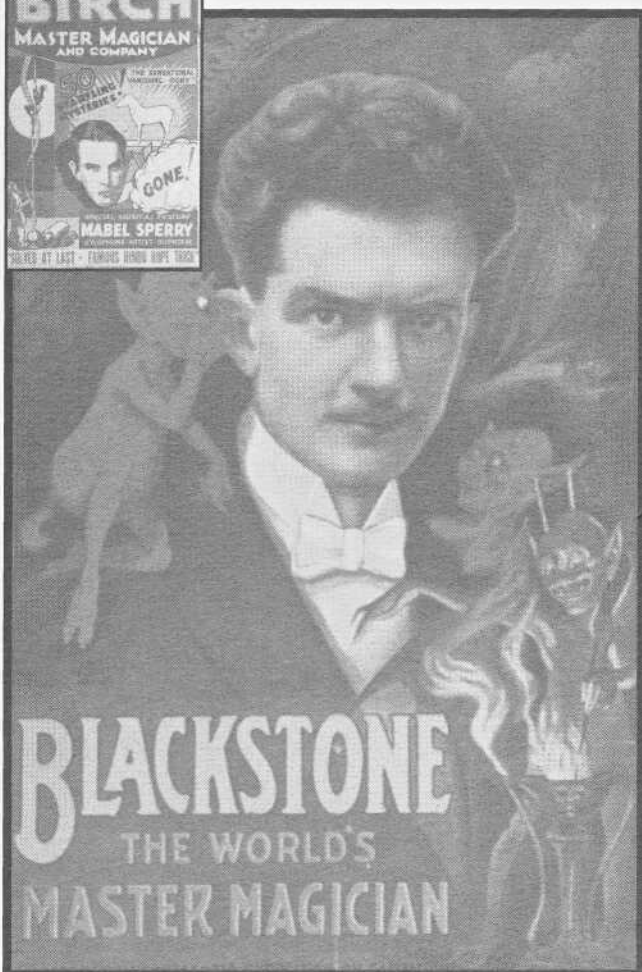


The JOURNAL



The Magic of Fort Smith



The Magic of Elvis



A Look Inside:

Jimmy Ward and His "Melody Boys" Orchestra

The Dervish Club

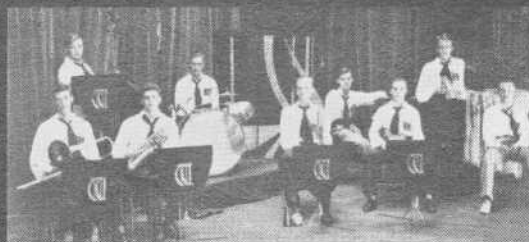
Banjo-Lin

"Tuskegee Airmen" Movie Film

Historic Oak Cemetery

St. John's Episcopal Church

Plus Regular Articles and Features



Vol. 23, No. 2, September 1999

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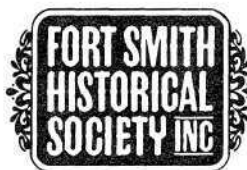
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The JOURNAL

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COVER: The Magic of Fort Smith
The Magic of Elvis

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The Magic of Fort Smith

By Bill Pitts*

Through my 73-plus years, I have been continually amazed and appreciative of my home-town, Fort Smith, Arkansas. Sometimes I have endeavored to look at the community through the eyes of a guest or tourist, and wondered whether or not he or she may enjoy the rolling hills, the industry, the churches and life in this part of our good old United States.

I have also been amazed by a hobby, or semi-profession of magic and the magicians who have lived in, or toured through, Fort Smith.

My Father, Osgood Pitts, became an amateur magician at an early age, and presented magic shows for different organizations in the Fort Smith area. When I came along, Dad started performing magic tricks for me while I was positioned in my Mother's lap watching him do some marvelous things with coins, cards, and thimbles. How Dad accomplished all these, to me miracles, I was not to know until I was older and he knew that I had a genuine interest in the art of magic.

Thus, through all these years of performing magic acts, the Pitts family was able to meet not only other local enthusiasts, but the professional magicians who came to Fort Smith to present their shows at the local schools or theaters. This article, then, will be about the professional full-time magicians and illusionists who appeared in Fort Smith.

When we consider the days of yester-year when we were younger and the modes of transportation and the news-media were not what we enjoy today, performers of all types had some difficulty travelling across the country to present

their shows. The school assembly performers, which some of you will recall from your days in junior high, would travel in their personal cars, perform at one school, repack their show and journey on to another school for the next show, many times performing three shows a day in that many different schools - many miles apart.

The writer had the privilege of knowing many of these performers personally, and helping the school principal (at what is now Darby Junior High School) decide which magicians to book for the school year. In fact, while I was in the 7th grade, I performed after school one afternoon with approximately 200 students staying after school for the show. The printing department printed the tickets for the show and my "poster" was on the Study Hall bulletin board. Mrs. Mason was the Study Hall teacher, and many of you will remember her strict demeanor. I remember making \$8.00 for that show, and thought I had "arrived". Some of the professional magicians who appeared at Junior High, and some of the elementary schools, were Loring Campbell who with his wife Kathryn had one of the better shows from his earlier Lycoum and Chautauqua days; John Frye, from Ohio; Zander (Clarence Walters), from Strugis, Michigan; Coke Cecil from South Carolina; and numerous others who will not be familiar to the reader, but they traveled across the United States and when bookings would permit would come to Fort Smith and present their shows.

These school show performers used what is called "stage magic" - small enough to be carried in their cars, be set up quickly and easily but could be seen from the back of the auditorium.

