Little and Paul Little II

### **JESS EDWARD LITTLE, JR.**

Jess Edward Little, Jr. was born in Little Rock, Arkansas, July 9, 1918, to Dr. Jess Edward and Floy Kimbrough Witt Little. He attended public schools in Fort Smith, graduating from Fort Smith Senior High (now Northside) in 1936.

He graduated from the University of Arkansas, majoring in chemistry, and worked for Lion Chemical Co. in El Dorado and later in Decatur, Illinois on The Manhattan Project. Upon completion of the project and the end of World War II, he was released from those duties in September, 1945.

He attended the University of Southern California receiving a Masters Degree in Chemistry. He worked for several years with Hercules Powder Co. in Wilmington, Delaware, before joining General Aniline & Film Co. in Rensselaer, New York (later renamed GAF Industries). He spent the remainder of his career with GAF as both a research and production chemist, retiring in 1977. He was a member of the American Chemical Society and Alpha Chi Sigma, a professional chemical society.

His first wife, the late Anne Guillermin was the mother of his children, Anne Elizabeth Little, M.D., an internal medicine specialist in Santa Maria, California and Louise Warner and husband William, and their children, Anne Elizabeth and Michael, all of Latham, New York.

His second wife, Dorothy Smiley Little, is also deceased. Jess Little presently lives in Slingerlands, New York, a suburb of Albany.

### **FREED S. LITTLE**

Freed Sebastian Little was born in Fort Smith, Arkansas May 4, 1926 to Dr. Jess Edward and

Floy Kimbrough Witt Little. He attended public schools in Fort Smith, graduating from Fort Smith Senior High (now Northside) in 1944 and volunteered for service in the Army Air Corps immediately after graduation and was discharged late in 1945, enrolling at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville in January, 1946. He graduated mid-term 1950.

Most of his professional career was as a petroleum marketing equipment executive in various positions at Gilbarco Inc., having retired in 1990 as Western/Pacific Regional Manager. Gilbarco is a worldwide manufacturing company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Exxon Corp., and its predecessors for many years, until sold to General Electric Company in 1986.

After retirement in 1990, he founded Little and Associates, Inc., a management consulting firm that also represents various outsourcing services companies. He is chief executive officer and board chairman. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of Wall Street Services, Inc. and Waterhouse Financial Management Group, Inc., both of San Antonio, Texas.

He was a board member of the Post Oak Family YMCA of Houston, Texas 1990-1995 and is currently a member of the American Petroleum Institute, Petroleum Equipment Institute and The American Legion. He was listed in Who's Who in Finance & Industry and Who's Who in the South and Southwest for many years.

His marriage to Jana V. Jones ended in divorce. He resides in Houston, Texas. His son, Mark McKenna Little and wife Peggy Louise, live in San Antonio, Texas along with their nine month old daughter, McKenna Louise.

**Can anyone identify this photograph? Possibly a member or relative of the Knoble family. Date "1857" written on back. Also Logo on back incorporates the phrase "William Brown, Photographer of the Army of Arkansas."**

**If you can help with identification, please send information to Amelia Martin, Editor, Fort Smith Historical Society, c/o Fort Smith Public Library, 61 South 8th Street, Fort Smith, AR 72901.**





# Arkansas Tuberculosis Sanatorium Wildcat Mountain Annex

By Amelia Martin

Under provisions of a bill written by Judge Joseph Morrison Hill and passed by the Arkansas General Assembly, in 1910, the Arkansas Tuberculosis Sanatorium was established at Booneville, Arkansas, for the treatment of the citizens of Arkansas suffering from Tuberculosis. The institution was opened with a few cottages which were overflowing from the very beginning. Other hospital facilities were constructed to relieve the situation.

In 1922, as plans were being made for the celebration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the installation and founding of the Belle Point Lodge No. 20 F.& A.M., a committee was appointed to arrange a program for the occasion. At the suggestion of Judge Hill, who was a member of that lodge, and also chairman of the Board of Directors of the State Sanatorium since its inception, a resolution was made to erect a children's building at the tuberculosis sanatorium in commemoration of Belle Point's Diamond Jubilee.

The lodge started the project with a subscription of \$850.00. Taking their inspiration from Belle Point Lodge, Masonic organizations throughout the state responded and a building was built to house sixty-two children.

At the time of the financial depression in the United States, which was brought about by the Stock Market Crash of 1929, there were approximately 350 patients in the institution, with a large waiting list seeking admission. Through the processes of the "Works Project Administration (WPA)," a government program designed to relieve unemployment, the sanatorium was enlarged by about seven hundred additional beds.

In the latter part of the 1930's, an annex to the main hospital was opened in Fort Smith, which was known as the Wildcat Mountain Sanatorium, and was located in two barracks buildings on an eighty acre tract of land. These buildings had been built by the city to house the great numbers of transients who passed through Fort Smith seeking employment during the peak of the depression. When the economic situation improved in the latter part of the 1930's and there

was no longer a need for the barracks buildings to be used for the original purpose, the city of Fort Smith offered them to the Sanatorium at Booneville. The city of Fort Smith and the Board of Trustees of the Sanatorium entered into an agreement for the Sanatorium to use the facilities as an annex to the main unit. The WPA provided additional funds and four more barracks buildings were constructed. In addition to the barracks buildings, six supporting buildings were constructed to accommodate the personnel that would operate the new annex. When completed, the facility accommodated 100 patients.

The first contingent of patients, numbering forty three, arrived at the Wildcat Mountain Annex on March 26, 1937, and the facility was soon filled to capacity.

For convenience and efficiency in operating the annex, the patients confined there were generally classified "far advanced." Historically, in those days it required approximately a ratio of one employee to each patient to provide all the services required to operate a tuberculosis hospital — medical, food, etcetera.

The administration of the annex was under the administrative personnel of the Sanatorium, although the chief officer at the annex, a supervisory physician, was the controlling officer. Appropriations for support of the annex were included in the Sanatorium's budget, however, a separate and direct section of the budget was identified by the legislature for the support of the annex.

This arrangement continued for a period of twenty one years and nine months, coming to a close on December 1, 1958. During the 1950's a radical new approach to the treatment practices of tuberculosis had been introduced....oral medication....and though cautiously accepted at first, it was soon to make long periods of hospital treatment unnecessary in many of the cases. The effect of this was to reduce the need for hospital beds in the Sanatorium. By the time the annex closed, the Sanatorium at Booneville was amply prepared to handle all the calls for hospital care. This allowed the termination of the agreement

with the city of Fort Smith.

The Sanatorium continued to operate with a continuing decline in the patient census until its final closing June 30, 1973.

During the years the annex operated, the physicians who served in supervisory capacity were:

#### **DR. WILLIAM O. ARNOLD**

Dr. William O. Arnold, a former patient of the Sanatorium, was the first supervisory physician to serve the annex. He resigned in May 1938 to enter private practice.

Dr. Arnold, who limited his practice to diseases of the chest and allergy, was associated with the Holt Krock Clinic in Fort Smith 1939-1941. Born in Prescott, Arkansas, July 29, 1907, the son of Clifton Pierce and Maud (McDaniel) Arnold, he attended high school in Prescott, University of Arkansas, and University of Arkansas School of Medicine, graduating in 1932. Dr. Arnold practiced at Arkansas Sanatorium 1934-38; Holt Krock Clinic, 1939-1941; Scott White Clinic and Hospital, Temple, Texas, 1941 - May 1957; Hot Springs, Arkansas, 1957-1980. Dr. Arnold had a number of medical articles published; was a member of the American Medical Association, Arkansas Medical Society, Garland County Medical Society (served as vice-president) is a diplomate of Internal Medicine, and has served as president of the Buie County, Texas, Medical Society. In 1974, he was named to Wisdom Hall of Fame. The Wisdom Society for the Advancement of Knowledge, Learning, and Research in Education, also awarded Dr. Arnold with the Wisdom Award of Honor for notable accomplishment in medicine. He married Sara Weaver of State Sanatorium, Arkansas, October 7, 1943, was a member of the Episcopal church, a member of the Masonic Lodge and as a hobby enjoyed wood carving.

The Arnold family was of English descent. First of the Arnold family in this country was William Arnold who landed in Rockingham County, Virginia, in 1765. His son, Benjamin, had a son, Thomas Arnold, who was a Revolutionary War soldier.

Dr. W. B. Arnold, who was the son of the Revolutionary War soldier, came to Arkansas in 1832 and it was he who acquired the 1400 acres of land at Emmett, Arkansas which in 1965 was still in the hands of his descendants. His son, Dr. W. E. Arnold lived at Artesia near Emmett and at Prescott, Arkansas. Clifton Pierce Arnold, Sr., his son, the father of Dr. William Owen Arnold, lived at Prescott.

#### **DR. JESSE JOHNSON WILLINGHAM**

Dr. Jesse Johnson Willingham, a staff physician at the Booneville unit succeeded Dr. Arnold May 10, 1938. He died suddenly on June 30, 1938 at age 71 while fishing at Wildcat Mountain Sanatorium. A native of Alabama, Dr. Willingham graduated from Rush Medical College in 1897, and had confined his practice to tuberculosis for twenty-five years. Prior to his coming to Arkansas in 1909, he had lived in Texas, Virginia, and Oklahoma. He had been transferred from State Sanatorium to the Wildcat branch on May 10. He was a member of the Baptist Church and of the Booneville Masonic Lodge. Surviving relatives were his wife, two sisters, and two brothers.

#### **DR. GERVAS FOSTER HOLLINSWORTH**

Dr. Gervas Foster Hollinsworth, a native of Hampton (Calhoun County) Arkansas, served as supervisory physician for the Wildcat Mountain Sanatorium in Fort Smith from July 1938 to June 1, 1942. He was born in Hampton January 2, 1902, graduated from the University of Arkansas School of Medicine May 31, 1928; served an internship at the Little Rock General Hospital, and returned to Hampton to do general practice until he came to the Wildcat Mountain Sanatorium following the death of Dr. Willingham. After his resignation in 1942, he moved back to Hampton.

#### **DR. JESS EDWARD LITTLE**

Dr. Jess Edward Little succeeded Dr. Hollinsworth and served until March 4, 1949. (Son of Governor John Sebastian Little. See biography on page 9 following article on Governor Little.)

#### **DR. EDGAR MARTENSEN**

Dr. Edgar Martensen succeeded Dr. Little and resigned in 1953.

A refugee from Estonia, he came to the United States following World War II, when many of the physicians from parts of Europe chose to flee their homelands rather than be subjected to the rigors imposed by their captors. Dr. Martensen had attended the University of Tartu in Estonia which was founded in 1632. He did premedical work at the College of Marva, Estonia, and received his medical degree from the University of Bonn, Germany. Following graduation, Dr. Martensen served as a resident physician at a displacement camp in Germany. He left Germany



with his wife and small son, arriving in the United States August 1949. He located for practice at Charleston, Arkansas, the home town of his wife, and remained there until he accepted the position of staff physician at the Arkansas Tuberculosis Sanatorium January 15, 1950. He was transferred to the Wildcat Mountain Annex as supervisory physician in November 1950 where he remained until his resignation in November 1953. Following his resignation he moved to Georgia where he continued his medical practice.

### **DR. HUBERT COMPTON DORSEY**

Dr. Hubert Compton Dorsey of Fort Smith succeeded Dr. Martensen, and served as supervisory physician from March 1954 until July 1956.



**Dr. Hubert Compton Dorsey**

Dr. Dorsey was born July 5, 1882 in Mississippi, near Natchez or Tupelo. He graduated from the University of Mississippi in 1911 and Tulane University School of Medicine in 1914; served a one year internship in the Chamberlain Sanatorium in Natchez, Mississippi, ten months at a New York Hospital, and did post graduate work in the outpatient clinic at Cornell University, 1920. Dr. Dorsey was a charter member of the staff of the Holt Clinic in 1921, remaining with the Clinic until 1954, when he was appointed resident physician at Wildcat Mountain Sanatorium. His article, "Influence of Focal Infection on Pulmonary Tuberculosis" was published in the *Journal of the Arkansas Medical Society*, February 1925. In 1937, Dr. Dorsey was elected Post Surgeon of the Fort Smith American Legion, and he served as president of the Sebastian County Medical Society in 1940. Married to Miss Rebecca Bourland, they had three children: a daughter, Jeanne (Mrs. Robert Vette, Denver, Colorado); and twin sons, who both became dentists, Dr. Joseph C. Dorsey, Aurora, Colorado, and Dr. Hubert (Hugh) Dorsey, Levenworth, Kansas. Dr. Dorsey died June 11, 1962 in Fort Smith. Mrs. Dorsey was a sister of Anna Marr Bourland and Wallace C. Bourland of Fort Smith.

### **DR. CAD A. HENRY**

Dr. Cad A. Henry followed Dr. Dorsey. He served as supervisory physician from July 1956 until July 1, 1957 when he resigned because of ill health.

Dr. Henry was from Clarendon, Arkansas. He joined the staff of physicians at the Booneville unit June 1942. He had previously been a patient at the Sanatorium and when sufficiently recovered he remained as a staff physician. A graduate of the University of Nashville, Tennessee, Medical Department, which was consolidated with the University of Tennessee in 1909, Dr. Henry was one of forty-two graduates of the University of Tennessee Medical units who were honored with the "Golden T" on September 22, 1958, in recognition of his fifty years service in the field of medicine. He died in a Little Rock hospital August 2, 1960.

### **DR. W. B. CENTER**

Dr. W. B. Center was the last physician to serve the Wildcat Mountain Branch Unit of the Arkansas Tuberculosis Sanatorium in Fort Smith. He came to the position in July 1957, where he remained until the closing of the Annex December 1, 1958. Dr. Center was a native of Gillett, Arkansas, received his medical degree from the University of Arkansas Medical School, and practiced at Gillett until he came to the Annex. He was a member of the fifty year club of the Arkansas Medical Society, and a veteran of World War I. Following the closing of the Annex, Dr. Center returned to the Sanatorium in Booneville, and continued to practice his profession until his death at the age of 78 years.

The Methodist Nursing Home and Methodist Retirement Village now occupy the site used by the Wildcat Mountain Annex.

### **SOURCES**

1. *History of Arkansas Tuberculosis Sanatorium* made available by Mr. W. J. Fulmer, Sr., Booneville, Arkansas.
2. *Physicians and Medicine. Crawford and Sebastian Counties. Arkansas 1917-1976* by Amelia Whitaker Martin, pages 160, 161, 275, 311-12, 378, 387, 457, and 626.
3. *Arkansas Lives. The Opportunity Land Who's Who*, John L. Ferguson, B.A., M.A., Ph.D., page 12.
4. Minutes of the Sebastian County Medical Society.
5. *Journal of the Arkansas Medical Society*.

# Judge Joseph M. Hill

By Amelia Martin

Judge Joseph Morrison Hill was a member of the Fort Smith bar for 34 years, save for his four years service as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Arkansas, November 1, 1909 until February 1, 1909. He resigned from the Supreme Court to accept the position of chief counsel for the state in the railroad rate cases, which he won for the state before the Supreme Court of the United States. He was permanent chairman of the State Democratic Convention in 1920, a pioneer member of the Noon Civics Club, a member of the Elks Lodge, the Country Club of Fort Smith, and was an active Mason. He was past master of Belle Point Lodge No. 20, F. & A. M. In 1918 he served as a member of the district exemption board of the western district of Arkansas before becoming president of the board of trustees of the Arkansas Tuberculosis Sanatorium.

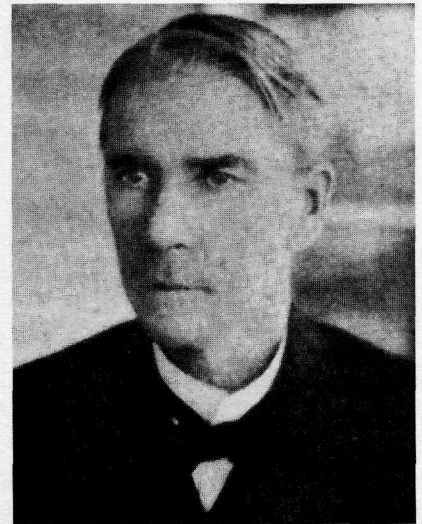
Stricken by tuberculosis, Judge Hill, while recuperating at a sanatorium in a western state, decided Arkansas needed such a facility. Upon his return to Arkansas he authored a bill which was enacted by the Arkansas General Assembly, resulting in the creation of the Booneville Sanatorium and the Wildcat branch of that sanatorium at Fort Smith. This was only the third such facility in the United States, and Judge Hill later served as president of the trustees of that facility.

For his unselfish outstanding service to organizations and people of Fort Smith, he was recipient of the Noon Exchange Club's Book of Golden Deeds Award in 1949. A Fort Smith School was named the Joseph M. Hill School in his honor.

Judge Hill was born during the Civil War, September 2, 1864, at Davidson College, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. His father, Daniel Harvey Hill, was a descendant of Colonel William Hill, commander of a regiment in Sumter's brigade, and also of Thomas Caheen, who served as a private in Sumter's Brigade in the Revolutionary War.