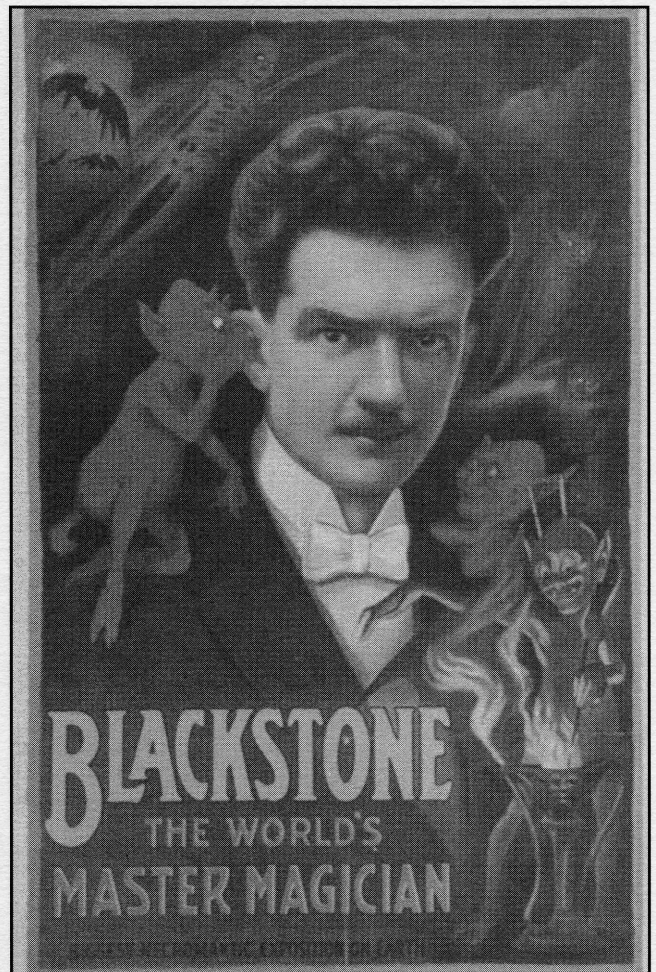
****(Editor. Bill Pitts has appeared in all kinds of shows throughout the United States and has been featured at magicians' conventions in other countries. He writes monthly articles for magic magazines - for magicians only, and has been honored with several awards from magic societies. In 1978 he was elected International President of the International Brotherhood of Magicians - with magicians all over the world. He is also active in and on the boards of a number of local and area organizations. For over 50 years Bill and his family owned McKee-Pitts Industrials, which sold and serviced industrial tooling and supplies to most of the manufacturing industry in the area. The April 21, 1996 tornado destroyed the business and rather than rebuild, Bill decided to retire and close the business.)***

This was important since they gave several performances a day at different schools and/or locations. Small posters were placed around the halls and walls of the school so the students could bring their nickel or dime for the show tickets. These shows were always during the school hours, and all the students would attend at the same time. At that time, instead of attending class, we went to the auditorium to have fun watching the assembly shows.

The really big magic and illusion shows were held in the evenings, usually at the New Theater or, perhaps, the Joie Theater. Occasionally, these shows were held at the Junior High School (now Darby), because it was the largest auditorium in Fort Smith, with more seats than the theaters or the Senior High auditorium (now Northside). The theaters would present their regular run movies, but at a certain advertised time the stage show would be presented. Some times, but not always, an extra charge was made for the movie/stage show, but the ticket holder could see the movie first, stay for the stage show, and then see the movie again if desired.

Most of these big shows stayed in Fort Smith to appear two times a day for several days during the week. These shows either traveled by train, or had their own large trucks (usually several of them) to transport their shows because they carried their own stage scenery, lighting, and their many trunks of costumes as well as their magical apparatus, their large stage illusions and sometimes their own pit orchestra. This was all before the present state-of-the-art sound and lighting equipment and their own taped in advance music cues. Most of them, with their entire entourage, stayed at the Goldman Hotel. The writer was able to spend many hours with all of these performers, have meals with them, and have them at our home at 701 Lecta Avenue, right across from Rogers School, where, in the 6th grade, I was on stage for my first time as a magician – as Foolemesi, the Magician, in the 6th grade operetta, Jack and the Bean-Stalk.

My Dad remembered that in 1911, long before my time, Frederick the Great appeared at the New Theater. When World War I came along, because of the sentiments at the time against the German soldiers, Frederick the Great changed his name. He appeared several times later in Fort Smith, was in our home several times, and I was in his home several times at Colon, Michigan. He was born Henri Bouton, in Chicago, and passed



Master Magician Harry Blackstone poster.

away in 1965 as the World's Master Magician, Harry Blackstone. I was very fortunate to see his show several times.

While in the Air Force, I was performing on an outdoor show at Sheppard Field, Wichita Falls, Texas. I saw Blackstone in the audience, introduced him, and when I finished my act, he came on the stage, called me back out for us to do some magic moments together.

Blackstone's son, Harry Blackstone, Jr., passed away in 1997. He and I were good friends too and he always enjoyed hearing some of my personal memories of his Dad. At a convention of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, the world's largest society of amateur and professional magicians, I was privileged to have Harry, Jr. present me with the organization's coveted honor, the Order of Merlin Excalibur. Harry, Jr.'s wife and his daughter are keeping the Blackstone name alive, carrying on the performing magic tradition of this great family.

All magicians I have known have been favorites for one reason or another, but the one I



Birch, Master Magician, poster.

tried to pattern my own magic act after was BIRCH, who appeared in Fort Smith several times with his big show, usually under the auspices of the Band Parents. His show was not as elaborate as Blackstone's, but had larger stage illusions. His wife, Mabel Sperry Birch, assisted him with the show, and played the xylophone as a featured part of the show. They carried only two assistants to present their show, which was slower paced than some of the other stage productions, but fast enough to maintain an excited interest. Birch featured Princess, the Vanishing Pony. This was performed in front of your "very eyes" – and with none of the (also clever) Las Vegas revue-type performance. In other words, there were no special lighting or smoke effects to hinder the audience watching the pony right up to the time Princess disappeared. Great magic!

I guess I enjoyed this effect a little more, because I also knew the magician who had invented it and made it up for Birch and another stage magician, Virgil, who also appeared in Fort Smith with his big show. The Birch and the Virgil

shows were about the same "size", unlike the large production as presented by Blackstone. The inventor of the above vanishing animal illusion was a magician by the name of S.S. Henry, who never did appear in Fort Smith.

Henry vanished a goat on stage and when his friends in magic, Birch and Virgil witnessed this effect, each wanted one of their own for their shows. They all agreed to use different animals. Henry used a goat, Birch chose to vanish a pony and Virgil used a tiger. It was all the same illusion, but by their using different animals the performers did not seem to be competitive with each other.

Years ago Amrita Grotto sponsored an Ice Capade-type show at Harper Stadium – a show which featured magician Jack Gwynne who was one of the first magicians to perform while on ice skates. Gwynne performed his regular stage show on skates while surrounded by the audience in the stands.

Another type of show which brought the magician-illusionists to Fort Smith is the Spook Show, which appeared at New, Hoyt, and Joie Theaters.



The Great Virgil, premier international magician, poster.

For the Spook Show, the theater booked a horror-type movie of that era, which was usually one of the Dracula or Frankenstein movies, or even the original "Mighty Joe Young" gorilla movie. Times have certainly changed from those days to what is shown at the theaters or on TV now. The theater would show the regular run movie until it was over at about 10 PM. Then the theater was cleared in order to sell tickets for the special Spook Show. I can tell you that, for instance, at the Joie Theater, lines of people (youth and adults) were standing all the way around the block, even to Garrison Avenue, waiting to purchase tickets for the evening's Spook Show. When all of those attending were seated, munching on popcorn and drinking soft drinks, the lights of the theater would dim and an announcement from the stage would advise that the stage show was about to begin, and for everyone to stay in their seats and not move around because weird monsters from other worlds, etc. would appear in the audience.

The stage show would begin with some magical effects and illusions adapted for the sinister and mysterious "spook" effect on the audience. Toward the end of this stage show, the performer would admonish, again, that everyone stay in their seats in order to not be injured by the spooks, goblins, etc. that were going to materialize around and that all the lights would be turned off. It was further announced that nurses were in attendance in the event someone did not adhere to the announcement and might be injured. A note should be placed here that nothing was going to happen which would injure anyone, but this was a ruse to keep the youngsters especially, in their seats.

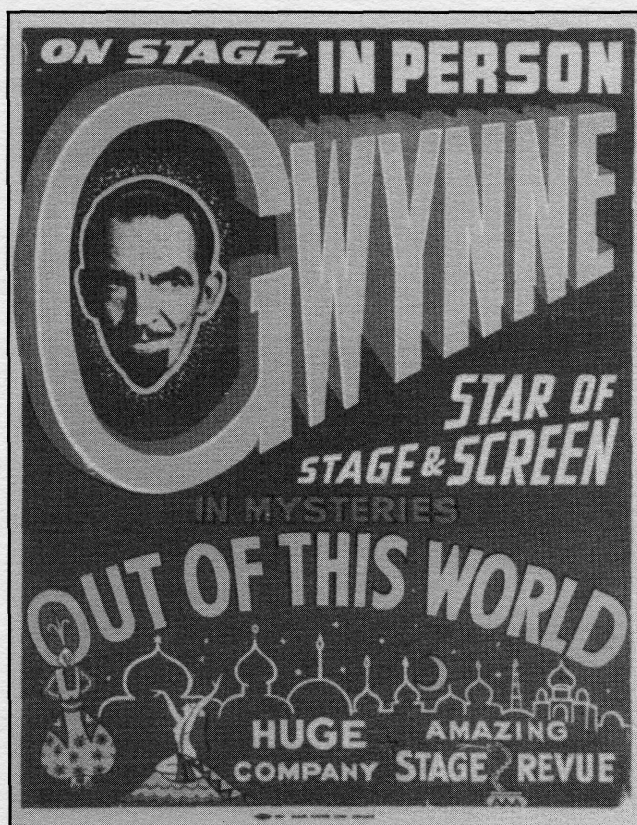
In many ways, it is my opinion that the magic shows of yester-year were just as exciting as

those in Las Vegas, because our worlds were younger and we adapted quickly to what we were watching at the time. Now, we expect theatrics, choreography and moving stages to satisfy our appetites for big-time show biz.

A relatively new venue for the magical performer consists of what is called close-up or walk-around, magic. In the true close-up type magic act, the performer may be seated at a table with his relatively small audience seated around the table with him. Here, the close-up magician performs what appears to be real miracles with coins and/or playing cards. Each person seated at the table can see everything the magician does. There are no funny (meaning strange) looking apparatus items – just the everyday items as mentioned. Thus, the performer usually has to have more skill in performing his act than does the stage magician. It is the personality, as well as the skill, of the close-up performer that may set him apart from other performing magicians.

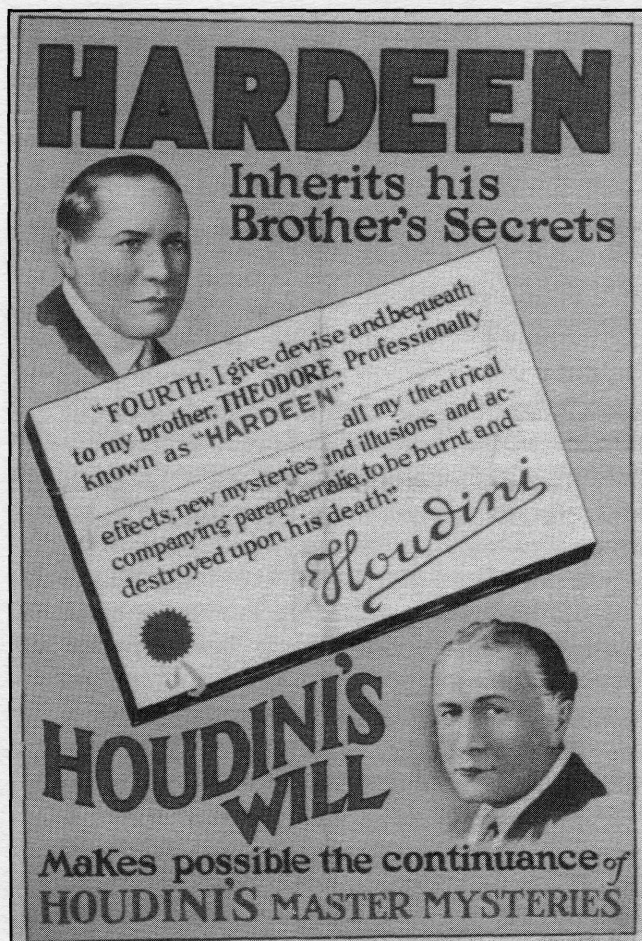
Some close-up magicians can perform stage magic effects equally as

well as other types of shows, and some of the stage magicians are also top-notch close-up performers. Another type of close-up performer is the walk-around performer – who, at some social event, may walk around from one group to another, mingling for a short time with the group, introduce himself as a guest magician for the occasion and proceed to entertain for a few moments and then move on to another group. Several organizations and corporate firms have utilized both of the above types of magical performers in Fort Smith, and while the writer has performed thusly, as I explained above, he has recommended other magician friends, depending upon the needs of the venue. In preparing this article, the writer has heard from those who heard from others that Harry Houdini had appeared in Fort Smith, and at the New Theater. I do not mean to make an issue



Gwynne, star of stage and screen, poster.

of this, but I did wish to keep this article as accurate as possible. It is my opinion, as well as the opinion of others who would know, that Houdini never did appear here. Houdini passed away on Halloween night, October 31, 1926, when I was only eight months old. However, since my father was a performing amateur magician and was a ticket-taker at the New Theater, he would have known of any magician appearing there and/or anywhere else in the Fort Smith area. A family friend who assisted with certain types of shows in the early days of the New Theater, has told me that Houdini never appeared here. Beyond that, I knew Bess Houdini and her confidant Dr. Edward Saint. I have a recording of the Final Houdini Seance, held in 1936 in Hollywood, California. Mrs. Houdini gave me a set of Harry and Bess Houdini busts, which are still in my collection. I know Dr. Mueller who located at Appleton, Wisconsin, where Houdini said he was born. I know all the present Houdini historians. I knew Houdini's brother Theo, known professionally as Hardeen, and Hardeen did appear at the New Theater in the late 1930's or the early 1940's. He was advertised as Hardeen, the Brother of



Poster for Harry Houdini's brother, Hardeen.