Daniel Harvey Hill was a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point with the class of 1842. He was promoted from the rank of second lieutenant to that of major during the Mexican war and later he was professor of mathematics in Washington College, now the Washington and Lee University. He afterward filled the position of professor of mathematics at Davidson College and next was superintendent of the North Carolina Military Institute at Charlotte in

that state. He served in the Confederate army as a colonel of the First North Carolina Regiment and became successively brigadier general, major general and lieutenant general, C. S. A. He was well known as editor, writer and educator and



Judge Joseph Morrison Hill

filled a notable place in connection with the history of the south. From 1877 until 1885 he was president of the University of Arkansas. He married Isabella Morrison, a daughter of the Rev. Robert Hall Morrison, a distinguished Presbyterian minister and the president of Davidson College.

On the maternal side Judge Hill descended from Joseph Graham, a lieutenant of the American army in the Revolutionary War and later a major general.

Judge Hill pursued his classical education in the University of Arkansas and later received his LL.B. degree from the Lebanon Law School of Lebanon, Tennessee. He was admitted to the bar at Berryville, Carroll County, Arkansas, September 11, 1883, and practiced law at Eureka Springs, Arkansas until 1887 when he moved to Fort Smith.

Judge Hill and Miss Kate Reynolds were married on November, 19, 1890, at Lake Village, Arkansas. She was a daughter of General D. H. Reynolds who was a brigadier general in the Confederate army, also a member of the Arkansas state senate and a most distinguished lawyer.

Judge and Mrs. Hill had two daughters: Martha, the wife of David R. Williams; and Isabel Preston, the wife of John C. Hill.

## SOURCES:

1. Noon Exchange Club
2. Herndon, Dallas T., *Centennial History of Arkansas*, Vol. 2, pages 119-120
3. *The New Masonic Temple*, page 39



# *A Personal View of a Young Woman's "Time on the Hill"*

## *Arkansas Tuberculosis Sanatorium Booneville and Fort Smith*

By Laverne Nelson

As the streets of Kansas City rang from revelers celebrating V-J Day, Donna Abraham, a young nurse cadette at Kansas City General Hospital was alone, high above the city in an isolation unit. As Americans celebrated a victory over Japan on August 15, 1945, putting an end to five years of war, Donna was beginning a fight to gain a victory over one of the most dreaded communicable diseases of the day, tuberculosis.

Donna Abraham Nelson was born and raised as a member of a large family in Siloam Springs, Arkansas. She was the ninth of nine children. After graduating from high school in 1943 she went into the Cadet Corps and nurses training at Kansas City General Hospital (June 1944). At her entrance examination she had a negative skin test for tuberculosis and histoplasmosis; yet in approximately one year (June, 1945) she developed symptoms which included night sweats, chilling, elevated temperature, and irritability. . . a definite change from her usual sunny personality. As she recalled in an oral interview 47 years later, "I became very, very sick."

Dr. William Hart, her physician, had experienced a bout with tuberculosis himself and while searching for the cause of Donna's illness, suspected that tuberculosis might be the cause of her problems as well. One day while Donna was sitting in class, a nurse called Donna from class to a small conference room and informed her that, "Yes, you do have tuberculosis." Dreaded words to hear when the disease often proved to be fatal and the common treatment consisted of rest and isolation, a separation from family and friends, usually at an institution called a "sanatorium."

Thus began Donna's journey back to her home state of Arkansas. She could have received treatment at Leeds Hospital in Kansas City, but her parents wanted her closer to home, so the doctors arranged for her to receive treatment at the

Arkansas State Tuberculosis Sanatorium, located two miles south of Booneville. This was only around 120 miles from Siloam Springs and would make it possible for her family to visit. Donna traveled from Kansas City back to Siloam Springs by train. She recalls the manner of her boarding of the train as a humorous incident.

The staff at General Hospital arranged for her to be transported by ambulance to the train station. She remembers that she felt like "quite a celebrity" when they took her to Union Station with the siren wailing away. She was also allowed to board ahead of the other passengers. Concerning the trip itself, Donna remembers sitting in two seats which faced each other with four other people. She also remembers the sense of total fatigue she felt at the end of the five hour trip. Risk of infecting others was not considered as Donna had not yet started to cough and therefore she was considered non-infectious.

At this time, Booneville, Arkansas was the location of one of the largest state-owned tuberculosis sanatoriums in the world. In the early 1900's many Arkansas citizens were succumbing to this dreaded disease. The recommended treatment necessitated relocating to a sunny climate and "taking the cure" of fresh air and bed rest; however, the expense of traveling to Arizona or other states which offered treatment made it impossible for many Arkansans to receive treatment. Thus, in 1909, Act 378 of the Thirty-Seventh General Assembly of Arkansas was passed. The purpose of this bill was to create a sanatorium "somewhere in Arkansas." It also authorized the governor to appoint six commissioners who would select the site, supervise the construction and supervise the administration of the sanatorium.<sup>1</sup>

The location of the Arkansas State Tuberculosis Sanatorium at Booneville came as a result of an intensive search by the six commis-



**Donna Nelson in her nurse-cadette uniform, taken about the time she became ill with Tuberculosis.**

sioners whose charge was to locate a large tract of land of at least 1000 acres which would be located "south of the mountains. The site should be a section free of malaria, where the drainage is good and the streams fresh and wholesome; the soil should be sandy or rocky in order that there will be as little dampness as possible. Pine lands where the timber has been cut off is preferable, and it must be where the transportation facilities are adequate for patients to come from all parts of the State." <sup>2</sup>

After months of travel and intensive searching the commissioners decided to accept the offer from the city of Booneville for 1,000 acres of land, which overlooked the Petit Jean River Valley and offered a view of Mount Magazine, only a few miles away.

One of the original commissioners Hamp Williams said in an address given at the sanatorium a few years later:

"I will never forget that day, October 3, 1909, when the six of us, on horseback, rode upon this

mountain and Judge Hill called to us and said, "Boys, this is the place and you can't beat it."<sup>3</sup>

At the time of the formal opening, September 1, 1910, there were only 15 patients in residence, although buildings were available to accommodate 64 patients. When Donna arrived (1945) the facilities were able to provide care for over a thousand patients. (Maximum enrollment reached 1155 and in 1959 at the 50th anniversary, 1023 patients were being treated.)<sup>4</sup> The facilities included numerous buildings for patients and employees, tidy frame houses for the doctors, a school for children, library, a productive farm, cannery, dairy, laundry, ice-cream plant, ice-house and was virtually a self-contained unit.

Donna's first treatment center was probably the Leo E. Nyberg building. She remembers it as being a large five-story "hospital type building". Nyberg was the largest building at the Sanatorium and was a complete 501-patient bed hospital building. It is six stories high in the center section and five stories high in either wing. It is exactly one-tenth of a mile long and fifty feet wide. It was one of several buildings constructed due to the passage of the Nichols-Nyberg Bill March 26, 1938. The bill appropriated approximately \$1,250,000 for improvement and expansion at the sanatorium. To this amount \$949,071 of federal funds through a Works Progress Administration grant was added in August of the same year. After the bill was passed, Governor Carl E. Bailey told the legislators: "You have set a rainbow in the sky for those afflicted with the Great White Plague."<sup>5</sup>

Donna recalls that men and women were treated in separate wings, and that two or three people shared a room. Patients were in varying stages of illness and not all would be cured. The death of a priest one night following a lung hemorrhage still today remains a vivid memory for Donna and at the time severely shocked her and her fellow patients.

Boredom, however, not the dramatic, forms the primary memory that Donna retains at her early days at the "San." The daily schedule called for two hours of rest in the morning, and two hours of rest in the afternoon. Patients wore black eye-shades as they rested. This was called "chasing tb". Bedtime came early, as nine o'clock p.m. signaled "lights out." Meals were brought to them. This routine was followed day after day after day. Adapting to this complete lack of activity was a difficult transition for an active, involved nursing student to make. Donna remembers that radio



and self-made entertainment provided the only relief.

Donna remembers her roommate at Nyberg, in Booneville, as being one of the most fun persons she encountered even though she was seriously ill. The roommate had started coughing consistently and had gone to get a chest x-ray because tuberculosis was in her family. "She had it real bad when they found it." She lay in bed, and was never allowed to get up, and when Donna last saw her the doctors put her on streptomycin and they were contemplating surgery. Yet she kept life and spirit circulating with friends and staff in the sanatorium. "It's amazing, what a human being can take and still laugh."

One break in the boredom arrived when, after about six weeks, they came around and asked if anyone would consider a transfer to "Wildcat". Thinking that anything would be better than where she was Donna volunteered to move.

Wildcat was a branch of the sanatorium which was located in Fort Smith on Wildcat Mountain. In the fall of 1935 the city of Fort Smith had transferred an 80-acre tract of land, located about four miles southeast of that city, complete with transient barracks, to the sanatorium to be converted to use as a hospital annex. This branch unit could take care of one hundred patients and the required number of employees needed to provide care. It was first used in March of 1937 and eventually closed in 1958 when the board felt that it was no longer useful. At that time, all their patients were transferred to Booneville.<sup>6</sup>

Wildcat consisted of veranda type barracks with porches and open-air areas for the patients to sun and rest. Again Donna shared her room with a roommate and quickly became a part of the "community." Although Wildcat offered a change of pace from the Booneville facility, it did not prove to be an escape from the life and death issues associated with the "dread disease." Soon after she arrived a girl in the room next door died. Donna still remembers her shocked reaction, "That will really make your hair raise."

Adjusting to and acknowledging the seriousness of her illness was difficult for Donna. For three months, even though she felt bad, she had difficulty forcing herself to stay flat in bed for almost total bed rest, and in fact, she did not always follow the orders for the day. "You know, you're so tired you can hardly stay in bed. You feel like you have to get up and do something." The move to Wildcat made it a little better, "it felt more

like a little town." A lot of shared humor and gossip tied them together into a small community and the veranda style barracks provided a more congenial atmosphere than the sterile hospital building where Donna had been at Booneville.

A major mistake by a technician is credited with causing Donna to take her treatment more seriously. One of Donna's friends was a girl who was engaged to be married and who wanted very badly to receive a good report from her X-rays; yet, her reports were always returned NAC (no apparent change). As Donna was lying in bed one night, wanting only to get out, one of the X-ray technicians came by and gave the girls a "pre-view" of their reports which would be released the next day. The engaged girl's report finally said "Slight Improvement"! Donna's read NAC.

As Donna said "I was stunned...but as I lay there in bed I made this deep emotional decision that stuck. I would follow the rules, I would stay in bed, and I would get better." The next day the truth emerged. The reports had been mixed up. Donna had indeed made a "slight improvement" and the engaged girl repeated her No Apparent Change. Still, the experience of receiving a negative report had so shaken Donna that she stuck by her decision and strictly followed orders, rested when she was supposed to, and stayed in bed. At the end of three months she knew that she was better. They told her "that she had made the best improvement that had ever been made in this place."

As she continued to improve, Donna's prescription for wellness included more exercise and a chance to rebuild her strength. This meant a return to Booneville. After a short stay at another veranda-type building where patients had their beds out on the veranda and were allowed to go to the "Commons" area for meals, Donna moved into Hamp Williams. Hamp Williams was a three-story building designed for use by ambulatory patients. It, like Nyberg, was constructed during the 1938-1940 period as a result of the Nichols-Nyberg Act.<sup>8</sup>

This building housed ambulatory women. They were allowed to go out for meals, movies, visits to the post office and "store" which were located across the street in the Commons Building. It was much like living in an apartment with a roommate. Donna remembers a lot of flirting, joking and camaraderie between the male and female patients as they met in the Commons area. One way to break the boredom was to send in to radio music programs and dedicate songs

to unsuspecting friends. She even recalls a fishing "date" with one of the boys.

Donna was dismissed from the Sanatorium after two and a half years. After considering other options she reapplied for nurses training and was accepted. She met her husband when a friend who had also had tuberculosis took her to the Skyliner's Club for taller than average people. The fact that Donna had been a victim of tuberculosis was not a factor as the romance blossomed. When asked if knowing that she had tuberculosis made people afraid of her, she replied that it certainly didn't seem to bother her husband. Others were also generally accepting and Donna did not feel that a stigma was attached to her because she had been a tuberculosis patient. She has continued to work in the health field.

One of the most important footnotes to Donna's story is the fact that she was not the only student nurse affected with tuberculosis in 1945 at Kansas City General. At this point, the hospital was not X-raying patients or screening for tuberculosis. The suspected carrier was a cancer patient. Donna and others involved with his treatment were evidently infected as they performed nursing duties. She remembers working two rotations on the cancer unit (12 weeks) during which they suctioned the lungs. After the patient died the autopsy revealed that he had died, not from cancer, but from tuberculosis. In a four month period, ten student nurses developed tuberculosis. Eventually all ten recovered, all ten finished their training and all had children. As Donna says, "We were very fortunate in a way."

Today Donna, at age sixty-six, works in public health nursing. She seldom thinks of her time "on the hill," yet it changed her life forever.

#### REFERENCES

1. Cox, Ethel Hale (1959). *Reflection of Five Decades of Service 1909-1959*, p. 13. Authority of the Board of Trustees, Arkansas Tuberculosis Sanatorium, State Sanatorium, Arkansas.
2. Ibid. p. 14.
3. Ibid. p. 14.
4. Ibid. p. 34.
5. Ibid. p. 32.
6. Ibid. p. 30.
7. Ibid. p. 33.

#### Author's Note:

This article is based on an oral history which was recorded from Donna A. Nelson, July 24, 1992, at Siloam Springs, Arkansas when she was visiting her sister, Mrs. Ila McNair. The transcript of the entire conversation is available upon request. References for the history of the Sanatorium are all taken from the history written by Ethel Hale Cox, who served many years as the librarian at the sanatorium. As an "employee's kid" (grandfather, grandmother, mother, two aunts all were employed at the sanatorium, and my father sold milk to the dairy and hauled rock for construction of the Nyberg building.) I fondly remember Ms. Cox and the encouragement that she gave to everyone with whom she came into contact, so that their stay on the hill would be as pleasant as possible.

#### Editor's Note:

Laverne Nelson is a native of Booneville and grew up on a farm which is adjacent to the sanatorium. Her family, including her grandparents, parents and other relatives were employees of the sanatorium at one time or another. Her grandfather's first job was to drive the hack which met the train at Booneville and take visitors and patients to the sanatorium via horse and buggy. Later he was the heating supervisor. Her grandmother was a cook in the children's building and her father hauled rock for the foundation of the Nyberg building. Her mother and various aunts worked in the laundry, or as lab technicians at various times. This perhaps explains her interest in the history of the sanatorium.

Mrs. Nelson is married to Talmadge Nelson, also a Booneville native. She has taught art and social studies in public schools and is currently employed at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville as a Research Specialist in Human Environmental Sciences, in the area of child development.

She would be very interested in hearing from anyone who would be willing to be interviewed concerning his/her experiences at the Sanatorium, either as a patient or an employee.

Mrs. Nelson's mailing address is:

Mrs. Laverne Nelson  
6275 Mission Blvd.  
Fayetteville, AR 72703-9688

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# The Saints Among Us

By Sarah Fitzjarald McCullough

When US Army Major William A. Bradford and his sixty-four crack riflemen were sent to Belle Point to establish a fort they arrived on Christmas Day, 1817. We cannot help believing that our birth date was a good omen, marking those early settlers and future generations with charity and goodwill.

Fort Smith has always been noted for its charity even in the dark hours of outlaws to our immediate west and through depressions and four wars. Our charitable organizations include churches of all creeds, fraternal and civic groups and occasionally, plain and simple examples of neighbor helping neighbor. One such charity is a most unusual example.

In late October, 1979, Jeana Buerger decided to convert her greenhouse into a storage facility for food and non-food household necessities to be contributed to the poor and needy in the community. It began as a simple project but the response was so favorable that about a year later she, her husband Basil, their son Bill and two of their friends formed a small corporation. Devoutly Catholic, they wanted things to be handled "decently and in order."

Fortunately, Bill is an attorney and certified public accountant and was well qualified to steer the fledgling organization through the necessary legal channels. And because Jeana had proposed doing everything in the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ, they named their program, "in HIS Name."

When word got around large collection boxes were placed in the vestibules of the three Catholic churches in Fort Smith where parishioners could drop in canned food, staples, paper products and other household necessities.

Money contributions have also flowed into the small corporation. However, NO APPEAL, SOLICITATION, GIMMICKS, ADVERTISING OR FUND-RAISING has ever been allowed, nor will there ever be, because this rule was written into its by-laws.

In addition, not one penny has ever been withheld from donations to cover expenses such as automobile, office rent or utilities. If a call comes in from a family or individual who has no car to pick up the supplies they need, a free delivery is made and no questions asked.

An annual news letter/financial report is mailed to contributors. The last one, sent out in October, 1996, is a very impressive report of stewardship:

"During the past year you contributed \$26,443.51; you also gave large amounts of food and family necessities (non-food). You made it possible for us to assist the needy with GOOD FOOD AND LOTS OF IT!

"During the past seventeen years you contributed a total of \$327,263.51, and it is really impossible for us to estimate the tons of food and supplies you have given.

"During the past year you have made it possible for us to assist 7,100 persons – this in part was in direct assistance, with the greatest number indirectly with and through ministries in Van Buren, Fort Smith and Kensett, Arkansas."

The reference to the above towns was due to the devastating tornado that ripped through the area last April (1996) without warning, destroying many of the historic businesses and homes on Fort Smith's north side, many of Van Buren's finest homes and much of the small town of Kensett.

Basil said recently, "Whenever we have felt a need we have turned to the Lord and he has never failed us." He also said, "When we read the Gospels we note that Christ did not always choose the most highly educated or most talented people to do His work. To us it seems that He often chose those who were the most unlikely." And then he added, "We call ourselves the 'unlikeliest'"

The names of the corporation's officers – Jeana Buerger, Basil Buerger, Bill Buerger, Clyde and Betty Chaney – are all printed in lower case on the letterhead. While this might seem an affectation of some sort it is actually a matter of their honest humility.

While we are very, very proud of all the charitable citizens in our town, we must remember that there are many cities like Fort Smith all across our country with their citizens of goodwill, their own quiet saints. GOD BLESS THEM ALL!

(If the Buerger name strikes a chord, you may remember Bill and Lucy's daughter, Caroline, who was featured in the April, 1994, issue of *The Journal*, in our POETS and POETRY section.)

# Sebastian County Government and County Judges 1851 - 1997

Sebastian County celebrated its 145th Anniversary in 1996. It was created by the Act of January 6, 1851 from territory which was previously part of Crawford, Scott and Polk Counties and was named after William K. Sebastian, who was judge of the first circuit court for several years after Arkansas was admitted to the Union. It consists of 529 square miles which makes it the smallest county in the state.

The temporary seat of justice was designated to the village of Jenny Lind, and Eaton Tatum's home, where the first election of county officers was held January 27, 1851. Forty acres, in what was to be named "Greenwood" after Judge Alfred B. Greenwood, Circuit Judge, was donated by Reuben Coker, one of the first commissioners.

First election for county officers in Sebastian County was held on the 27th of January 1851 and resulted in the selection of: James Clark, County Judge; Samuel Brooks Stephens, Sheriff; John Carnall, formerly sheriff of Crawford County, Clerk.

At the same time two commissioners for the county at large, and one from each civil township, were selected to select a site for and locate the county seat: John D. Arbuckle and Reuben Coker, elected at large; John Jones from Big Creek; Samuel Edmondson from Upper; William Stafford from Sugar Loaf.

These commissioners met at Jenny Lind in May 1851 and located the seat of Justice for Sebastian County.

Greenwood was selected as the seat of justice in 1851. Fort Smith was selected as the seat of justice in 1852, and the county records were moved there. Greenwood was again selected as the seat of justice in 1854 and Greenwood residents claimed their town was the original and only county seat.

To settle the dispute, the state legislature in 1861 established two judicial districts in the county. The Arkansas State Constitution of 1874 contains a unique provision with respect to Sebastian County. Article 13, Section 5, provides "Sebastian County may have two districts and two county seats, at which county, probate and circuit courts shall be held as may be provided by law, each paying its own expenses." Therefore, Sebastian County has had two separate districts for one hundred and twenty three years.

Sebastian County, until 1977 and the passage of amendment 55, operated with two Quorum Courts, which levied taxes and made appropriations for each district.

The functions of the Quorum Court were changed by the passage of Amendment 55 to the Arkansas Constitution, which became effective January 1, 1977. The amendment grants home rule to the counties and designates the Quorum Court as the legislative body for the county. Under Arkansas Law, the Quorum Court must provide law and justice through the courts and public records. Also the court provides county planning, parks, libraries, civic centers, emergency services, water, sewer and utility services.

Amendment 55 was passed to revise the county government in the state, but made no provision for any county to have more than one Quorum Court. It made no reference whatever to a county being divided into districts.

Amendment 55 became effective January 1, 1977. Since that time, Sebastian County has had one Quorum Court composed of thirteen elected Justices of the Peace. Each Justice of the Peace represents a district in the county, established by the County Election Commissioner with the geographical size of the district based on population. Justices of the Peace serve two year terms.

The Quorum Court exercises local legislative authority not denied by the constitution or by law.

County voters elect nine executive officers and the Quorum Court. The nine executive officials are County Judge, Sheriff, County Clerk, Circuit Clerk, Collector, Treasurer, Coroner and Surveyor.

The chief executive officer of county government in Arkansas is the County Judge. As chief executive of county government, the judge authorizes and approves the disbursement of all appropriated county funds, operates the system of county roads, administers ordinances enacted by the Quorum Court, has custody of county property, accepts grants from federal, state, public and private sources, hires county employees except those persons employed by other elected officials of the county, and presides over the Quorum Court without a vote, but with the power of veto.

All powers not vested in the County Judge as the chief executive officer of the county is exercised



and administered by the Quorum Court, over which the County Judge presides.

### **SEBASTIAN COUNTY JUDGES 1851 -1997**

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 1851-1852 | James Clark  |
| 1852-1854 | Samuel Wilson  |
| 1854-1856 | S. M. Rutherford   |
| 1856-1858 | Charles Milor  |
| 1858-1860 | Charles Milor  |
| 1860-1862 | Wm. McAllister   |
| 1862-1864 | Wm. McAllister   |
| 1864-1866 | John Howard  |
| 1866-1868 | John Howard  |
| 1868-1872 | C.P. Swift<br>(from December 1870)                                 |
| 1872-1874 | (record of this term incomplete)                                   |
| 1874-1876 | C. Perkins   |
| 1876-1878 | C. Perkins   |
| 1878-1880 | R. B. Rutherford   |
| 1880-1882 | R. B. Rutherford   |
| 1882-1884 | B. J. H. Gaines  |
| 1884-1886 | B. J. H. Gaines  |
| 1886-1888 | B. J. H. Gaines  |
| 1888-1890 | W. I. Blythe   |
| 1890-1892 | W. I. Blythe   |
| 1892-1894 | J. H. Holland  |
| 1894-1896 | J. H. Holland  |
| 1896-1898 | J. M. Spradling  |
| 1898-1900 | J. M. Spradling  |
| 1900-1902 | J. M. Spradling  |
| 1902-1904 | W. A. Falconer   |
| 1904-1906 | W. A. Falconer   |
| 1906-1908 | W. A. Falconer   |
| 1908-1910 | Jesse A. Harp  |
| 1910-1912 | J. A. Harp<br>J. B. Williamson +                                   |
| 1912-1914 | Ezra Hester<br>J. B. Williamson +                                  |
| 1914-1916 | Ezra Hester<br>L. M. Redwine +                                     |
| 1916-1919 | C. Holland<br>L. M. Redwine +                                      |
| 1919-1921 | C. Holland ( removed)<br>Lawrence Wright (appointed Jan. 14, 1920) |
|           | L. M. Redwine +  |
| 1921-1923 | T. A. Norris<br>L. M. Redwine +                                    |
| 1923-1925 | T. A. Norris<br>L. M. Redwine +                                    |
| 1925-1926 | T. A. Norris<br>L. M. Redwine +<br>(+ County Superintendent)       |
| 1927-1928 | S. A. Lynch  |
| 1929-1930 | S. A. Lynch  |
| 1931-1932 | S. A. Lynch ( Died)<br>R. P. Strozier appt. 4-21-32                |
| 1933-1934 | R. P. Strozier   |

|           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| 1935-1936 | R. P. Strozier |
| 1937-1938 | R. P. Strozier |
| 1939-1940 | R. P. Strozier |
| 1941-1942 | R. P. Strozier |
| 1943-1944 | R. P. Strozier |
| 1945-1946 | R. P. Strozier |
| 1947-1948 | R. P. Strozier |
| 1949-1950 | R. P. Strozier |

(Floyd Barham to serve in special case set for Friday August 19, or any time this case is heard because of disqualification of R. P. Strozier August 18, 1949)

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 1951-1952 | R. P. Strozier                                     |
| 1953-1954 | Ben A. Geren                                       |
| 1955-1956 | Ben A. Geren                                       |
| 1957-1958 | Ben A. Geren                                       |
| 1959-1960 | Ben A. Geren                                       |
| 1961-1962 | Ben A. Geren                                       |
| 1963-1964 | Ben A. Geren                                       |
| 1965-1966 | Ben A. Geren                                       |
| 1967-1968 | Ben A. Geren                                       |
| 1969-1970 | Ben A. Geren                                       |
| 1971-1972 | Glenn Thames                                       |
| 1973-1974 | Glenn Thames                                       |
| 1975-1976 | Glenn Thames                                       |
| 1977-1978 | Glenn Thames                                       |
| 1979-1980 | Bob Boyer  |
| 1981-1982 | Bob Boyer (resigned)<br>David Hudson appt. 1-20-82 |
| 1983-1984 | W. R. "Bud" Harper                                 |
| 1985-1986 | W. R. "Bud" Harper                                 |
| 1987-1988 | W. R. "Bud" Harper                                 |
| 1989-1990 | W. R. "Bud" Harper                                 |
| 1991-1992 | W. R. "Bud" Harper                                 |
| 1993-1994 | W. R. "Bud" Harper                                 |
| 1995-1996 | W. R. "Bud" Harper                                 |
| 1996-1997 | W. R. "Bud" Harper                                 |

(Listing of County officers  
will be continued in the April 1998 issue)

### **SOURCES:**

1. County government information compiled by County Judge W. R. "Bud" Harper
2. County Judges 1851 thru 1976, *Historical Report of the Secretary of State, Arkansas 1978*. Volume II, Winston Bryant, Secretary of State
3. *Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northwest Arkansas*. Page 697, 698
4. County Judges 1977 - 1997, Rep. Carolyn Pollan

# In Loving Memory

## **THEODORE "TED" MILLER**

Theodore "Ted" Miller, 84, and a contributor to the Fort Smith Historical Society, died Tuesday, February 25, 1997. He was a member of the United Hebrew Congregation and U.C.T.; retired owner and operator of the Eagles Store on Garrison Ave.; was a 33rd degree Mason, a member of Belle Point Masonic Lodge No. 20 F&AM and the Scottish Rite Bodies. He was an Air Force veteran of World War II, a member of the Noon Lion's Club and a 1929 graduate of Fort Smith High School.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy; two daughters, Marilyn Stodghill of Seattle, Washington, and Joan Donaldson of Saranac Lake, N.Y.; and four grandchildren.

## **DILLWYN W. PAXON**

Dillwyn W. Paxon, 81, member of and contributor to the Fort Smith Historical Society, died March 9, 1997 in Fort Smith. He was a member of Winslow Church of Christ, charter member of Arkansas Archeology Society, member and past secretary of Fort Smith Gem and Mineral Society, one of two members in the State of Arkansas of the International Palm Society. He was a weather watcher for KFSM TV 5 and a Navy veteran of World War II.

He is survived by a brother, J. Watson Paxon of Memphis, numerous nieces and nephews including Shirley Paxon of Mount Gaylor.

## **LAWRENCE EDWARD TIDWELL, SR.**

Lawrence Tidwell, Sr., a 31-year veteran of the Fort Smith police force, 62, died April 17, 1997 in his home after a brief bout with cancer. One of the first black officers on the police force, Tidwell retired from the Fort Smith Police Department a few years ago, retiring as administrative sergeant, but has been active as Fort Smith reserve officer.

Masonic House of Kedosh service was held Friday, April 25, at Quinn Chapel A.M.E. Church by the E. O. Trent Consistory No. 233. Funeral services were held Saturday, April 26, at the Fort Smith Civic Center with full honors by the Fort Smith Police Honor Guard. More than 500 fellow police officers, friends and family members gathered at the Fort Smith Civic Center to remember

Tidwell who helped form the Lincoln Youth Center and make the streets of Fort Smith a safer place to live.

At the funeral, Mayor Ray Baker said, "He took time to improve the life of this community that he dearly loved. He made our lives richer and brighter."

He was a 1952 graduate of Lincoln High School and attended Arkansas A.M.&N. College at Pine Bluff.

His present and past affiliations include: board member of Arkansas Valley Habitat for Humanity, Crawford and Sebastian Community Development Council, Harbor House, Interfaith Community Center, Fort City Optimist Club, Eastside Sertoma Club, Fulfill A Dream, Fort Smith Bicentennial Commission, Kiwanis Club, March of Dimes, Martin Luther King Holiday Planning Commission, United Way, Progressive Men's Club, president of Lincoln Alumni Association, director and co-founder of Lincoln Youth Service Center, Co-founder of the Fort Smith Branch AAU Boxing League, co-director Martin Luther King Park and appeared in the film "Pigs No More" PBS/KETS, used nationwide in PTA meetings and other civic gatherings. He was a worshipful master of the Shady Grove Masonic Lodge No. 28 and a 33rd degree Mason.

He is survived by his wife, Charolette; two daughters, Cecilia Bernadette of Fort Smith and Sandra "Cindy" of Oklahoma; a son, Lawrence Edward Tidwell Jr., with the Air Force in Japan; and a grandchild, London Belcher of Fort Smith.

## **DR. CHARLES I. HUGHES**

Dr. Charles I. Hughes, 59, died April 28, 1997 in a Fort Smith hospital. A graduate of Stuttgart High School, he earned his doctor of optometry degree from Southern College of Optometry in Memphis.

Dr. Hughes was a member of the Fort Smith Historical Society, very active in the American Optometric Association where he served as president two terms and was past committee chairman of 30 committees. He was also active in the Arkansas Optometric Association. A member of the Grand Avenue Baptist church, he served as an active deacon for 20 years, Adult Sunday School teacher for 25 years, was past chairman of the finance committee and a member of the pastor search committee. He was also past president



of the Westark Booster Club at Westark Community College.

Hughes was a member of the State Board of Health, past vice president and a member of the State Health Coordinating Council, and past vice president and member of the State Health Planning Council. He was charter president for three years and board member for seven years of the Health System Agency, past president for two terms and board member for six years of Comprehensive Health Planning Council and past vision care section counsel member of the American Public Health Association.

Among many honors he received, he was the American Optometric Association's Optometrist of the Year in 1976 and the Arkansas Optometric Association's Optometrist of the Year in 1976 and 1995.

He was preceded in death by one daughter, Donna Worst. Survivors include his wife, Patricia; a daughter, Jennifer Hartstein of Little Rock, a son Jeffrey of Fort Smith and two grandchildren, Matthew and Elizabeth Hartstein, both of Little Rock.

### **CICERO LEWIS**

Cicero Lewis, 96, contributor to *The Journal*, died Friday, May 2, 1997, in a Fort Smith hospital. He was a member of Central Presbyterian Church, the widower of Helen Lewis and a retired civil service employee of the Army. An active Mason, he served the Belle Pointe Lodge No. 20 as secretary for 45 years, was a member of the Scottish Rite which honored him with the 33rd-degree, the York Rite Bodies, the Amrita Grotto and Liberty Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star No. 402. He was the recipient of many Masonic honors, including the Medal of Honor by the Grand Lodge of Arkansas.

He is survived by two daughters, Fanchon Fischer of Manassas, Va., and Carol Lee Taylor of Edmond, Okla; seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

### **MARVIN ALTMAN**

Marvin Altman, 80, of Van Buren, former president of Sparks Regional Medical Center, died May 12, of lung cancer in his home.

Altman, who helped push Sparks from a 50-bed hospital in 1939 to one of the largest medical centers in Arkansas with 510 beds, enjoyed an illustrious 42-year career. In 1978, he retired from Sparks and served as a consultant until 1981. When the hospital built a new fitness center in

1987, it was named in his honor. Born in LaBelle, Fla., he received a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Florida. He started his health care career as the business manager for Sparks before serving four years as a flight instructor in the Army Air Corps until 1945. Later that year, Altman succeeded his father-in-law, Dr. Charles Holt, as administrator of Sparks and headed five major hospital expansions within 25 years, including the city's first 24-hour, fully staffed emergency room and the state's first free-standing outpatient surgery center.

He received the Arkansas Hospital Association's highest award, the A. Allen Weintraub Memorial Award in 1976 and directed the construction of Sparks Manor at U Street and Towson Avenue in 1958.

Altman is survived by his wife, Gelene Pritchard Altman; one son, Dr. Michael Scott Altman of Phoenix, Ariz; two daughters, Gail McCann Altman of Fayetteville and Sally Jean Altman of Tulsa, Okla.; a stepson, Col. Jack W. Briley of Pinehurst, N.C., seven grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

### **REBA KIRKENDALL**

Reba Theresa Kirkendall, 67, of Fort Smith died June 25, 1997, in a local hospital. She wrote the "Across the Creek" column for the *Southwest Times Record* and was a member of the Crawford County Art Center and Life Writers. Burial was in the National Cemetery.