Houdini. He always made the Houdini name larger than his – and Hardeen did perform some of Houdini's favorite magic effects from the Houdini show – including the famous Milk Can Escape. There are some other reasons to not place Houdini in Fort Smith, but I hope the above will suffice.

Fort Smith has a local magic club, Ring 75 of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, and we meet at the Fort Smith Public Library. I invite anyone interested in magic to meet with us. In closing this article, I would like to mention one of our young members, Nathan Burton, who has become a full-time professional magician and is presenting his act all over the world. I am very proud of him.

This article, in the preparation of it, has brought back some very wonderful memories of times past. There is far more which could have been told, and so many other magicians who could have been mentioned in this article, which may suggest that "Magic Is A Tricky Business".

Songstress Born In Fort Smith

Don Pittman of 1510 N. J St. notes that ... Marion Hutton, the great vocalist with the Glenn Miller Orchestra, was born in Fort Smith.

Pittman ran across an article in the "Whatever Happened To ..." magazine.

It said "the songstress of the big band era was born on March 10, 1919, in Fort Smith. When she was three, her father deserted the family. Marion and her sister, Betty, who is 19 months younger, spent several years in foster homes before their mother took them to Detroit in the early 1930s."

Betty, of course, was also a talented singer and movie star.

According to the article, Marion received a flat fee of \$50 for one of her most popular recordings – "Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree," a big hit of World War II. She introduced another great tune – "My Dreams Are Getting Better All the Time." Marion soloed for Miller and sang with the Pied Pipers. Marion and her husband live in Seattle where she is a program director for a rehabilitation center. (From Tom Blake Column, Southwest Times Record, July 4, 1986).

Jimmy Ward and His “Melody Boys” Orchestra

By Freed Little

In late 1931, according to Paul Little, Jimmy Ward gathered a group of his Fort Smith Senior High School (now Northside) fellow musicians and formed a ten member ensemble which he dubbed “Jimmy Ward’s Melody Boys.” The group began rehearsing after school hours and on weekends at Jimmy’s residence on North 21st Street. Jimmy’s mother acted as business manager and sponsor.

Soon the group began to play for an occasional young people’s dance as well as an informal concert or two. The new orchestra’s theme was the new Duke Ellington hit, “Mood Indigo.” Its repertoire included recent 1931 hit songs such as “I’m Just A Prisoner of Love,” “Sweet and Lovely,” as well as the new song, “Paradise,” in which the suggestive key lyrics that the shocked audience expected to hear were hummed or “crooned,” rather than sung.

For their formal appearances, Jimmy Ward’s mother provided everyone with white satin bolero type blouses emblazoned with the letter “W” and with music stands bearing the same letter. The orchestra’s first major public performance was at an assembly in the High School auditorium. Among some of the songs the band played during that school assembly period were “The Sheik of Araby”, “All of me” and “Walking My Baby Back Home”. The solemn expressions on the faces of all of these young musicians gives an indication of just how seriously they took this concert. To quote

Paul Little, “Look at the expressions on all the faces – not a single smile. We look like we’re all going to a funeral – maybe ours! And no wonder – we were all nervous as cats, worrying about whether we were going to make a mistake in our first public appearance.”

“Jimmy’s mother and friends had decorated the stage, made the music stand covers and added the “W” to everything. They even made our shirts. I remember they were white satin with blowsy bolero sleeves. Very spiffy, we thought. They even supplied the colorful Spanish shawl with the long tassels to drape over the piano in the latest 20’s and 30’s style. And note the song-bird perched on one of the rays which radiate out from the big ‘W’ on the curtain backdrop. They really went all out!”

Paul’s memories of a few of the members of the band: “There was Culpepper on bass viol. I can’t even be sure of his first name. He had an older brother who had to weigh at least 250 pounds. Both he and his brother played sousa-



The Jimmy Ward Orchestra in early 1932, just before their first major public performance at an assembly in the High School auditorium. Left to Right, Front Row: Paul Little on trombone, Jimmy Ward on saxophone, Alan Hall on trumpet, an unidentified violinist, Oscar “Skee” Williams vocalist and another unidentified musician on the end. Second Row: London Culpepper on bass viol, Frank Stevenson on drums (tentatively identified) and Nick George on piano.

phones in the high school band with me. We always called them "Cully" and "Little Cully." The Culpepper in the picture is Little Cully, which is the best I can do. Both brothers were excellent musicians.

"There is Nick George on piano. Nick was one of the two most talented members of the group. I was probably closest to him because he was kin to my Aunt Maurine Little, who was married to Thomas Little, my Dad's youngest brother.

"Moving to the front row left, that's me on the end with the big concert bell trombone. Looking at the picture, I think back – what a shame I had no one to warn me NOT to roll down my socks to my ankles when I'm sitting stage front. And it's amazing to me, but I actually remember that at about that stage of my life I was in the habit of wearing my socks rolled down like that. In fact, I can even remember that particular pair of socks – a pale plaid, and when I rolled them down, I could still see the pattern on the inside of the sock. If you look closely, you will see a long neck bottle sitting by the right rear leg of my chair and you may wonder how I could have been drinking beer in the High School and at such a time as that. Well, it's not a beer bottle, but an empty R C Cola bottle. To give you an idea of how scarce money was in those days, I had no money to buy a mute, which I felt I needed on a couple of the pieces. I didn't want to ask my Dad to buy one for me because I knew he was having a tough time financially. So I used this R C bottle held close to the front of the bell of my horn to produce a muffled sound, something like the sound they get today with the plumber's rubber plunger heads. It didn't work very well, but we had to make do.

"Jimmy Ward on sax was a good friend and a pretty good sax player as well. To his left is Allen Hall. He was the other really fine musician in the group, along with Nick George. (Note that he had TWO mutes.) I also played with him in school band and orchestra and he was really good. I'm not at all surprised that he was still playing in 1947. Good for him!

"Skee Williams, of course, was the vocalist and had a good singing voice. Yes, I noticed the Rudy Vallee type small megaphone he is holding. While he is following Rudy Vallee's example with the megaphone, those little megaphones were a necessity. No one ever heard of the idea of having a public address system in an auditorium. I'm not even sure if they had been invented yet, although they must have been, since the movie theaters were all advertising talking pictures, which had first appeared in 1928, five years earlier.