She is survived by her husband, Lloyd Kirkendall; two daughters, Kathy Karsten and Karen Ewing, both of Fort Smith; two sons, Mike Kirkendall of Fort Smith; three sisters, Hazel Ellison of Muskogee, Okla., Letha Ross of Sallisaw and Muriel Daniels of McAlester, Okla; a brother Loyd Hampton of Bella Vista; and eight grandchildren.

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# News and Opportunities

*Except for Life Members, it is time  
to pay FSHS dues for 1998.*

**1997-1998 Officers:**

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**Vice President:**

Richard Griffin

**Recording Secretary:**

Betty Lehn

Cynthia D. Bedell

**Membership Secretary:**

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**Corresponding Secretary:**

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Janice Buford Eddleman

**Consulting Editor:**

Carolyn Pollan

\*\*\*\*\*

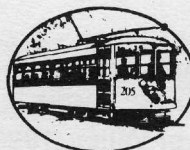
The Arkansas Historical Association award for the best family history published in a county or local historical journal in 1996 was made to Beverly Helbling Klein for her article, *The Helbling Family*, which was published in Volume 20, Number 1, April 1996 issue of *The Journal* of the Fort Smith Historical Society. How we wish Beverly could have been present to accept her award, but she died suddenly in 1988, soon after writing the article. Her award was accepted posthumously by her father, Dusty Helbling.

The award for the best biography, autobiography or memoir published in a county or local historical journal in 1996 was made to Amelia Whitaker Martin for her article, *Minnie Juliet Sanders Armstrong. M.D.*, published in Volume 20, Number 2, September 1996 issue of *The Journal*.

These awards were presented at the annual meeting of the Arkansas Historical Association in Texarkana April 18, 1997.



Dusty Helbling and Amelia Martin  
With Award certificates



## FORT SMITH TROLLEY MUSEUM

A wheel chair ramp for the trolley was completed and used for the first time at the annual open house, May 4th. Because antique vehicles are exempt from the requirement for handicap access, until now a wheel chair had to be lifted and set in the car by hand.

John Bell, who designed the mural of the history of the trolley and five historic scenes of downtown that include the trolley, was the first to try out the ramp. He was joined by his wife, Maxine, who is also in a wheel chair. Neither had ridden the trolley before this because motorized chairs are too heavy to be lifted into the car. The ramp has seen usage several times since then.

The ramp was built of dirt, paved with antique bricks and landscaped with flat rock and evergreen plants. It has a metal rail and an adjustable sliding metal ramp that adjusts to the door of the trolley. A railroad "whistle signal" was installed so the operator would know where to stop for the ramp to fit. This not only allows access for wheel chairs but also for those who have problems with the high steps to the car.

We appreciate Jay Wiechert who helped design and build the metal operating parts.

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## FORT SMITH HISTORICAL SITE

For repair of the damage which was done to the Fort Smith Historical Site building by the tornado April 21, 1996, it will close August 15. The park



visitor center will relocate to the park maintenance building, corner of Third and Parker Streets. This will open September 1, and will serve as the temporary visitor center until repairs are completed. Judge Parker's Courtroom Display will move to the Old Fort Museum.

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### **OLD FORT MUSEUM**

Visiting hours at the Old Fort Museum are:

September thru May  
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday thru Saturday  
Sunday 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Closed on Monday

June thru August  
9:00 a.m. Tuesday thru Saturday  
Sunday 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Closed on Monday

### **Exhibits:**

Summer 1997 (through Labor Day):

**"To Midland, South, and Back Again: Fort Smith Summer Amusements" "Without Warning: Disaster in the River Valley, 1898-1996"**

Fall 1997:

**"Convergence of Cultures"**

December 1997 - February 1998:

**Holiday Toy Exhibit**

Spring/Summer 1998:

**"Products and Perceptions" (marketing and advertising exhibit)**

Annual Fund Raiser:

**"Celebrate Mardi Gras, 1998"**  
February 20, 1998

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### **CLAYTON HOUSE**

Open Wednesday thru Saturday  
12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Closed Monday and Tuesday, but open for tours on these days by special arrangement.  
Telephone: 783-3000.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **WESTARK SEASON OF ENTERTAINMENT**

For schedule, contact Stacey Jones, Director of Student Affairs, P. O. Box 3649, Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649. Telephone: 501-788-7302. Fax: 501-788-7016.

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### **FORT SMITH ART CENTER**

423 North 6th Street, Fort Smith, AR 72901  
Telephone: 501-784-2787 FAX 501-784-9071

Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Closed Easter, July 4, Thanksgiving, and December 21 - January 1. No admission fee, free parking, handicap accessible (first floor), Group tours available by reservation, Gift Shop.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **"POLLY'S DREAM"**

At 6:30 p.m. during the Fort Smith Art Center Board of Trustees' annual Belle Bazaar Auction on April 11, Mayor Ray Baker, with Polly Crews at his side, cut the ribbon at the Art Center's newest addition, the "Polly's Dream" gazebo. Crews, director of the Art Center from 1974 to 1994, said she always wanted the community to have a community band stand. Many area businesses and the Fort Smith Art Center Auxiliary cooperated to fulfill her dream.

The heptagonal gazebo will be used as a performance place for community members and as a resting place for people touring Fort Smith's Belle Grove neighborhood.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Exhibit Schedule**

September 7, 1997 thru May 1998:

September 7-27 - 3rd Annual Native American Invitational Exhibition.

Saturday, September 20 - 3rd Annual Native Festival (free)

October 5-26 - Charles Peer: Pastel Landscapes of Arkansas; Marty Peerson: Landscape and Still Life Oil Paintings; E. M. Willey: Woodturnings

Saturday October 11 - 15th Annual **Oh, What A Night** at the Town Club

November 2-26 - 21st Annual Photography Competition

December 8-20 - Children's Christmas Card Design Competition

January 4-25 - Quilt Competition (Arkansas and Oklahoma artists). This a collaborative competition. Part of the exhibition will be displayed at the Crawford County Art Center in Van Buren.

February 1-21 - Small Works on Paper. Other exhibits to be announced

March (dates TBA) - 22nd Annual Student Competition; 4th Annual Westark Student Art Guild Juried Exhibition

April (dates TBA) – 48th Annual Art Competition  
May (dates TBA) – River Visions – 2nd annual  
exhibition focusing on the Arkansas River

\*\*\*\*\*

### **VALLEY OF THE ARKANSAS GATHERING** **October 24 - 26, 1997**

More than a century and a half ago, Fort Smith was a bustling frontier fort overlooking the Arkansas River, maintaining peace at the gateway to the expansive and untamed Great Southwest. As time passed and military presence diminished, the little town outside its walls continued to grow in importance because of traffic along the river.

Trappers and traders embarked from here, so did gold seekers going West ... and the Butterfield stagecoaches that linked Santa Fe and St. Louis. Straddling the border between "civilization" and Indian Territory, Fort Smith changed hands during the Civil War ... and then saw "Hangin' Judge" Isaac Parker bring justice to western Arkansas and Indian Territory. Still later came drought, depression and gangsters ... and a huge World War II training center, Fort Chaffee.

This is Fort Smith's colorful past ...

"The Valley of the Arkansas Gathering" brings it all to life again ... for you and your family to enjoy! It's a wonderful kaleidoscope of historical exhibits, displays, exotic food, period music, and re-enactments that focus on the rich, multi-cultural 175-year heritage of Fort Smith's role in the Great Southwest! There are plenty of exciting activities and events you really won't want to miss!

The USO dance is Friday night, October 24 at the Fort Smith Civic Center. Tickets \$8.50 each.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **PENDERGRAFT HONORED**

The new \$12.4 million Library and Technology Center at Arkansas Tech University at Russellville is named in honor of long-time Fort Smith resident and former Donrey Media Group executive, Ross Pendergraft. The library and technology center is funded by a gift from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation of Tulsa.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **LAURA MAE WEIR 100**

Laura Mae Weir has celebrated her 100th birthday. She was born May 5, 1897, in Barling to Nancy and W. F. Byrum, and is the widow of P. J. Weir. The couple had six children, Keith Weir,



Laura Mae Weir

Leslie Weir, Eula Jean Roberts, George Weir and the late Kenneth Weir and Geraldine Kesner. Mrs. Weir now lives at the Sebastian County Retirement Center in Barling. She has 11 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren.



### **1997 CHRONOLOGY**

*Compiled by Sarah Fitzjarrald McCullough  
From Fort Smith*

**SOUTHWEST TIMES RECORD**

**January 20 to June 12, 1997**

#### **JANUARY**

20th – A new suspect ID is part of the city's new program in crime detection. The program is portable and can be used on a laptop computer, which allows police to interview witnesses at any location, including the crime scene, hospital or home.

— • —

#### **FEBRUARY**

25th – Citing 30 incidents of increasing frequency and severity, Westark Community College President Joel Stubblefield explained his decision to cancel the remainder of the men's basketball season to the college's board of trustees.

\*\*\*\*\*

25th – The violent storm that ripped through the area last week caused a new first for the Fort Smith's Little Theater. Its performance, "Love, Sex and the IRS," was performed by candlelight.

\*\*\*\*\*

27th — A B-2 Stealth Bomber doing practice approaches at the Fort Smith Regional Airport drew a crowd of eager onlookers yesterday. (Fort



Smithians aren't accustomed to seeing B-2 Stealth Bombers.)

— • —  
**MARCH**

2nd – U.S. Representative Asa Hutchinson was honored at the Lincoln Day dinner and was named Sebastian County Man of the Year.

\*\*\*\*\*

12th – The 39-foot Fiberglass dome, covering the new National Weather Service Doppler Radar Unit south of Fort Smith, was lowered into place.

\*\*\*\*\*

6th – Richard Griffin and his panel of the Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Implementation LRA Committee are anxious to begin building up the area the size of a small city on 5,500 acres of excess Chaffee land.

\*\*\*\*\*

9th – The House of Representatives approved the bill authored by Ed. Thicksten, allowing Westark Community College to offer its own three-year baccalaureate degrees.

\*\*\*\*\*

20th – Bill Beall received the annual Gloria White Community Angel Award, presented by Fort Smith mayor Ray Baker, at a luncheon in the Fort Smith Civic Center.

\*\*\*\*\*

23rd – Wal-Mart Supercenter enters Fort Smith's retail grocery fray as it opens its largest store in the area.

\*\*\*\*\*

23rd – Bruce McNeill, Superior Federal Bank's president and chief executive officer, announced his retirement, effective March 31, after three decades as its top executive.

\*\*\*\*\*

23rd – Westark Community College President Joel Stubblefield is one of eight two- and four-year college and university presidents elected to serve on the Executive Council of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

\*\*\*\*\*

27th – Two Fort Smith sewage treatment plants have been in "significant" violation of the Clean Water Act over the course of 15 months, according to data from the Environmental Protection Agency.

\*\*\*\*\*

29th – Architects discovered foundation problems at Miss Laura's Visitor Center that will cost about

\$40,000 to fix and will stall the reopening of the former brothel by up to two months.

— • —  
**APRIL**

8th – Gov. Mike Huckabee promised \$9.5 million yesterday for Fort Smith's Civic Center expansion.

\*\*\*\*\*

12th – Fort Smith ranks in the top 12 percent in a World-Class Community survey for manufacturing, conducted by a national publication, Chamber of Commerce officials said yesterday.

\*\*\*\*\*

13th – Fort Smith Police Detective Levi Risley investigates all incidents of domestic abuse through the Crisis Center, helping all victims of abuse who are referred to the Center.

\*\*\*\*\*

5th – Fort Smith-based Baldor Electric Co. announced record sales of \$129.9 million and record earnings of \$9.4 million for the first quarter of 1997.

\*\*\*\*\*

19th – Two local educators, Mayor Ray Baker, Southside High School history teacher, and Principal Wayne Haver, also of Southside, were honored by the Arkansas PTA as Teacher of the Year and Administrator of the year, respectively.

\*\*\*\*\*

20th – Amelia Whitaker Martin, editor of the Fort Smith Historical Society *Journal*, received the award for the best Biography, Autobiography or Memoir from the Arkansas Historical Association.

\*\*\*\*\*

20th – Westark Community College came away from this year's General Assembly with more than \$9 million in new funds, compared to the current school budget.

\*\*\*\*\*

21st – Fort Smith's 24-year-old Evan Hendrix has volunteered for two years in the Peace Corps.

\*\*\*\*\*

21st – Six archeologists from the National Park Service Midwest Archaeological Center in Lincoln, Neb., are in the middle of a month-long project of digging trenches around the 19th Century Federal Courthouse at the Fort Smith National Historic Site to sift for artifacts in the ground.

\*\*\*\*\*

22nd – Fort Smith city gardener Steve Hobbs, takes care of more than 500,00 square feet of

plant beds at Carol Ann Cross, Creekmore, Martin Luther King and Tilles parks, as well as some of the road medians throughout the city.

\*\*\*\*\*

22nd – The Fort Smith School Board voted to approve so-called year-round school at Howard Elementary School, to expand alternative schooling through 12th grade and to appoint a temporary replacement for board member Tom Gean, who has resigned his position effective June 1.

\*\*\*\*\*

23rd – Bill Bardrick announced that he will retire as principal of Northside High School at the end of this school year, a position that he has held for 10 years.

\*\*\*\*\*

25th – The Dance est Joie Dance Company from the Grayce DeWitt Dance Studio has earned high awards in several dance competitions since the first of the year.

\*\*\*\*\*

25th – Beard Elementary school students walked away with top honors for the fourth time in five years, their principal said. Their dramatic presentation about the Civil War won top honors in the Arkansas History Day competition.

\*\*\*\*\*

29th – A group calling itself "City Vision," led by minister Johnny Clayton, went on record as opposing Miss Laura's Tourism Center, claiming that the former historic brothel gives the city a bad name.

\*\*\*\*\*

30th – The Fort Smith Board of Directors committed to finance and construct a \$6.6 million, 800-space parking deck that would be built to coincide with the construction of a downtown corporate center and redevelopment of the Fort Smith National Historic Site and the city's river front.

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## MAY

3rd – Carolyn Pollan, R-Fort Smith, heard the gavel sound for the last time as she finished her 22 year legislative career.

\*\*\*\*\*

3rd – Annabelle Pilgrim of Arkoma, featured in an issue of the Fort Smith Historical Society *Journal* several years ago, joined that small city's list of honored citizens by keeping a running diary of events since 1936.

\*\*\*\*\*

4th – According to a state report, crime in Fort Smith was down for 1996.

\*\*\*\*\*

4th – Fort Smith's Trolley fans were making plans for their annual excursion to Winslow on Friday, the 9th, riding the train and enjoying an evening in the Ozarks.

\*\*\*\*\*

7th – Michael Morgan, president and chief executive officer of Mercy Regional Medical Center in Laredo, Texas, was chosen to succeed Sister Judith Marie Keith as president and CEO of St. Edward Mercy Medical Center in Fort Smith. Sister Judith Marie has served at St. Edward since 1970.

\*\*\*\*\*

11th – Times Record staffers captured 15 awards in statewide Oklahoma and Arkansas journalism competitions that recognize professional excellence among the largest newspapers in both states. Those receiving awards were Nancy Edwards, Judith Hansen, Stephen Parker, Michael Rowett, Kerry Prichard, Amy Sherrill, Carrol Copeland, Jamie Mitchell, Linda Seubold, Jack Moseley, Grant Tolley, Jerry Huff and Debbye Hughes.

\*\*\*\*\*

15th – Dr. Paul L. Wills was elected to a three-year term on the John Brown University Board of Trustees.

\*\*\*\*\*

17th – The cover of the new telephone directory features Fort Smith's local landmark, Judge Parker's Courthouse.

\*\*\*\*\*

18th – Since 1985, the Old Fort Days Futurity and Derby has pumped more than \$28.2 million into the Fort Smith economy, according to the Chamber of Commerce.

\*\*\*\*\*

19th – In three weeks, Fort Smith hunting and fishing supply retailer, The Tackle Box, will open a new 11,500-square-foot facility that will make it the largest store of its kind in the state. The new building will be located behind the company's existing 3,000-square-foot space at 3001 South Zero, where the Tackle Box has been since 1962. The old building will be torn down to provide parking for the new, two-story building.

\*\*\*\*\*



19th – Belle Point Elementary School, which was open from 1908 to 1997, is closing. It will reopen this fall as an alternative school for grades seven through 12.

\*\*\*\*\*

25th – Consolidated Community Development Inc. will sponsor this summer's feeding program, which is a USDA food program administered by the Arkansas Department of Human Services. The program will be June 3 through August 1. Included in the program will be breakfast and lunch at no charge for children 18 years of age and under, served at designated places.

\*\*\*\*\*

26th – Norma Shaffer, administrative assistant to Fort Smith School Superintendent Dr. Benny Gooden, announces she will retire June 30 after working for the Fort Smith Schools more than 20 years.

\*\*\*\*\*

30th – Proposed strip club bombed.