"The orchestra's theme was a 1930 hit by Duke Ellington called 'Mood Indigo.' We chose it because of its nice, easy tempo and organ-like

chords. Incidentally, it was very easy music to play, so it gave us a chance to settle down before swinging into our repertoire!"

Source of the Photograph

Former Fort Smithians, Dick Lane and his wife, Betty Murta Lane, found this old photo among the possessions of Betty's Mother, the late Mrs. Vesta Murta, also of Fort Smith. Dick and Betty now live in Tulsa, but continue to have strong ties to Fort Smith. Betty recognized her cousin, the late Nick George, as the pianist in the picture, but didn't recognize any of the other players and knew nothing of the little orchestra. Dick recognized the trombonist, Paul Little.

Dick is an accomplished musician who comes from a musical family. He played professionally with several local dance orchestras. His father, the late D. G. Lane, was a retired Division Auditor for O.G. & E. and had played saxophone in the Jimmy Grace Orchestra, as well as a number of other local dance orchestras.

Dick's mother, the late Lucille Lane, had entertained audiences in the late twenties, playing piano accompaniment for the silent pictures showing at the old Joie Theater. She later joined her husband in the Jimmy Grace and other local orchestras, playing the piano.

The Search for Information

Hoping to find out something about the little ensemble and its personnel, Dick sent a copy of the picture to Paul Little who was living in Houston. Paul had just celebrated his 80th birthday and while he cheerfully admitted that his memory was slipping, he was able to recall some details about the orchestra and the names of a few of the players. (Paul passed away January 31, 1999. See the April 1999 issue of *The Journal* for his obituary.)

Then Mary Vertrees of Fort Smith, Paul's cousin and widow of the late Tommy Vertrees, a Grizzly football star of the early thirties, volunteered her services, as did former Grizzly star Jay Jones, also of Fort Smith. Through their efforts, the drummer was tentatively identified, but the identifies of the rest unidentified still remain a mystery.

HOW MANY MORE OF THESE MYSTERY MUSICIANS CAN YOU IDENTIFY?

If any of our readers can help identify the rest of the members of Jimmy Ward's Melody Boys of yesteryear, or have other information about the group, please drop a note to Amelia Martin, editor of *The Journal* or to: Dick Lane, 7839 South 69th East Place, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74133-3411.

The Dervish Club

Fort Smith, Arkansas

By Ann (Bumpass) Liddle

The name "Dervish" was taken from the American College Dictionary. Dervish is defined as one doing a whirling, spinning dance. Thus the "Whirling Dervish".

On almost any Saturday night in 1945, you would find a group of young couples dancing at the Goldman or the Ward Hotel. In those days hotels hired "traveling bands". It was a period when dance was changing, new steps like the Cha Cha, Rumba and Tango were becoming popular and dancing was one of the favorite "things to do".

There were five couples that had formed a "Bridge Club" and they were regulars at these dances. The five couples were the Fred Ladages, the Bill Hales, Dale Cramptons, Dick Delongs and Jimmy Deares. The five couples had been close friends for years through school, church or other activities. Since the hotel dances were always crowded, they decided to form their own dance club that could include more of their friends. The couples agreed to ask other friends about their interest in a dance club, and the results were favorable.

The founders consisted of Bill and Willene Adair, Dale and Irene Crampton, Jimmy and Gladys Mae Deare, Dick and Blanche Delong, Burton and Eula Mae Gregg, Bill and Marie Hale, John and Evelyn Holt, Fred and Felicitas Ladage, Kenny and Virginia McGhee, Bill and Maurine Slates, Ed and Martha Sparkman.

The founders felt that it was important to prepare a constitution with guidelines for conduct and membership to have a successful club. Various club names were discussed and finally Marie Hale suggested the name "Dervish" because of the whirling and turning in ballroom dancing. After many long, loud and harried meetings the following items became the foundation for their Club. There would be a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and board of directors with elections each year. The officers would carry out the general functions of the club. There would be a dance committee to plan and arrange

the monthly dance. The dance committees including the chairman was selected from the membership and they were responsible for planning the theme, getting the music, selecting the location and decorating. They were also responsible for contacting the members about the particulars of the dance and served as "host" for that month. Each member was required to serve once a year on a committee. There were three "mixer dances" at each dance; one visa versa dance per year (usually the Valentine Dance in February); two guest dances per year and a monthly newsletter, called the Whirlybird. There was a limit of 50 members. Dues were paid quarterly and there would be NO PUBLICITY.

The interested couples were contacted and a meeting was called to vote on the constitution and to elect officers in March 1946. This meeting resulted in the acceptance of the name "Dervish Club". above mentioned articles and the election officers; President John Holt, Secretary Martha Sparkman, Treasurer Dick Delong. The forty CHARTER MEMBERS were: Bill and Willene Adair, Vincent and Margie Allison, Marvin and Betsy Altman, Victor Anderson, James and Myrthine Barry, Bob and Elizabeth Bruce, George and Marqurite Carney, Faye and Mildred Coogan, Dale and Irene Crampton, James and Gladys Mae Deare, Bob Delong, Dick and Blanche Delong, Carnall Gardner, Burton and Eula Mae Gregg, James and Carolyn Gutensohn, Bill and Marie Hale, Bill and Winnie Halliburton, Bob and Julia Halliburton, John and Evelyn Holt, Fred and Felicitas Ladage, Jerry and JoAnn Lambiotte, Pat and Katherine Malone, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Martin, Kenny and Virginia McGhee, Jeff and Montine Montgomery, Wayne and Ethelyn Olinger, Bob Pansze, Lee Ben and Marjorie Putman, W.O. and Hazel Reeves, Weldon Sanford, Bill and Maurine Slates, Ed and Martha Sparkman, Sonny Suggs, G.C. and Betty Thomas, Finley and Lea Turner, James and Jerry Ward, Keith and Beth Whalen, Weed and Mary Ellen Williams, James and Nannie Ruth Wilson, Charles and Elizabeth Winford.

Monthly board meetings were held, usually at a board member's home or office. There "light to fancy snacks", desserts or even wine and cheese may have been served. One board member was asked to publish the monthly newsletter, the Whirlybird. All members were asked to submit news about vacations, births, deaths, and out of town guests, promotions, job changes, children's achievements and the like. In fact, any news about this closely knit group was requested. A copy of the newsletters and pictures were kept in the Dervish Club's scrapbooks. Members gave the club a lot of pictures from dances, vacations, births, birthdays and get togethers.