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## **JUNE**

4th – The Fort Smith Board of Directors unanimously approved a \$40,000 settlement with a

female former police detective who had filed a sexual discrimination complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission against the city and seven police officers. - As a result of the settlement, former detective Sgt. Fran Hall, agreed to drop the EEOC complaint.

\*\*\*\*\*

5th – Claudie Lovell, former third-grade teacher was found innocent of three counts of sexual abuse and seven counts of terroristic threatening of his students.

\*\*\*\*\*

10th – Fort Smith dentist, Dr. Robert Skinner, received a statewide community service award. In addition to his private practice, he helped establish and continues to work at a free dental clinic for low-income residents of Sebastian and Crawford counties.

\*\*\*\*\*

12th – Fort Smith National Cemetery's \$1.3 million, 6.9-acre expansion project dedicated. The expansion will add more than 3,600 grave sites.

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# **Genealogy and Inquiries**

## **FREE MARKERS FOR VETERANS' GRAVES**

Acquiring a tombstone for a veteran, even a Confederate veteran, is an easy task. Simply call your local Veteran's Administration office and ask them to send you the necessary forms. Fill out the forms, attach proof of the veteran's service, mail it to the address on the form and wait patiently for the marker to arrive. (A recent form mailed in August of 1996 resulted in the marker arriving in January, 1997.) The markers, including shipping, are free, but the person making the application is responsible for the cost of setting the tombstone. Either an upright or a flat stone are available. The address of the local (Fort Smith) Veterans' Administration is: Veterans Service Office, 101 North H Street, Fort Smith, Arkansas 72901 and their telephone number is 782-3421.

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## **WORLD WAR I SELECTIVE SERVICE RECORDS**

A seldom used record with great genealogical potential are the Selective Service Records for

World War I. Every male resident born between 1873 and 1900 was required to register, whether or not he had to serve in the war. The approximately 24 million registration cards list place of birth, race, citizenship, occupation, employer, nearest relative and marital status and are all on microfilm at the Archives Branch, Federal Records Center, 1557 St. Joseph Avenue, East Point, Georgia 30044. Information is filed by state and draft board and you must provide a complete name and address. There is a fee for copies and you must request forms from the above address before ordering copies of the draft registrations.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **ARKANSAS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY FALL SEMINAR**

The Arkansas Genealogical Society will sponsor its annual fall seminar on October 3 and 4, 1997, at the Holiday Inn, Airport-East in Little Rock. On Friday evening participants may choose from four separate classes – "African-American Research" by Mary Hall, "Native American Research" by Russell P. Baker, "Using Census

Records – For Beginners and Beyond” by Jan Eddleman or “Using Computer Mapping Programs in Tracing Land Records” by Bill Hilles. On Saturday, nationally known genealogical speaker Christine Rose, C.G., C.G.I., F.A.S.G., will be the featured attraction speaking on “Successfully Courthouse Research,” “Estates: A Goldmine!,” “Too Young for the Revolution; Too Old for the Civil War-Military Records Between These Wars” and “Using Little Known and Neglected Sources: A Potpourri.” Contact the Arkansas Genealogical Society at Box 908, Hot Springs, Arkansas 71902-0908 for registration materials.

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### **GENERAL LAND OFFICE RECORDS ON CD**

You can locate important land records quickly with the General Land Office Automated Records CD-ROM series. The only official source on Federal lands transferred to private ownership, GLO land records provide valuable data to genealogists such as the land owner's name, legal land descriptions, land acreage and document signature dates. The CD-ROMs can be searched by name, document number, patent authority and land office. Some of the CDs include state histories and sample document images. All of them contain complete instructions for ordering official copies of authentic land deeds for under \$2.00 per page from the Bureau of Land Management. Deeds will be printed on parchment paper at your request. To date the following states are available: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Ohio and Wisconsin and cost \$14.00 to \$15.00 each. For order forms write to Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15250-7954.

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### **AREA ROAD SHOWS**

The American Genealogical Lending Library/Heritage Quest Road Show will soon be performing in our area. On November 1, 1997 they will present an all day program for the Tri-County Genealogical Society at the Public Library in Nevada, Missouri. For further information contact Elsa Cooper at (417) 667-7456.

The Road Show will also present an evening program on November 3, 1997 sponsored by the Clay County Genealogical and Historical Society in Piggott, Arkansas. For further information, contact Helen Bageant at (501) 598-5629.

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### **AMA DONATES RECORDS OF DECEASED PHYSICIANS TO NGS**

The American Medical Association has chosen the National Genealogical Society as the repository for a large collection of records pertaining to deceased physicians. All of the records list a cause of death and many include much more, such as date and place of birth, schooling, and location of complete obituaries. At present only the A through McFerran are at the National Genealogical Society, but the rest of the records are expected within the year. The AMA files are incomplete from 1878 to 1905, but are comprehensive from 1906 to 1969 and a few records date to the time of the Civil War. Due to their fragile condition the records will not be directly accessible to the public. For a \$15.00 fee the NGS staff will search the records and send you a copy of them. Send the fee, the physician's name, time period and location (if known) to National Genealogical Society, Attn: Physicians Records, 4527 17th Street North, Arlington, VA 22207-2399. REMEMBER, ONLY THE RECORDS FROM A TO McFERRAN ARE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE.

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### **OZARKS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY FALL CONFERENCE**

The Ozarks Genealogical Society will hold its annual fall conference “Virginia Roots” in Springfield, Missouri on September 26-27, 1997. The featured speaker is Robert Young Clay. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to OGS, Conference Registrar, P.O. Box 3945, Springfield, Missouri 65808 or call (417) 862-0805 or (417) 759-7842 for further information.



**Inquiries 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. Remember, effective inquiries must contain full names, dates, places and submitter's name and address.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**EARNEST/MOONEY** – Looking for the grave of JOHN EARNEST who died in 1942 and is buried in Sebastian County. Would also like to find the record of his marriage to ISABELLA ZILPHA MOONEY. Gerry Willcut, 19 Wright Place, Hattieville, Arkansas 72063.

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HAFFTER/REDDICK/WILSON – Wish to locate any family of the name of HAFFTER. There are a SARAH G. HAFFTER (1880-1917), a JOHN G. HAFFTER (1867-1959) and a JOHN N. HAFFTER (1913-1918) buried in Forest Park Cemetery in Fort Smith near the TILMON T. REDDICK plot. My grandmother, ELIZABETH WILSON REDDICK, had a sister named SOPHIA who married into the HAFFTER family and I would like to find her descendants. Lewis C. Young, 6315 South Boston, Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903.

\*\*\*\*\*

HENDERSON – Looking for Henderson burials in Sebastian County, probably in Washburn Township, after 1860. Linda Curtis. Contact Linda on the internet at LJCurtis @AOL.com.

\*\*\*\*\*

WAGGONER/SIEBER – Interested in marriage/burial information on early Fort Smith people: CATHARINA WAGGONER (1825-1871) who was married to WOLFGANG SIEBER (1809-1887), both buried in Calvary Catholic Cemetery. Their known child was MARY SIEBER, born 28 April 1863 and died 6 October 1938. I hope to find in these records their places of birth, marriage dates, and names of parents. Mary Kaye Smith, 1823 South Pitkin Circle, Aurora, CO 80017-5234.

\*\*\*\*\*

CAREY/CARY – Would like to find a researcher of the CAREY/CARY line. Am particularly interested in JAMES CAREY, who died in Fort Smith between the 6th and 9th of November 1845. Will appreciate any information on this man or this line. John W. Carey, 1621 Melinda Lane, Midwest City, OK 73130.

\*\*\*\*\*

LUTZ/BELAND/ HEINRICKS – Searching for information on the parents of HERMAN ANTHONY LUTZ (1902-1989) and LUELLA ADELLE BELAND (1910-1994). Herman's parents were EDWARD LUTZ (1866 UNKNOWN) and MARY T. HEINRICKS (1856-UNKNOWN). Luella was born in Fort Smith in 1910. Herman and Fred owned LUTZ BROTHERS PLUMBING on "C" Street for years. Can you Help? Betty A. Fleener, P. O. Box 688, Buena Vista, CO 81211-0688.

\*\*\*\*\*

NEEL/SHELTON – Searching for the parents of THOMAS STEVEN DREW NEEL, born 1833 in Arkansas and died 1917 in Texas, probably Thalia. He married 1860 in Arkansas to LUCRETIA SHELTON. DO YOU KNOW THIS FAMILY?

Thomas M. Neel, 9085 Woodcrest Drive, Brecksville, OH 44141.

\*\*\*\*\*

JAMES K. POLK DAVIS – BLACKFOX-HARTNESS AMERICAN LEGION POST 135, INC., P.O. Box 471, Tahlequah, OK 74465-0471 is trying to locate the grave of a Union Civil War veteran, JAMES K. POLK DAVIS (1844-1930). His tombstone has been resting inside storage shed on grounds of Post 135 for 15 years after being found left at the curb in Tahlequah to be picked up by street department. His veteran's military records show he died in 1930 in Hartford, Arkansas where he lived and worked as a miner. Post 135 would like for the rightful owner to have this stone.

\*\*\*\*\*

SMITH – Civil War Pension records show JOHN WESLEY SMITH enlisted at Fort Smith, Sebastian County, serving in Company E. The 1860 Marion Township census for Sebastian County, Jenny Lind post office, has JESSE SMITH living with wife Alice and children Theophilus, Henry, Ann, John, Nancy, Martin, Isaac and Leonard. I wonder if John (age 14 in 1860) is my "grandfather JOHN WESLEY SMITH. If so, are there any descendants of Jesse and Alice Smith children in the Fort Smith Area? ALSO, living practically next door to Jesse and Alice, are HENRY SMITH and wife Sophia with their children Vista, John (age 15), Cebron, James, Henry and Mary. Are Henry and Sophia my John Wesley's parents? I would like to correspond with anyone who might be able to help. The SMITH cousins I know about all live in the Rock Island, Leflore County Oklahoma area and do not know who John Wesley's siblings were. Mrs. Betty Davis, 3137 North 68th Street, Kansas City, Kansas 66109-1342.

E-mail-bdav@kcaccess.net@primary net.

\*\*\*\*\*

GERALDS/BOOKER – The 1880 Soundex (roll T736) for Arkansas, Sebastian County, town of Dayton (?) lists the John L. Gerald, age 48, family. All members born in Tennessee include wife Mary age 40 and children Willie age 16, John age 14, Walter age 12 and Blanche age 8. Also listed in the family was Lucinda Booker, age 13 (?) and relationship printing blurred, born in North Carolina. Does anyone know anything about this family? Are any family members still living in the Fort Smith Area? Is there a connection to my "grandfather BENJAMIN GERALDS, father of

LOU NORA GERELDS who married SAMUEL WALLACE MUSE October 29, 1893 in Sebastian County. Marriage recorded in Book E Page 273. Mrs. Betty Davis, see address above.

\*\*\*\*\*

FORMER PATIENTS OR EMPLOYEES OF THE ARKANSAS TUBERCULOSIS SANATORIUM: Lavern Nelson, 6275 Mission Blvd., Fayetteville, AR 72703 would like to hear from anyone who would be willing to be interviewed concerning his/her experiences at the Sanatorium, either as a patient or an employee.

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### **ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM**

The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, an agency of the Department of Arkansas

Heritage, is seeking to document the historic structures associated with the rise of the automobile in Arkansas, such as tourist courts, gas stations, auto dealerships, drive-ins, roadside attractions, even historic stretches of highway – that tell the tale of the car's impact on Arkansas. The advent of the automobile opened the state to road improvements, an expanded tourist industry, and an entirely new economy based on automobiles.

Anyone with information on a historic property related to automobile culture in Arkansas can write the AHPP at 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street, Little Rock, AR 72201, call the agency at (501) 324-9880, (TDD 501-324-9811), Fax (501) 324-9154, or send an e-mail message to [helen@dah.state.ar.us](mailto:helen@dah.state.ar.us).

## **Book Notes**

**Books on Genealogy, Arkansas History or books written by Arkansas authors are welcomed for review. Review copy of book will be placed in the Arkansas Room of the Fort Smith Public Library as a gift of the author and the Fort Smith Historical Society. Review copy of books may be sent to The Fort Smith Historical Society, c/o Fort Smith Public Library, 61 South 8th Street, Fort Smith, AR 72901 or directly to Amelia Martin, 2121 Wolfe Lane, Fort Smith, AR 72901-6243.**

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**ONE MOORE FAMILY TREE**, compiled by Margaret J. Wallace. 230 pages, hardback, indexed. Price \$30.00 postpaid. Order from Margaret J. Wallace, Drawer R, Mesilla, NM 88046.

This book is based on the descendants of Abel Moore, born March, 1829 in Morgan County, Illinois, died ca. 1876 in Mesquite, Dallas County, Texas, and contains all known ancestors of Abel Moore and all known descendants of Abel Moore and Susan Stewart. Written in a simplified format, it is easily read and understood. With the table of contents, a reader can readily turn to any family group quickly. The index is complete and can be used by anyone seeking a possible connection to this Abel Moore.

There are ten generations represented in this

publication and the number preceding a name indicates the generation descent of that person from generation (1). Included are biographies, family group sheets, many photographs, obituaries, marriage records and original art work done by Ms. Wallace. Ms. Wallace has also included a list of sources she researched for the book.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PITTSBURG COUNTY, OKLAHOMA PEOPLE AND PLACES.** 592 pages, hard bound, indexed, with over 900 family stories, 144 county history articles and over 600 pictures. Price \$50.00 plus \$5.00 mailing per book. Order from: Pittsburg County Genealogical and Historical Society, 113 East Carl Albert Parkway, McAlester, OK 74501-5039. Telephone (918)426-0388.

If you are in McAlester, the history book will be available at the Society's library.

\*\*\*\*\*

**THE LONG BREWER LINE; Colonial Family Genealogy With Ancestors, Descendants and Connecting Families** by Ben Brewer, 607 Hatherleigh Lane, Louisville KY 40222. Hardbound and Indexed. Price \$46 (includes cost of packaging and shipping). According to a pre-publication news release, the book begins with the physician William Brewer in England in 1540.



# *Recipe for Roast Turkey*

Select a young turkey, remove all the feathers carefully; singe it over a burning newspaper on top of the stove; then "draw" it nicely, being very careful not to break any of the internal organs; remove the crop carefully; cut off the head and tie the neck close to the body by drawing the skin over it. Now rinse the inside of the turkey out with several waters, and in the next to the last, mix a teaspoonful of soda; oftentimes the inside of a fowl is very sour, especially if it is not freshly killed. Soda, being cleansing, acts as a corrective, and destroys that unpleasant taste which we frequently experience in the dressing when fowls have been killed for some time. Now, after washing, wipe the turkey dry, inside and out with a clean cloth, rub the inside with some salt, then stuff the breast and body with "Dressing for Fowls." Then sew up the turkey with a strong thread, tie the legs and wings to the body, rub it over with a little soft butter, sprinkle over some salt and pepper, dredge with a little flour; place it in a dripping pan, pour in a cup of boiling water, and set it in the oven. Baste the turkey often, turning it around occasionally so that every part will be uniformly baked. When pierced with a fork and the liquid runs out perfectly clear, the bird is done. If any part is likely to scorch, pin over it a piece of buttered white paper. A fifteen pound turkey requires between three and four hours to bake. Serve with cranberry sauce.

## *Gravy for Turkey*

When you put the turkey in to roast, put the neck, heart, liver and gizzard into a stewpan with a pint of water; boil until they become quite tender; take them out of the water, chop the heart and gizzard, mash the liver and throw away the neck; return the chopped heart, gizzard and liver to the liquor in which they were stewed; set it to one side, and when the turkey is done it should be added to the gravy that dripped from the turkey, having first skimmed off the fat from the surface of the dripping-pan; set it all over the fire, boil

three minutes and thicken with flour. It will not need brown flour to color the gravy.

The garnishes for turkey or chicken are fried oysters, thin slices of ham, slices of lemon, fried sausages, or force meat balls, also parsley. (Force meat is finely chopped meat or ground beef, cooked.)

## *Dressing or Stuffing for Fowls*

For an eight or ten pound turkey, cut the brown crust from slices or pieces of stale bread until you have as much as the inside of a pound loaf; put it into a suitable dish and pour tepid water (not warm, for that makes it heavy) over it; let it stand one minute, as it soaks very quickly. Now take up a handful at a time and squeeze it hard and dry with both hands, placing it, as you go along, in another dish; this process makes it very light. When all is pressed dry, toss it all up lightly through your fingers; now add pepper, salt – about a teaspoonful, – also a teaspoonful of powdered summer savory, the same amount of sage, or the green herb minced fine; add half a cup of melted butter, and a beaten egg, or not. Work thoroughly all together, and it is ready for dressing either fowls, fish or meats. A little chopped sausage in turkey dressing is considered by some an improvement, when well incorporated with the other ingredients. For geese and ducks the stuffing may be made the same as for turkey, with a few slices of onion chopped fine.

From the Whitehouse Cookbook,  
Copyright 1887, 1894, 1899

By F. L. Gillette

TO THE WIVES OF OUR PRESIDENTS, THOSE NOBLE WOMEN WHO HAVE GRACED THE WHITE HOUSE, AND WHOSE NAMES AND MEMORIES ARE DEAR TO ALL AMERICANS, THIS VOLUME IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED BY THE AUTHOR.

(Courtesy, Donna Sharp)

# 1897 Newspapers

**FORT SMITH ELEVATOR – January 1, 1897 - July 2, 1897**

(Abstracted by Mary Lou Jacobsen from microfilm in the Fort Smith Public Library)

## **JANUARY 1, 1897 MORTGAGE SALE**

Notice is hereby given that we will on the 16th day of January 1897, under and by virtue of a mortgage executed and delivered to us by B. K. Rodgers, Jr., sell at public auction to the highest bidder, for cash in hand, at the building formerly occupied by said B. K. Rodgers, Jr., as a livery stable, on Seventh Street, between the hours for sale under exclusions, the following described personal property, to wit:

- One horse called Billie
- One horse called Ed
- One horse called Mose
- One horse called Sanco
- One mare called Flip
- Two end springle single buggies
- One spring surry
- One side bar surry

J. D. Johnson H. O. Hoffman  
Mortgagees  
Fort Smith, Ark. December 31, 1896

\*\*\*\*\*

## **HEADACHES AND DIZZINESS**

Bollings Bilious Bullets cure headaches, foul tongue, vertigo, or dizziness, indigestion, pimples on the face, bad breath, etc. The torpid liver is aroused to healthy action and given a healthy tone. Do not leave the bowels in a constipated condition. Ask your druggist for Bollings Bilious Bullets.

\*\*\*\*\*

Christmas passed off with much less than the customary noise and bustle. Most of the churches had trees laden with presents to delight the hearts of little ones. There were a few scraps, resulting from over indulgence in bug juice but only one which was in any way serious.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **BURGLARY AND HOLD UP**

Tuesday night somebody broke a hole in a corner of Sengel and Co.'s show window and scooped about \$25 or \$30 worth of fine razors. No note was found behind telling where the missing goods might be found.

Sunday afternoon Charley Sengel's residence was entered during the absence of the family and

as a result of the strangers visit several dollars are missing.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Catholic Avenue car was held up Monday evening about 8 o'clock. The holdup took place near the east end of the line. Ed Ferguson, the driver was proceeding leisurely along when he was suddenly confronted by a stranger who poked a pistol in his face and ordered him to give up his money. Ferguson immediately jumped to the ground on one side of the car. The highwayman did the same on the other and disappeared in the darkness.

- • -

## **JANUARY 8, 1897 CITY COUNCIL**

The city council met Monday evening, but there being no very pressing business on hand, adjourned after a short session. Claims to the amount of \$3000 were allowed and ordered paid and an ordinance was introduced providing that merchants may use the sidewalk to the extent of thirty inches to display their goods. The sum of \$150 was appropriated for prizes for the fire department and a further sum of \$250 for paving the engine house.

\*\*\*\*\*

At a meeting of the school board last Saturday night, Mr. Henry Reed was chosen to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Judge I. C. Parker. A better selection could not have been made.

\*\*\*\*\*

J. A. Allsworth is in jail on a charge of lettering counterfeit money. When arrested he had counterfeit quarters in his possession which he had attempted to pass.

- • -

## **JANUARY 15, 1897 THE WATER QUESTION**

The negotiations between the city authorities and George M. Myers, President of the Municipal Water Company, over the amount alleged to be due the company by the city are off. So far no satisfactory agreement has been reached, and the question yet remains an open one.

President Myers left for his home Wednesday.



The bids for the settling basin were opened Wednesday but no awards were made.

The water works officials say they will make no contracts for the settling basin until the differences between the city and the company are adjusted, and there is no immediate prospect of an adjustment - clear water is yet a matter to be looked for in the dim dim future.

\*\*\*\*\*

The unofficial list of the next congress shows that the house will be composed of 204 republicans, 124 democrats, 13 fusionists, 12 populists, 3 silverites, and that there is one vacancy from the First Missouri district, of the total membership, 204 were in the last house and 10 others had served in previous congresses.

\*\*\*\*\*

It is not to please their husbands but because they want to look well if there is a fire in the night, that prompts women to put trimming on their night dresses.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **A FOUR STORY BUILDING**

Fort Smith is to have a new four story building. It will be built on the corner of Garrison Avenue and Second Street, on the ground formerly occupied by the old quartermaster building. The W. J. Echols grocery Co. are the parties who made the purchase of the lots and will erect the house. The house will add greatly to the looks of the locality in which it is built, and will add materially to the wealth of the property there.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Frisco eating house has opened for the first time Tuesday. Trains going through will now make the customary twenty minute stop for hash and other fixtures.

- • -

#### **JANUARY 22, 1897**

The Relief Union, The Catholic League, and St. John's and Charity Hospital are doing noble work among the destitute of the city.

\*\*\*\*\*

A burning flue at Jim Frizzell's residence called out the fire department Sunday afternoon. No harm was done but the boys had a good run.

\*\*\*\*\*

Considerable complaint is being made by some theater goers that every time a good show comes to Fort Smith the price of admission is popped up to \$1.50 a seat, but whenever a rotten aggregation arrives it never enters the head of Manager Marts that it is necessary to cut his prices below

a dollar. Patrons of the opera house are entitled to some consideration. There are very few shows on the road that it is worth any more than one round plunk to go and see.

\*\*\*\*\*

Billy Moore and Andy Carr, policemen, captured last Friday night a couple of young scamps in the act of stealing whisky from a barrel in the old Harper and Wilson Building. The boys had pushed their way through the back door and were preparing to draw liquor into bottles by the aid of a siphon when the officers stepped in. One of the boys was captured on the spot but it required a short run to catch the other.

\*\*\*\*\*

The statement of condition of the treasury shows available cash balance \$231,826,217; gold reserve \$140,007,749

- • -

#### **JANUARY 29, 1897 TUESDAY NIGHT FIRE**

Tuesday Night about 10 o'clock a defective flue started a fire in the old Birnie mansion on the river, just across the street from Mehlburger foundry. The fire companies were quickly on the ground, but so old was the building that it was almost in ashes when they arrived. At the time of the destruction the house was owned by Al Belt and was occupied by Maud McGrath as a sporting joint.

The Birnie house as it was called, was one of the oldest places in the city. It was brought to Fort Smith early in the 40's shaped, matched and ready for erection. It was brought up the river on keel boats.

Two of the water mains burst during the fire. Much of the difficulty arising from not having immediate pressure is due to the fact that at least one half of the people of the city let their kitchen faucets run at night. If a few of those who violate the law could be jerked up and fined it would teach them a good lesson.

\*\*\*\*\*

Last Saturday the teachers of the Fort Smith Schools met and adopted a resolution urging the legislature to adopt some measure to check or put a stop to the cigarette evil.

\*\*\*\*\*

The blizzard Sunday evening caught a number of our people unprepared for a visit from the callers from the north pole, and as a consequence the plumbers have had a picnic this week.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mrs. E. A. Davenport, ladies physician and surgeon publishes a professional card in today's paper. Mrs. Davenport bears the reputation of being well skilled in her calling. Her home is at 305 North 11th Street

(Editors note: Mrs. E. A. Davenport was listed in the 1898 Fort Smith Directory, with offices at 305 North 11th Street. She also recorded her license to practice Obstetrics in Sebastian County November 20, 1888, but later she was listed as a nurse. No where was she actually listed as a physician, and we believe she probably was a midwife nurse, even though her name was in the Physician's register. That register also contains registration of other nurses, but they are all designated as such.)

- • -

### **FEBRUARY 5, 1897**

What is known as the Charity Sale has been going on this week at Alfords Department Store. Five percent of all the sales go to the Relief Union.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **LOST**

Lost on the avenue a little cane, engraved "Gertrude to Sidney". Conscientious finder please return to decrepit owner at **ELEVATOR** office.

\*\*\*\*\*

The daughters of Rebecca I.O.O.F. will give a ball and supper next Wednesday evening and a joyous time is looked forward to by all who expect to attend. The ladies having the matter in charge know no word as fail in their vocabulary, and the whole affair may be counted upon as a success right now.

- • -

### **FEBRUARY 26, 1897**

### **RECITAL**

The regular monthly student's recital of the Conservatory of Music will take place at Grand Opera House at 3 o'clock Saturday and a rich program is anticipated. A charge of 10 cents admission is for the benefit of St. John's Hospital.

\*\*\*\*\*

J. O. Johnson, Prosecuting Attorney took a whirl at sporting gentry during the past week and succeeded in sticking a couple of them to the tune of \$10 and costs.

\*\*\*\*\*

Friday the 19th was the 35th anniversary of the Battle of Pea Ridge.

- • -

## **MARCH 5, 1897** **AN IMPORTANT ACT**

Judge Rogers is in receipt of a telegram from Attorney General Harmon informing him that by the terms of an act approved January 15, juries in all federal courts may qualify verdicts of guilty in all cases which involve death by the use of the words, "without capital punishment; the punishment in such cases to be life imprisonment. The act applies to indictments for prior as well as future offenses.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **FORT SMITH MARKET** **WHOLESALE PRICES**

|                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Green Apples per barrel | 2.50        |
| Irish Potatoes          | 55 @ 75     |
| Sides Clear, per lb     | 4 3/4 @ 5   |
| Hams Med Per lb         | 9 1/2 10    |
| Leaf Lard               | 4 3/4       |
| White Beans per lb      | 2 1/2       |
| Onions                  | 3 e 3 1/2 C |
| Cabbage                 | 2 1/2 C     |

### **HIDES FURS AND PRODUCE**

Corrected weekly by

Fort Smith Hide and Fur Company

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Chickens, old hens, per dozen  | 1.60      |
| Young Chickens per dozen   | 1.30      |
| Turkeys, Hens per lb.  | 6 1/8     |
| Turkeys, Gobblers  | 4 @ 5 C   |
| Eggs per dozen   | 8 1/2 C   |
| Butter, Fresh  | 6 @ 8 C   |
| Dry Hides No. 1  | 9 C       |
| Green Hides No. 1  | 5 C       |
| Feathers per lb.   | 20 & 30 C |
| Wool, Tub-washed   | 18 C      |
| Wool unwashed  | 10 C      |
| Wool Burry   | 5 C       |
| (Wool to bring best prices, each fleece should be separated and tied with wool string) |           |
| Deer Skins, per lb.  | 12 1/2 C  |
| Sheep Skins, per lb.   | 5 @ 25    |
| Coon Skins   | 25 @ 50 C |
| O'Possum Skins   | 5 1/2 C   |
| Fox Skins  | 20 @ 30   |
| Mink Skins   | 25 @ 50   |
| Otter & Beaver Skins   | \$2 @ \$5 |
| Beeswax  | 15 20 C   |
| Tallow   | 2 1/2     |
| Ginseng root per lb.   | \$2.75    |
| Snake Root   | 12 1/2    |

### **STOCK**

|                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Cattle per 100 lbs. | \$2.00 @ \$2.50 |
| Hogs per 100 lbs    | \$2.25 @ \$2.75 |
| Sheep per head      | \$1.50 @ \$2.50 |

\*\*\*\*\*



### MARTHA WASHINGTON PARTY

One of the most delightful social functions of the season was the Martha Washington Party at the residence of Col. B. F. Atkinson Tuesday evening, given in honor of Miss Mildred Moore of Texarkana who is the guest of Miss Atkinson. The handsome double parlors were profusely and tastefully decorated with American flags while the Father of his country looked benignly down from his place upon the wall upon the fair ladies with powdered hair and their escorts, some with powdered hair and some with scarcely enough to talk about. Progressive euchre occupied the time until 12 o'clock when a splendid luncheon was served. The party wound up with the guests dancing the Virginia Reel, which produced no end of laughable predicaments and situations on the part of participants.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Fort Smith Wholesale Grocery Company has removed to the Day building formerly occupied by the Speer Hardware Company.

\*\*\*\*\*

We are in receipt of a memorial entitled "Gone to Rest" which in no place has the name of the person who has passed away or the place of his demise. The correspondent will please supply the emission.

\*\*\*\*\*

Benjamin Harrison is the father of a nine pound youngster. A pretty vigorous old man is the ax-president.

- • -

### MARCH 12, 1897 TEAMS WANTED

To haul lumber on a ten mile haul. Price \$3.00 per thousand.

W. W. Webbers Receiver  
Welch, Muse & Co.  
Bengal, Indian Territory

\*\*\*\*\*

### MUCH MORE IMPORTANT

HE: Didn't you promise to love, honor, and obey me?

SHE: Heaven only knows what I promised. I was listening to what you promised.

\*\*\*\*\*

Under a law recently passed by the legislature and approved by Gov. Jones, it is made a misdemeanor to allow playing of cards and billiards, and throwing of dice or the exhibition of any kind of gaming device or the use of any musical instrument in any saloon in Arkansas. The new law goes into effect January 1, 1898.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Cumberland Presbyterian Church has a new and fine organ which was used for the first time at last Sunday's Services.

\*\*\*\*\*

There are now nine fatherless children at the poor farm, none over a year old. The mothers of four of the babies are residents of the farm, the other children being orphans or deserted by mothers and thrown upon the charity of the world.

\*\*\*\*\*

For bargains in shoes, go to the Patrick Shoe Co.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mrs. Charles Maledon died at her home last Friday from pneumonia. Her remains were interred Saturday afternoon at Catholic cemetery.

\*\*\*\*\*

The play of "Golden Hair and the Three Bears" rendered at the Grand Opera House last Friday evening was a great success. A full house greeted the efforts of the performers and their manager, and a good, round sum was realized. The proceeds go to pay for a piano at Duval School.

\*\*\*\*\*

A bill providing for the purchase of a convict farm, one of the best measures before the general assembly, passed the senate but was brayed to death in the house on the last day of the session by T. J. Andrews, a jackass who misrepresented the people of Cleburne county.

- • -

### MARCH 26, 1897 THE GREAT FLOOD

The Mississippi from Cairo to Memphis averages twenty five miles across. Helena in great danger - a million and a quarter acres of land under water in Arkansas. (The full article too long to extract)

\*\*\*\*\*

Somebody stole thirty-five gallons of whiskey from the government warehouse at Mulberry by boring a hole through the wall and tapping a barrel that stood nearby.

\*\*\*\*\*

Carl Grober will now proceed with the erection of his steam bakery on Catholic Avenue and Fourteenth Street. He put up a building for a steam bakery but people in the neighborhood attempted to enjoin him from building on the ground that his establishment was detrimental to their comfort. The injunction was argued before Judge Bryant who decided in favor of Mr. Grober.

- • -

### APRIL 2, 1897 MILLINERY OPENINGS

Tuesday was an ideal day for March and the warm sunshine had the effect of bringing out lady

shoppers in abundance. Perhaps the weather did not have as much to do with the crowds on the streets as the three millinery openings that were going on.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **THE PAN TELEPHONE COMPANY**

The Pan Telephone Company, recently organized in this city has filed articles of incorporation and elected officers. L. E. Ingalls, of Chicago, is president; W. H. H. Clayton, vice-president; and James Brizzalara, secretary and treasurer. The new company will operate anywhere in the United States but its headquarters will remain in Fort Smith. Capt. Fianley will be in charge of the exchange in this city and will make extensive additions to the plant.

\*\*\*\*\*

The United States has the greatest variety of venomous flies than any other country. Several thousand species have been put upon the government list.

- • -

**APRIL 9, 1897**

Last Tuesday Mr. John Vaughn sold to Mr. John Schaap, through Wharton Carnall, real estate agent, the brick residence on Sixth Street which Mr. Vaughn has occupied for a long time. Mr. Schaap has secured a beautiful home, for the property is one of the handsomest and most desirable residences in the city.

(THIS PROPERTY IS NOW THE FORT SMITH ART CENTER)

\*\*\*\*\*

Tax collection closes tomorrow and those who are so unfortunate as not to be able to settle by that time will have to pay a penalty of twenty five percent.

\*\*\*\*\*

There are complaints on Fitzgerald Street near Little Rock Avenue of a lot of young toughs who almost nightly throw rocks against houses in that neighborhood. Would it not be well for the police to stop that unlawful business?

- • -

**APRIL 16, 1897**

Chili Con Carne and Hot Tamales. Abe Mejia holds forth at John McNamees saloon on Garrison Avenue, keeps Chili Con Came, hot tamales and wienerwurst. He also keeps ham and eggs, and serves everything neat and clean and cooked in good style.

\*\*\*\*\*

Farmers report that corn is very slow in coming

up owing to the cool weather which has prevailed for the past two weeks.

\*\*\*\*\*

The stores and shop windows are full of Easter novelties, gaily painted eggs, the traditional rabbits and hats and bonnets that make bank accounts weary.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **ANOTHER TRAGEDY MAUD ALLEN SLAIN BY MRS. FAGAN BOURLAND**

We stop press to announce the killing of Maud Allen by Mrs. Fagan Bourland, who shot her tormentor to death. Mrs. Bourland shot Maud some time ago but she recovered.