In the early days, dances were usually held in the Goldman and Ward Hotel Ballrooms. However, some dances were held at the Winter Garden, (upstairs on Garrison Avenue,) the Knights of Columbus building at North 13th and B Street, or the Elks Club (upstairs on South 6th Street) and later on at the "21 Club". Some of the local bands used were Jimmy Grace's Southernaires, Doc Miller's Band, Paul Lewis, Arkansas Ramblers and on occasion the Starr Band from Oklahoma.

The first few years called for more ingenuity than "money" to plan the dances. A considerable amount of time was spent on the theme, the decorations, invitations and dance locations. A number of dances were held in member's homes, on patios, in barns and parks, with music from a rented nickelodeon and dervish club records.

Committee meetings were held each month at a committee member's home and refreshments like cokes, popcorn, snacks, desserts and coffee were often served. The Committee meetings were a "fun time", members enjoyed planning the theme, dress, decorations and dance program. Some of the themes were Valentine, Bowery, Sadie Hawkins, May Day, Red & White (Arkansas Colors), Western, Halloween. The most interesting theme was the: "Come As You Are" theme, as you were supposed to come to the next dance as you were dressed when called. This promised to be most interesting especially if you were called early in the morning or late at nights, while in the yard cleaning up or at bath time. Food was often served during intermission at the early dances.

Christmas, Valentine and Anniversary dances were dressy formal occasions. These dances called for special decorations and were held at one of the existing ballrooms usually with a band. Both the invitations and decorations could be very special. Most often the ladies used a "dance program" that listed their dance partners for the evening. Lots of "snapshots" were taken in the

early and growing days that resulted in several scrapbooks (for which we will continue to search). Those were days of sharing, caring, fun and fellowship for the Club.

The Club grew in popularity and the membership was raised to 60. In 1960, the U.C.T. Building was new and with full membership the Club decided to hold all future dances in that Hall and to use the Paul Lewis Band for its music. The dances were mostly semi-formal with the guest dance, Anniversary and Christmas dances formal. For several years there was a dinner before the Anniversary Dance and often a professional photographer took a group picture. Souvenirs were made and given to each couple for a number of years. Some of the souvenirs were silver ash trays, plates with members names on them and one year a Club member made individual ash trays for the members. Some members still have some of the mementos. A huge banner over the "band stand" always proclaimed the Anniversary Year. In fact, this banner is used today. Later it was decided to have a "breakfast" after the dance and a short meeting to introduce the new officers and recognize the outgoing officers.

Annual membership meetings were held early in the year, generally during one of the first two months. The annual meeting was a good time to suggest changes. Members were notified about the meeting by mail. Meetings were held in various firms conference rooms, or at the U.C.T. if available.

Eventually, it was necessary to increase the membership to 80 members. Membership was gained by making an application that required one or more Club members as a sponsor. When there were enough vacancies, a ballot was mailed out and each member voted on all the applicants. A certain percent of approvals were required for acceptance. "There has always been a waiting list". In the 90's it was decided that each applicant must have two sponsors. To become a member the applicant must have the approval of 24 or 30% of the Club's members. It became necessary to set limits on the number of single members.

Former members who had given up their membership for reasons such as illness, moving away or loss of a mate could return any time.

In 1992, Bob Thomas, the Club's president, suggested that the Club sponsor a special dance with "Guy Lombardo's Band" directed by Al Pierson. The dance would be a public affair that included advertising by newspaper, handbills, radio and television. The Club rented the AmVet Hall previously "Charlees," as it has the largest dance floor in the area. The dance involved a lot of planning. Decorations included 30 lattice panels and plant stands and 80 table center pieces. The hall was

decorated with blooming summer plants, ferns and a water fountain that gave a "summer garden" atmosphere. The theme and decorations were designed and made by club members, Harold and Josie Geels. This was the first time any Dervish Club function had ever been advertised. The dance was very successful and the profits were given to the Arthritis Foundation. The following year, Mr. Thomas, again with the Club's permission, contacted Mr. Pierson and the event was held at the Civic Center using the same theme and 307 tickets were sold. There were a number of "out of town and out of state" guests at the dance. The profits from the 1993 dance were given to the Bost Skill Center in Ft. Smith.

The Dervish Club emblem, is a dancing couple shown in relief, on a background of starlight and moonbeams. The emblem that has been used for many years was designed by an unknown Club member.

Regular dances are still held at the now "Grotto Hall" formerly the U.C.T. Hall and with the demise of Paul Lewis, James Shoffey became the director of the Supper Club Band in 1991.

A special thanks to Fred and Felicitas Ladage who helped make this document possible. The collaboration of several other Dervish Club

founders and charter members has also been most helpful.

LIVING DERVISH CLUB FOUNDERS ARE:

Willene Adair
Jimmy Deare
Blanche Delong
Fred and Felicitas Ladage
Maurine Slates
Virginia McGhee

This history has been compiled from conversations with most surviving Dervish Club founders and charter members. As with life, it may not be perfect, as not all of us remember the past exactly the same, but in general, this was the consensus (based on some mementos kept by several of the group).

1999 officers of the Dervish Club are:

President, Ralph Hollocher
Vice President, Steve Manus
Secretary, Ed Newlin
Treasurer, Pat Mulloy

The Dervish Club is currently meeting at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Columbus Acres.

Dancing is alive in Fort Smith. Other dance organizations are the Century Club and the Diamond Club.

Annual Business Sponsors

✓ Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce

612 Garrison • Fort Smith, AR 72901

✓ Belle Point Beverages, Inc.

1 Belle Point Place • Fort Smith, AR 72901

✓ Spiro State Bank

Spiro, Oklahoma 74959

✓ Arkansas Best Corporation

3801 Old Greenwood Road
Fort Smith, AR 72923

✓ Dr. J. P. Chancey, Jr.

314 Lexington Avenue • Fort Smith, AR 72901

✓ Southern Wholesale Inc.