- • -

**MAY 7, 1897**

### **TO THE REFORM SCHOOL**

Last Monday Marshal Crump and Will Watkins left for Pontiac, Ill. and with Charley Wilson and Will White who will be placed in the reform school. These are the kids who were sentenced to the penitentiary last week for breaking into the postoffice at Beavers, Carroll county. They came from New York and are pretty smooth ducks of the Bowery style.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **J. F. BALES**

On April 30th, 1897, the angel of death bore away the spirit of Brother J. F. Bales to that rest that remaineth to the people of God.

Brother Bales was born April 8, 1870, in Scott County Ark., and was married to Miss Linie Doren in October 1890 at Chismville, Logan County. He leaves a loving wife and two babes to mourn his loss.

Brother Bales was a member of the Christian Church. The writer knew him for nine years and always found him true to his neighbors and God. He was a loving husband and kind father.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **SKIPPED**

Prof. Cary, the hyponist, has jumped town, vamoosed the ranch, leaving a few unsuspecting victims to mourn his departure. The Rowland Hotel contributes \$6.50, the **ELEVATOR** \$7.80 and, we suppose, there are others. The professor may return, but we hardly think he will. Good bye, Old Hyp, good-bye.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Arkansas river has been high during the week, and its color denotes a rise in all the streams above Fort Smith.



— • —  
**MAY 14, 1897**

(FOR A DRAWING OF THE ORIGINAL HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING — NOW DARBY JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL AND A DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSTRUCTION — SEE THE **ELEVATOR** OF THIS DATE)

\*\*\*\*\*

### **STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL**

There will be a strawberry festival tomorrow (Saturday) evening at the Mill Creek School House, three miles south of Fort Smith, the proceeds of which will be devoted to the repair of the organ. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

— • —

**MAY 21, 1897**

### **BACCALAUREATE SERMON**

Next Sunday Rev. P. C. Fletcher of the Central Methodist Church will preach the Baccalaureate sermon to the graduating class of Fort Smith High School at the Grand Opera House at 11 o'clock. Music will be rendered by a special quartette composed of the following well known artists: Mrs. Hammons, Mrs. Alf Williams, sopranos; Mrs. Griffing, Miss Nellie Denton, Altos; messrs H. O. Heiss, J. T. Laws, tenors; Messrs Goods Boyd, Claude Laws, bassos.

\*\*\*\*\*

Several wagon and buggy loads of ladies, gentlemen and children belonging to the congregation of the Hebrew Church had a picnic, Sunday at McKenzies' farm east of the city.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **CONFIRMED**

Dispatches were received in this city Tuesday announcing the confirmation by the senate of Col. T. K. Barnes as postmaster at Fort Smith and Col. W. H. H. Clayton as judge of the Central District of the Indian Territory.

— • —

**MAY 28, 1897**

The jury which tried Stable for gaming returned a verdict of guilty and assessed a fine of \$400. This means that a man who monkeys with pasteboard and ivory is liable to get hold of something which will prove to be pretty expensive before he gets through with it.

— • —

**JUNE 4, 1897**

### **ALUMNI RECEPTION**

Saturday night the Alumni of the High School tendered a reception to the class of 1897 at the rooms of the Arkansas Club in the Jefferson Building. Nearly 100 persons were present and all report an enjoyable time. Mr. Rueban Fry, president of the Alumni Association, presided and did

the honors of the evening with credit to himself and honor to the assemblage. The association now numbers 138 members.

— • —

**JUNE 25, 1897**

Brick work has begun on the building of J. Foster and Co. and the walls are going up rapidly. This will be a splendid building and will help the looks of things greatly in its neighborhood. Foster & Co. are up to date people.

— • —

**JULY 2, 1897**

### **KILLED HIMSELF**

Many a man has killed himself in a business way, by selling a poor quality of goods. It does not make any difference what price he sells them at, they hurt him just the same. I do not feel that I can afford to sell cheap goods, so I do not buy them. But I do keep in stock the following well known goods:

John Deere Plows  
Genuine Buckeye Mowers  
John Deere Hay Rakes  
Trojan Hay Presses  
Blue Ribbon Cane Mills  
Cook's Evaporation  
Moline Wagons  
Gillett Gins

and the finest if not the largest stock of buggies and harness ever brought to this city.

Don't buy until you have seen my stock and got my prices.

Ernest M. Warren  
413 to 415 Garrison Avenue  
Fort Smith, Arkansas

\*\*\*\*\*

The fireman's celebration has been called off owing to the County Judge and Prosecuting Attorney refusing to promise immunity from the consequence of selling beer on the ground on the day of celebration. Some of the boys who are firmly of the opinion that a Fourth of July celebration without beer would be a tame affair are inclined to kick at the officers for their action but really they have no kick coming. Law is law and it is unlawful for a sale of any kind of liquors to be made anywhere except the place indicated in the license.

\*\*\*\*\*

Little spells of fever, little chills so bland  
Makes the mighty graveyard and the angel band  
A little Cheatham's chill tonic taken now and then  
Makes the handsome women and the healthy men.

# Index

- NOTES: il - some sort of graphic is used, other than a portrait.  
 por - a portrait of the person(s) named is on page indicated.  
 (- - -) - for such as title, marital status, degree, etc.  
 " - - - " - for nickname or special emphasis.  
 (-) - dash between page numbers indicates the name of the person, place, etc. is carried throughout the story.  
 (gp) - group picture  
 (pc) - postcard

## -A-

Abraham, Donna . . . . . 16  
 Actus, Arkansas . . . . . 2, 3  
 Allen, John . . . . . 4  
     Maude . . . . . 39  
 Allsworth, J.A. . . . . 35  
 Altman, Dr. Michael Scott. . . . . 24  
     Gail McCann . . . . . 24  
     Gelene Pritchard . . . . . 24  
     Marvin . . . . . 24  
     Sally Jean, 24  
 Alumni reception . . . . . 40  
 Andrews, T.J. . . . . 38  
 Arbuckle, John D. . . . . 21  
 Archeological dig. . . . . 28  
 Arkansas Historic Preservation  
     Program . . . . . 33  
 Arkansas Historical Association . . 28  
 Arkansas River. . . . . 39  
 Arkansas State Hospital . . . . . 9  
 Arkansas Tuberculosis  
     Sanatorium . . . . . 9, 16, 33  
 Armstrong, Henry . . . . . 9  
     Minnie Juliet Sanders . . . . . 25  
 Arnold, Benjamin . . . . . 13  
     Clifton Pierce . . . . . 13  
     Clifton Pierce Sr. . . . . 13  
     Dr. William Owen . . . . . 13  
     Dr. William O. . . . . 13  
     Dr. W.B. . . . . 13  
     Thomas. . . . . 13  
     William . . . . . 13  
 "Athens of the Ozarks" . . . . . 3  
 Atkinson, B.F. . . . . 38  
     Miss . . . . . 38

## -B-

B-2 bomber . . . . . 27  
 Baccalaureate . . . . . 40  
 Bailey, Carl E. . . . . 17  
 Baker, Ray . . . . . 23, 26, 28  
     Russell P. . . . . 30  
 Bakery . . . . . 38  
 Bakes, J.F. . . . . 39  
 Baldor Electric Co. . . . . 28  
 Bardrick, Bill. . . . . 29  
 Barham, Floyd . . . . . 22  
 Barnes, T.K. . . . . 40

Barnes Hospital . . . . . 9  
 Barry, Martha Lou . . . . . 1  
 Basketball . . . . . 27  
 Beall, Bill . . . . . 28  
 Beard Elementary . . . . . 29  
 Bedell, Cynthia D. . . . . 1, 25  
 Beland, Luella Adelle . . . . . 32  
 Belcher, London. . . . . 23  
 Bell, John . . . . . 25  
     J.W. . . . . 7  
     Maxine . . . . . 25  
 Belle Point . . . . . 20  
 Belle Point Diamond Jubilee . . . . 12  
 Belle Point Elementary . . . . . 30  
 Belle Point Lodge  
     No. 20 F. & A.M. . . . . 12  
 Birnie Mansion . . . . . 36  
 Blizzard. . . . . 36  
 Blythe, W.I. . . . . 22  
 Booker, Lucinda . . . . . 32  
 Boone, Betsy . . . . . 2  
     Daniel . . . . . 2  
 Booneville, Arkansas . . . . . 12  
 Booneville Sanatorium. . . . . 15, 16  
 Bourland, Anna Marr . . . . . 14  
     J.V. . . . . 7  
     Mrs. Fagan . . . . . 39  
     Rebecca . . . . . 14  
     Wallace C. . . . . 14  
 Boyd, Goods . . . . . 40  
 Boyer, Bob . . . . . 22  
 Bradford, Major William A. . . . . 20  
 Breckenridge, Clifton R. . . . . 4  
 Brewer, Ben . . . . . 33  
     William . . . . . 33  
 Briley, Col. Jack W. . . . . 24  
 Brizzalara. . . . . James, 39  
 Brown, William . . . . . 11  
 Bryan, William Jennings . . . . . 4  
 Buergler, Basil . . . . . 20  
     Bill . . . . . 20  
     Caroline . . . . . 20  
     Jean . . . . . 20  
     Jeana . . . . . 20  
 Burglary . . . . . 35  
 Bushwacker Wars . . . . . 3  
 Bushwackers . . . . . 7

Byrne, Judge . . . . . 5  
 Byrum, Nancy. . . . . 27  
     W.F. . . . . 27

## -C-

Caheen, Thomas. . . . . 15  
 Campbell, JoAnn . . . . . 1  
 Cane Hill College . . . . . 3  
 Carey, James . . . . . 32  
     John W. . . . . 32  
 Carmack, E. W. . . . . 4  
 Carnall, John . . . . . 21  
     Wharton . . . . . 39  
 Carr, Andy . . . . . 36  
 Cary, Prof. . . . . 39  
 Center, Dr. W.B. . . . . 14  
 Chaney, Betty . . . . . 20  
     Clyde . . . . . 20  
 Charities . . . . . 36  
 Chew, Sam . . . . . 7  
 Christmas. . . . . 35  
 Cigarettes. . . . . 36  
 City council meeting . . . . . 35  
 City gardens. . . . . 28  
 Civic Center . . . . . 28  
 Clark, Champ . . . . . 4  
     James. . . . . 21, 22  
 Clay, Robert Young. . . . . 31  
 Clayton, Johnny . . . . . 29  
     W.H.H. . . . . 39, 40  
 Clayton House . . . . . 26  
 Cleveland, Grover . . . . . 4  
 Coker, Reuben . . . . . 21  
 Community Angel Award. . . . . 28  
 Conterfeiting . . . . . 35  
 Convict farm. . . . . 38  
 Conway, Arkansas . . . . . 9  
 Copeland, Carrol . . . . . 29  
 Core, Ben . . . . . 1, 25  
 County judges . . . . . 21  
 County officers . . . . . 21  
 Cox, Ethel Hale. . . . . 19  
 Cravens, Ben . . . . . 5, 7  
 Crawford County . . . . . 2  
 Crews, Polly . . . . . 26  
 Crime detection . . . . . 27  
 Crump, Marshal . . . . . 39  
 Cumberland Presbyterian Church. . 38



|  |        |                                       |         |   |          |
|--|--------|---------------------------------------|---------|---|----------|
| Curtis, Linda. . . . .                     | 32     | Fry, Rueban . . . . .                 | 40      | Helbling, Dusty. . . . .                  | 25       |
| -D-  |        | -G-                                   |         | Henderson . . . . .                       | 32       |
| Daniels, Muriel . . . . .                  | 24     | Gaines, B.J.H.. . . . .               | 22      | Hendrix, Evan. . . . .                    | 28       |
| Darby Jr. High School . . . . .            | 40     | Galonska, Julie. . . . .              | 1, 25   | Henry, Dr. Cad A. . . . .                 | 14       |
| Davenport, Mrs. E.A. . . . .               | 37     | Gambling . . . . .                    | 38, 40  | Hester, Ezra . . . . .                    | 7, 22    |
| Davis, James K. Polk . . . . .             | 32     | Genealogical seminar . . . . .        | 30      | Higgins, Bill. . . . .                    | 1        |
| Jeff . . . . .                             | 5, 6   | General Land Office records . . . . . | 31      | Hill, Col. William . . . . .              | 15       |
| Mrs. Betty . . . . .                       | 32, 33 | Geralds, Benjamin . . . . .           | 32      | Daniel Harvey. . . . .                    | 15       |
| Deceased physicians records . . . . .      | 31     | Blanche . . . . .                     | 32      | John C.. . . . .                          | 15       |
| Delinquents . . . . .                      | 39     | John . . . . .                        | 32      | Joseph Morrison . . . . .                 | 12       |
| Denton, Nellie. . . . .                    | 40     | John L.. . . . .                      | 32      | Joseph M.. . . . .                        | 7, 15    |
| Dispute over county seat. . . . .          | 21     | Mary . . . . .                        | 32      | Judge . . . . .                           | 17       |
| Domestic abuse . . . . .                   | 28     | Walter . . . . .                      | 32      | Martha . . . . .                          | 15       |
| Donaldson, Joan . . . . .                  | 23     | Willie. . . . .                       | 32      | Hilles, Bill . . . . .                    | 31       |
| Doppler radar . . . . .                    | 28     | Gerelds, Lou Nora . . . . .           | 33      | Hobbs, Steve . . . . .                    | 28       |
| Doren, Linie . . . . .                     | 39     | Geren, Ben A.. . . . .                | 22      | Hoffman, H.O.. . . . .                    | 35       |
| Dorsey, Dr. Hubert Compton . . . . .       | 14     | Gillette, F.L. . . . .                | 34      | Holland, Cleveland. . . . .               | 7        |
| Dr. Hubert (Hugh). . . . .                 | 14     | Gooden, Dr. Benny . . . . .           | 30      | C. . . . .                                | 22       |
| Dr. Joseph C. . . . .                      | 14     | Gorham, R.T. . . . .                  | 7       | John H.. . . . .                          | 7        |
| Jeanne . . . . .                           | 14     | Graham, Joseph. . . . .               | 15      | J.H.. . . . .                             | 22       |
| Downtown development . . . . .             | 29     | Grand Opera House. . . . .            | 38      | Hollinsworth, Dr. Gervas Foster . . . . . | 13       |
| Duval School . . . . .                     | 38     | Great Depression. . . . .             | 12      | Holt, Dr. Charles. . . . .                | 24       |
| -E-  |        | Great Flood of 1897 . . . . .         | 38      | Holt-Krock Clinic . . . . .               | 8, 9, 13 |
| Eagles Store. . . . .                      | 23     | Greenwood, Alfred B.. . . . .         | 21      | Horse auction. . . . .                    | 35       |
| Earnest, John. . . . .                     | 31     | Greenwood, Arkansas . . . . .         | 3, 6, 9 | Hot Springs National Park. . . . .        | 4        |
| Echols, W.J. . . . .                       | 36     | Greenwood Democrat . . . . .          | 9       | Howard, John. . . . .                     | 22       |
| Eddleman, Jan . . . . .                    | 31     | Griffin, Richard. . . . .             | 1, 25   | Howard Elementary School . . . . .        | 29       |
| Janice Bufford . . . . .                   | 1, 25  | Griffing, Mrs. . . . . .              | 40      | Huckabee, Mike . . . . .                  | 28       |
| Edmondson, Samuel . . . . .                | 21     | Grober, Carl . . . . .                | 38      | Hudson, David . . . . .                   | 22       |
| Edwards, Nancy . . . . .                   | 29     | Guillermin, Anne . . . . .            | 11      | Huff, Jerry. . . . .                      | 29       |
| Ellison, Hazel . . . . .                   | 24     | -H-                                   |         | Hughes, Debbye. . . . .                   | 29       |
| Elliston, Lura D. . . . .                  | 1      | Haffter, John G. . . . .              | 32      | Dr. Charles I. . . . .                    | 23       |
| Entertainment. . . . .                     | 36     | John N.. . . . .                      | 32      | Jeffrey . . . . .                         | 24       |
| Ewing, Karen . . . . .                     | 24     | Sarah G.. . . . .                     | 32      | Patricia . . . . .                        | 24       |
| -F-  |        | Sophia . . . . .                      | 32      | Hutchinson, Asa. . . . .                  | 28       |
| Falconer, W.A.. . . . .                    | 7, 22  | Hailey, Hattie . . . . .              | 9       | -I-                                       |          |
| Fayetteville, Arkansas . . . . .           | 9      | Hall, Fran . . . . .                  | 30      | In HIS Name . . . . .                     | 20       |
| Feeding program . . . . .                  | 30     | Mary . . . . .                        | 30      | Indian Affairs Committee. . . . .         | 4        |
| Ferguson, Ed . . . . .                     | 35     | Hallum, John . . . . .                | 3       | Ingalls, L.E.. . . . .                    | 39       |
| Fianley, Capt. . . . .                     | 39     | Hammons, Mrs. . . . . .               | 40      | Irwin, Elizabeth. . . . .                 | 3        |
| Fire . . . . .                             | 36     | Hampton, Loyd. . . . .                | 24      | Elizabeth Jane . . . . .                  | 3, 9     |
| Fireman's celebration . . . . .            | 40     | Hansen, Judith. . . . .               | 29      | Pleasant. . . . .                         | 3        |
| Fischer, Fanchon . . . . .                 | 24     | Harmon. Attorney General. . . . .     | 37      | -J-                                       |          |
| Fleener, Betty A.. . . . .                 | 32     | Harp, Jesse A. . . . .                | 22      | Jacobsen, Mary Lou. . . . .               | 35       |
| Fletcher, P.C. . . . .                     | 40     | J.A.. . . . .                         | 22      | Jenny Lind, Arkansas . . . . .            | 2, 21    |
| Flies . . . . .                            | 39     | Harper, R.A. . . . .                  | 7       | Jewish picnic . . . . .                   | 40       |
| Fort Smith Art Center. . . . .             | 26, 39 | T.J. . . . .                          | 7       | Johnson, J. D. . . . .                    | 35       |
| Fort Smith High School. . . . .            | 40     | W.R. "Bud" . . . . .                  | 22      | J.O. . . . .                              | 37       |
| Fort Smith National Historic Site. . . . . | 25     | Harrison, Benjamin . . . . .          | 38      | Jones, Jana V. . . . .                    | 11       |
| Fort Smith Trolley Museum . . . . .        | 25     | Hart, Dr. William . . . . .           | 16      | John . . . . .                            | 21       |
| Fort Smith Wholesale Grocery               |        | Hartstein, Elizabeth . . . . .        | 24      | Stacey . . . . .                          | 26       |
| Company . . . . .                          | 38     | Jennifer . . . . .                    | 24      | Joseph M. Hill School . . . . .           | 15       |
| Foster, J.. . . . .                        | 40     | Matthew . . . . .                     | 24      | Journalism awards. . . . .                | 29       |
| Four story building . . . . .              | 36     | Haver, Wayne . . . . .                | 28      | Justice of the Peace. . . . .             | 21       |
| Frisco eating house . . . . .              | 36     | Heinricks, Mary T.. . . . .           | 32      | J. Foster and Co. . . . .                 | 40       |
| Frizzell, Jim . . . . .                    | 36     | Heiss, H.O. . . . .                   | 40      |   |          |