P.O. Box 10630 • Fort Smith, AR 71917-0630

✓ Taliano's Italian Restaurant

201 North 14th • Fort Smith, AR 72901

✓ Fort Smith Convention and Visitor's Bureau

2 North B. Street • Fort Smith, AR 72901

✓ City of Fort Smith

623 Garrison • Fort Smith, AR 72901

✓ Fort Smith Trolley Museum

100 South 4th Street • Fort Smith, AR 72901
Phone: 501-783-1205 or 501-783-1237

✓ Holt-Krock Clinic

1500 Dodson Avenue • Fort Smith, AR 72901

✓ Coca-Cola Bottling Company

3600 Phoenix • Fort Smith, AR 72903

Civic Club Sponsor

Fort Smith Jaycees

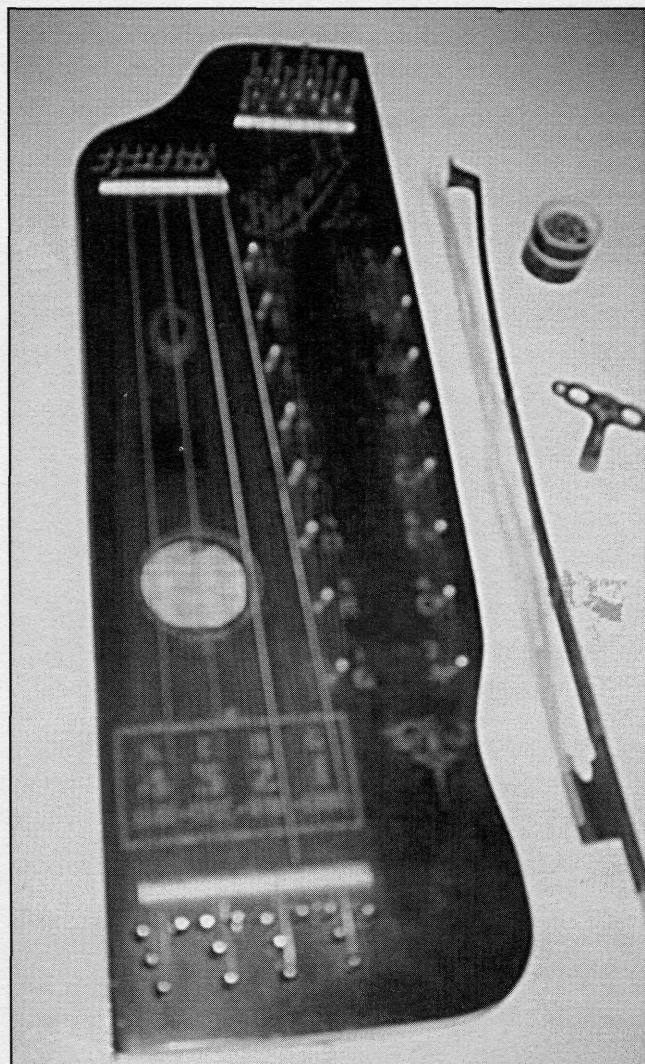
Banjo-Lin

By Betty (Dunlap) Fitkin

When this unique instrument came into my possession, I found this information inside the Banjo hole, "BANJO-LIN, \$25.00, F. G. HEISER MFG. CO., FORT SMITH, ARK." It is 22 inches long and 7-1/2 inches across at the widest part. The Heiser Mfg. Co. went out of business about 1920.

In the box with the Banjo-Lin were Instructions for Playing and Tuning, key (z on it), bow (marked Germany) with bow string, small round box with ball of wax (hard), Mfg. Five Year Guarantee form and a Packers Ticket.

I think my Grandmother use to play the instrument. Her name was Lula Mae Garton Dunlap (1883-1947) and her father, Ellis Porter Garton played something similar.



Banjo-Lin.

With the Banjo-Lin was sheet music for "Old Folks At Home," "Auld Lang Syne," "Home Sweet Home," "When You and I Were Young Maggie," "America," "Nearer My God to Thee," "Silent Night Holy Night," "Jesus Lover of My Soul," "Silver Threads Among The Gold" and "Till We Meet Again." There was also similar music for "Die Lustige Wittwe" ("The Mery Widow Waltz") written for the Columbia Zither, the Mandolin-Harp and Guitar-Zither.

If anyone has more information about this instrument, please contact Betty (Dunlap) Fitkin, 1902 Brookside Dr., Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613-6406.

Instructions for Playing and Tuning

1st. Prepare the bow by tightening until the hairs are about one-half inch from the center of the bow, then rub bow on the Rosin and in starting new rosin always scratch one end to break the Glaze. Bow should be rosined frequently when playing.

2nd. You will notice that the Numbers on the violin part of the instrument are placed close to the sound posts and when playing, the bow is to be drawn straight across the instrument slightly tilted away from the center of the instrument and always over the number, as this is the correct position to play and will produce a clear tone, but if bow is allowed to slide up and down on the strings it will squeak.

3rd. Practice with the bow for several hours before attempting to play any of the exercises and then practice picking the chords without using the bow. In this way you become accustomed to playing each part separately and it will be easier to play them together.

4th. Take exercise number one and start with the numbers in the UPPER LEFT HAND CORNER AND PLAY TO THE RIGHT. You will notice the first number is 8, the second number is also 8, so you will draw the bow back and forward, as it does not make any difference which way you draw the bow, it will produce the same tone, as long as it is kept over the number, and then play 9 then 7 and so on until you come to the end of the line and then start the next line, the lower numbers indicate the chord and are to be played only when they appear, for instance, there is a 1 under the first 8 but none under the second 8 so you just play the bow for the second tone.

Instructions for Playing and Tuning Sheet 1

4th. Practice each exercise until you can play the bow and chords from memory before attempting to play the second exercise and do the same with each exercise. Any person that will do this will not have any trouble in playing, but if you pick up the first exercise that strikes your fancy and start playing it and about the time you have played about half of it try another and in about 10 minutes say that nobody could ever learn to play it, you never will. Anything worth while is not accomplished in a few minutes.

TUNING

You will notice that each string is marked with a number and a letter, No. 1-C, 2-D and so on and they are tuned the same as the Piano. The chords are tuned as follows:

No. 2 chord: 1st string Bass tuned one octave lower than 1. 2nd string tuned one octave lower than 5. 3rd string tuned same as 1. 4th string tuned same as 3.

No. 2 chord. 1st string 2 octaves lower than 5. 2nd string 1 octave lower than 5. 3rd, one octave lower than 7. 4th same as 2.

3rd chord. 1st one octave lower than 4. 2nd one octave lower than 6. 3rd same as 1. 4th same as 4.

4th chord. 1st one octave lower than 2. 2nd one octave lower than 6. 3rd same as 2. 4th same as 4 but sharpened.

Unless you are familiar with other instruments or the Piano DO NOT ATTEMPT TO TUNE UNTIL YOU HAVE CONSULTED SOME ONE WHO CAN SHOW YOU HOW. IT IS BEST TO HAVE IT TUNED BY A TUNER AND AFTER IT HAS BEEN PLAYED FOR A SHORT TIME AND THE STRINGS BECOME SET IT WILL STAY TUNED FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD.