|                            |                  |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| -K-                        |                  |
| Karsten, Kathy             | 24               |
| Keith, Sister Judith Marie | 29               |
| Kesner, Geraldine          | 27               |
| Kirk, Bill                 | 1                |
| Kirkendall, Lloyd          | 24               |
| Mike                       | 24               |
| Reba Theresa               | 24               |
| Klein, Beverly Helbling    | 25               |
| Knoble family              | 11               |
| -L-                        |                  |
| Lawrence, Sam F.           | 7                |
| S.F.                       | 7                |
| Laws, Claude               | 40               |
| J.T.                       | 40               |
| Lehnen, Betty              | 1, 25            |
| Lemley, Harry              | 10               |
| Lewis, Cicero              | 24               |
| Helen                      | 24               |
| Lincoln Day dinner         | 28               |
| Lincoln Youth Center       | 23               |
| Little, Anna Elizabeth     | 11               |
| "Bass"                     | 2                |
| Dorothy Smiley             | 11               |
| Dr. Jess Edward            | 10, 13           |
| Elizabeth Jane             | 7                |
| Floy Kimbrough Witt        | 10, 11           |
| Freed Sebastian            | 1, 8, 9          |
| Freed S.                   | 2, 9, 10, 11     |
| Gray                       | 2                |
| Jasper N.                  | 2                |
| Jess Edward                | 3, 8, 9, 11      |
| Jess Edward Jr.            | 9, 11            |
| Jess Jr.                   | 10               |
| Jessie Eaton               | 2, 3             |
| John Sebastian             | 2, 3, 9, 11, 13  |
| Linda                      | 10               |
| Lizzie Lou                 | 3                |
| Louise                     | 11               |
| Mark McKenna, 11           |                  |
| McKenna Louise             | 11               |
| Monte Olivia               | 3                |
| Paul                       | 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 |
| Paul II                    | 9, 10            |
| Paul III                   | 10               |
| Peggy Louise               | 11               |
| Rose Marie                 | 10               |
| Samuel                     | 2                |
| Thomas Eaton               | 3, 8             |
| Thomas Eugene              | 3, 8             |
| Walter L.                  | 2                |
| William                    | 2                |
| Little Rock, Arkansas      | 9                |
| Little Theater             | 27               |
| Logan County               | 3                |
| Lovell, Claudie            | 30               |

|                             |                |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Lutz, Edward                | 32             |
| Herman Anthony              | 32             |
| Lutz Brothers Plumbing      | 32             |
| Lynch, S.A.                 | 22             |
| -M-                         |                |
| Martensen, Dr.              | 14             |
| Dr. Edgar                   | 13             |
| Martha Washington party     | 38             |
| Martin, Amelia              | 11, 12, 15, 28 |
| Amelia Whitaker             | 1, 25          |
| Marts                       | 36             |
| Masonic organizations       | 12             |
| Matthews, Ruth              | 1              |
| McAlester, Indian Territory | 9              |
| McAllister, Wm.             | 22             |
| McCain, Sue                 | 1, 25          |
| McClellan, Belle            | 7              |
| Isaac                       | 7              |
| John Little                 | 7              |
| J.S.L.                      | 8              |
| McClure & Trotter           | 10             |
| McConnell, J.H.             | 7              |
| R. O.                       | 7              |
| McCullough,                 |                |
| Sarah Fitzjarald            | 1, 20, 25, 27  |
| McDaniel, Maud              | 13             |
| McDonough, James B.         | 7              |
| J.B.                        | 7              |
| McFarlane, R.W.             | 7              |
| McKenzie                    | 40             |
| McLaurin, A. J.             | 4              |
| McNair, Mrs. Ila            | 19             |
| McNamees, John              | 39             |
| McNeill, Bruce              | 28             |
| Mehlbürger foundry          | 36             |
| Mejia, Abe                  | 39             |
| Melton, George              | 7              |
| Methodist Nursing Home      | 14             |
| Mill Creek School           | 40             |
| Miller, Dorothy             | 23             |
| Theodore "Ted"              | 23             |
| Milor, Charles              | 22             |
| Miss Laura's                | 28, 29         |
| Mitchell, Jamie             | 29             |
| Mooney, Isabella Zilpha     | 31             |
| Moore, Abel                 | 33             |
| Billy                       | 36             |
| Mildred                     | 38             |
| Morgan, Michael             | 29             |
| Morrison, Isabella          | 15             |
| Rev. Robert Hall            | 15             |
| Moseley, Jack               | 29             |
| Murder                      | 39             |
| Murphy, C.D.                | 7              |
| Muse, Wallace               | 33             |
| Myers, George M.            | 35             |

|                             |               |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| -N-                         |               |
| Nashville General Hospital  | 9             |
| National Cemetery           | 30            |
| Neal, C. B.                 | 3             |
| Neel, Thomas M.             | 32            |
| Thomas Steven Drew          | 32            |
| Nelson, Donna               | 1             |
| Donna Abraham               | 16            |
| Donna A.                    | 19            |
| Lavern                      | 33            |
| Laverne                     | 1, 16, 19     |
| Talmadge                    | 19            |
| Nichols-Nyberg Bill         | 17            |
| Nigh, Mary                  | 1             |
| Norris, T.A.                | 7, 22         |
| Nyberg                      | 19            |
| Nyberg, Leo E.              | 17            |
| -O-                         |               |
| Old Fort Day Futurity       | 29            |
| Old Fort Museum             | 26            |
| Owsley, C.R.                | 7             |
| -P-                         |               |
| Page, John H.               | 5             |
| Pan Telephone Company       | 39            |
| Paris, Arkansas             | 3             |
| Parker, Isaac               | 27            |
| Judge I.C.                  | 35            |
| Stephen                     | 29            |
| Patrick Shoe Co.            | 38            |
| Paxon, Dillwyn W.           | 23            |
| J. Watson                   | 23            |
| Shirley                     | 23            |
| Peer, Charles               | 26            |
| Peerson, Marty              | 26            |
| Pendergraft, Ross           | 27            |
| Perkins, C.                 | 22            |
| Pilgrim, Annabelle          | 29            |
| Pitt County, North Carolina | 2             |
| Pitts, Bill                 | 1             |
| Pittsburg County, Oklahoma  | 33            |
| Polk County                 | 2             |
| Pollan, Carolyn             | 1, 22, 25, 29 |
| Poor farm                   | 38            |
| Prescott, Arkansas          | 13            |
| Preston, Isabel             | 15            |
| Prichard, Kerry             | 29            |
| Prohibition                 | 4             |
| Pryor, Thomas B.            | 7             |
| T.B.                        | 7             |
| -Q-                         |               |
| Quorum Court                | 21            |
| -R-                         |               |
| Read, J.F.                  | 7             |
| Reddick, Elizabeth Wilson   | 32            |
| Tilmon T.                   | 32            |
| Redwine, L.M.               | 22            |



|                                       |    |   |             |   |            |
|---------------------------------------|----|---|-------------|---|------------|
| Reed, Henry . . . . .                 | 35 | Jesse . . . . .                           | 32          | Vanderbilt University . . . . .           | 9          |
| Reynolds, Donald W. . . . .           | 27 | John . . . . .                            | 32          | Vaughn, John . . . . .                    | 39         |
| Gen. D.H. . . . .                     | 15 | John Wesley . . . . .                     | 32          | Veteran's grave markers . . . . .         | 30         |
| Kate . . . . .                        | 15 | Leonard . . . . .                         | 32          | Vette, Mrs. Robert . . . . .              | 14         |
| Rickman, Rebecca . . . . .            | 1  | Martin . . . . .                          | 32          | -W-                                       |            |
| Risley, Levi . . . . .                | 28 | Mary . . . . .                            | 32          | Waggoner, Catharina . . . . .             | 32         |
| Roast turkey . . . . .                | 34 | Mary Kay . . . . .                        | 32          | Wallace, Margaret J. . . . .              | 33         |
| Roberts, Eula Jean . . . . .          | 27 | Nancy . . . . .                           | 32          | Walmart Supercenter . . . . .             | 28         |
| Jeffrey . . . . .                     | 10 | Sophia . . . . .                          | 32          | Walton, Pauline . . . . .                 | 1          |
| John . . . . .                        | 10 | Theophilus . . . . .                      | 32          | War Between the States . . . . .          | 3          |
| Melanie . . . . .                     | 10 | Vista . . . . .                           | 32          | Warner, Anne Elizabeth . . . . .          | 11         |
| Mrs. John . . . . .                   | 10 | Southside High School . . . . .           | 28          | Louise . . . . .                          | 11         |
| Rockefeller, John D. . . . .          | 5  | Speer Hardware Company . . . . .          | 38          | Michael . . . . .                         | 11         |
| Rodgers, B.K. Jr. . . . .             | 35 | Spradling, J.M. . . . .                   | 22          | William . . . . .                         | 11         |
| Rogers, Judge . . . . .               | 37 | Stable . . . . .                          | 40          | Warren, Ernest M. . . . .                 | 40         |
| Robert L. . . . .                     | 5  | Stafford, William . . . . .               | 21          | Washington, D.C. . . . .                  | 9          |
| Rose, Christine . . . . .             | 31 | Standard Oil . . . . .                    | 5           | Washington County . . . . .               | 3          |
| Ross, Letha . . . . .                 | 24 | Stephens, Samuel Brooks . . . . .         | 21          | Water supply . . . . .                    | 35         |
| Rowe, R.A. . . . .                    | 7  | Stevenson, Adlai E. . . . .               | 4           | Watkins, Will . . . . .                   | 39         |
| Rowett, Michael . . . . .             | 29 | Stewart, Susan . . . . .                  | 33          | Watson, Peggy . . . . .                   | 1          |
| Rowland Hotel . . . . .               | 39 | Stodghill, Marilyn . . . . .              | 23          | Weaver, Sara . . . . .                    | 13         |
| Rutherford, R.B. . . . .              | 22 | Strawberry festival . . . . .             | 40          | Webbers, W.W. . . . .                     | 38         |
| S.M. . . . .                          | 22 | Strip club . . . . .                      | 30          | Weir, George . . . . .                    | 27         |
| -S-                                   |    | Strozier, Marshall . . . . .              | 7           | Keith . . . . .                           | 27         |
| Schaap, John . . . . .                | 39 | R.P. . . . .                              | 22          | Kenneth . . . . .                         | 27         |
| School board . . . . .                | 35 | Stubblefield, Joel . . . . .              | 27, 28      | Laura Mae . . . . .                       | 27         |
| Schools . . . . .                     | 3  | St. Edward Mercy Medical Center . . . . . | 29          | Leslie . . . . .                          | 27         |
| Scott County . . . . .                | 2  | St. Louis, Missouri . . . . .             | 9           | P.J. . . . .                              | 27         |
| Sebastian, William K. . . . .         | 21 | Sumter's Brigade . . . . .                | 15          | Welch, Muse & Co. . . . .                 | 38         |
| Sebastian County . . . . .            | 2  | Swafford, Joanne . . . . .                | 1, 25       | Westark Community College . . . . .       | 28         |
| Sebastian County government . . . . . | 21 | Swift, C.P. . . . .                       | 22          | Westark Season of Entertainment . . . . . | 26         |
| Selective service records . . . . .   | 30 | -T-                                       |             | Whiskey robbery . . . . .                 | 38         |
| Sengel, Charley . . . . .             | 35 | Tatum, Eaton . . . . .                    | 2, 3, 8, 21 | White, Gloria . . . . .                   | 28         |
| Sengel and Co. . . . .                | 35 | John Eaton . . . . .                      | 8           | Will . . . . .                            | 39         |
| Seubold, Linda . . . . .              | 29 | Mark Thaddeus . . . . .                   | 8           | Wholesale prices . . . . .                | 37         |
| Sewage treatment . . . . .            | 28 | Mary Elizabeth, 3                         |             | Wiechert, Jay . . . . .                   | 25         |
| Sexual abuse . . . . .                | 30 | Taylor, Carol Lee . . . . .               | 24          | Wildcat Mountain                          |            |
| Sexual discrimination . . . . .       | 30 | Thames, Glenn . . . . .                   | 22          | Sanatorium . . . . .                      | 12, 15, 18 |
| Shaffer, Norma . . . . .              | 30 | The Tackle Box . . . . .                  | 29          | Willcut, Gerry . . . . .                  | 31         |
| Sharp, Donna . . . . .                | 34 | Thicksten, Ed . . . . .                   | 28          | Williams, David R. . . . .                | 15         |
| Shelton, Lucretia . . . . .           | 32 | Thompson, Claude . . . . .                | 7           | Hamp . . . . .                            | 17, 18     |
| Sheridan, Arkansas . . . . .          | 7  | Tidwell, Cecilia Bernadette . . . . .     | 23          | Mrs. Alf . . . . .                        | 40         |
| Sherman, William . . . . .            | 6  | Charolette . . . . .                      | 23          | Williamson, J.B. . . . .                  | 22         |
| Sherman Anti-Trust Act . . . . .      | 5  | Lawrence Edward Jr. . . . .               | 23          | Willingham, Dr. Jesse Johnson . . . . .   | 13         |
| Sherrill, Amy . . . . .               | 29 | Lawrence Sr. . . . .                      | 23          | Wills, Dr. Paul L. . . . .                | 29         |
| Shipley, Harry . . . . .              | 1  | Sandra "Cindy" . . . . .                  | 23          | Wilson, Charley . . . . .                 | 39         |
| Sieber, Mary . . . . .                | 32 | Tillery, Jo . . . . .                     | 1, 25       | Samuel . . . . .                          | 22         |
| Wolfgang . . . . .                    | 32 | Tolley, Grant . . . . .                   | 29          | Wisdom Society . . . . .                  | 13         |
| Silver Standard . . . . .             | 4  | Tuberculosis . . . . .                    | 12, 15, 16  | Witt, Floy Kimbrough . . . . .            | 9          |
| Skinner, Dr. Robert . . . . .         | 30 | Tuberculosis sanatorium . . . . .         | 12          | Worst, Donna . . . . .                    | 24         |
| Smith, Alice . . . . .                | 32 | Turner, Nancy . . . . .                   | 1           | Worthington, John I. . . . .              | 5          |
| Ann . . . . .                         | 32 | -U-                                       |             | Wright, Lawrence . . . . .                | 22         |
| Cebon . . . . .                       | 32 | Upchurch, Earlene . . . . .               | 10          | Year-round school . . . . .               | 29         |
| Henry . . . . .                       | 32 | -V-                                       |             | Youmans, Frank A. . . . .                 | 7          |
| Isaac . . . . .                       | 32 | Valley of the Arkansas Gathering, 27      |             | Young, Lewis C. . . . .                   | 32         |
| James . . . . .                       | 32 | Vandalism . . . . .                       | 39          |   |            |