Instructions for Playing and Tuning Sheet 2

Till We Meet Again

Exercise No. 8

Bow | 8 9 | 10 9 8 | 9 8 7 | 8 6 | 5 | 8 7 8

Chord | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1

Bow | 9 10 11 | 10 | 10 9 | 10 7 6 | 7 8 | 9 8 7

Chord | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1

Bow | 8 7 8 | 9 7 5 | 6 7 8 | 9 | 9

Chord | 1 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 2

CHORUS

Bow | 10 8 | 5 10 | 9 8 9 8 | 7 | 9 7 | 5 11

Chord | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2

Bow | 10 9 10 9 | 8 | 8 7 | 6 8 | 5 8 | 10 | 10 9

Chord | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2

Bow | 8 6 | 7 8 | 9 9 | 10 8 | 5 10 | 9 8 9 8

Chord | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2

Bow | 7 | 9 7 | 5 11 | 10 9 10 9 | 8 8

Chord | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1

Bow | 8 7 | 6 8 | 5 8 | 10 | 9 6 | 8 7 | 8

Chord | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 1

Numbered music can be purchased from J. Shick Co., 962 3d Ave., New York, N. Y., at 10 cents per sheet.

Sheet music for "Till We Meet Again."

Instrument.....

Manufacturer's Five Year Guarantee

We hereby Guarantee any Instrument Manufactured by us for a period of Five Years against any defects in material and workmanship and will repair or replace any defective Instrument returned to us.

Any broken strings returned to us accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope, will be replaced free of charge.

Any Instrument returned to us will be tuned Free of Charge. Transportation charges to be paid on Instruments returned.

Our Reference:
First National Bank
Fort Smith, Ark.

F. G. HEISER MFG. CO.
Fort Smith, Ark.

5-Year Guarantee

Packers Ticket

Date.....

Your Order No. Our Order No.

Quantity

Packed by *M R*

Inspected & Checked by *J*

POSITIVELY NO CLAIMS
regarding contents of this package will be allowed unless we are notified IMMEDIATELY on receipt of merchandise and such claim accompanied by this PACKERS TICKET.

Packers Ticket

Elvis Presley Inducted Into Army at Fort Chaffee

By Amelia Martin

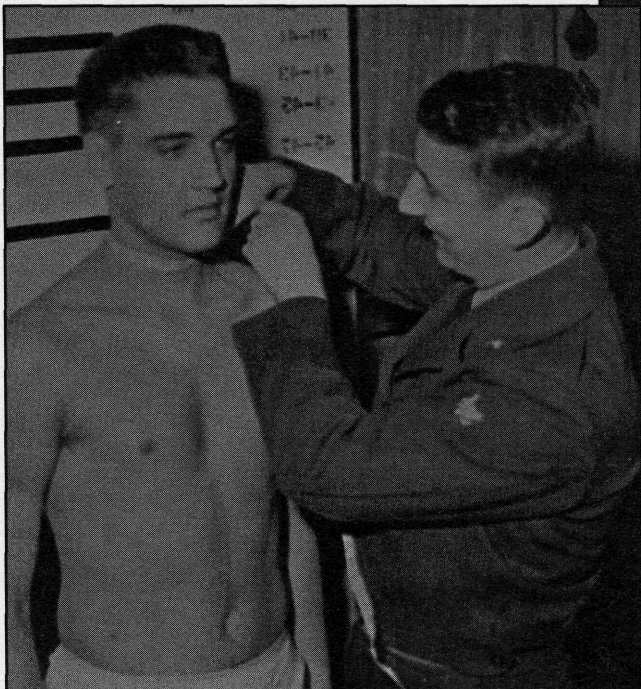
Elvis Presley, multi-million-dollar-per-year entertainer, arrived at Fort Chaffee on March 24, 1958 by chartered Greyhound bus from Tennessee, along with 21 other men to be inducted into the U. S. Army. Presley was in charge of the group.

While at Chaffee he underwent regular procedures, receiving the regulation army crew cut, olive drab uniforms and shots for tetanus, flu and typhoid. During days of army tests and procedures, while dogged by reporters and photographers, the smiling Presley remained genial and very polite – calling everyone “Sir”.

When he received the usual advance army pay and was asked what he was going to do with the \$7.00, he grinned and said “I don’t know, probably start a loan company.”



Elvis Presley and Captain Arlie Metheny at Fort Chaffee. Photo courtesy of Arlie Metheny.



New private Elvis Presley is measured for his uniforms, as he is inducted into the U.S. Army at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, in March 1958. Notice the haircut; Elvis' famous long ducktail hair has already been trimmed to regulation Army length. Photo courtesy of Jeanne Davis.

Presley was drafted in January of 1958 but received a 60-day deferment so that he could finish a movie.

A deluge of fan mail and telegrams poured into Fort Chaffee, including a telegram from Tennessee's Governor Frank Clement.

A radio station presented Elvis with two plaques for what they called the top songs of 1957: "Jailhouse Rock" and "All Shook Up."

In a press conference after being processed, Presley defended the type of music that brought him world-wide fame. "Rock 'n roll will never die out," he said emphatically. "Not just because I'm in it, but because it's something new in music."

Presley was assigned to Fort Hood, Texas for basic training.

"Tuskegee Airmen" Movie Film

By Barbara L. Webster, Publisher of the Lincoln Echo
(First Published in The Lincoln Echo, April, 1995)

There was lots of excitement around Fort Smith during the months of February and March, 1995, when the HBO film crew and Hollywood actors came to Fort Smith to film the movie, "The Tuskegee Airmen." Parts of the movie were filmed in Fort Smith, Fort Chaffee and Muskogee. Fort Chaffee was selected as one of the filming locations because of the variety of terrain, the options to work with/or without buildings, set construction savings, and production value.

The film stars Laurence Fishburne as Hannibal Lee, Cuba Gooding, Jr. as Billy Roberts, Malcolm Jamal Warner as Leroy Cappy and Allen Payne as Walter Peoples. Andre Braugher, "Glory," plays Col. Benjamin O. Davis, the first black general in the U. S. Air Force.

Magie Schmidt, managing publicist for HBO, Los Angeles Office and Audrey Fontaine, senior publicist for HBO, New York office, were on hand to tour me around the set at Fort Chaffee during the filming of this movie. They also permitted me

to talk with actors, producers and the HBO crew. Robert Carraro, producer of the movie, and also co-producer of such films as "The Walking Dead" and "Jason's Lyric," stated that a movie like this is "a long time coming." "The history of these Airmen is so powerful and noteworthy, he is surprised that it has been overlooked for so long." He also stated that it is almost impossible to cover the full history of the Airmen in this movie, so the focus is mostly on Robert W. Williams. Robert Williams is also a consultant on the film with Frank Price, Executive Producer.

I also had the privilege of conversing with Paris H. Qualles, producer of "Mantis," on FOX and co-producer of "Seaquest DSV," "Law and Order" NBC, and "Lois & Clark" ABC.

Mr. Qualles is the screenwriter and consultant on the film and is very excited about doing this project because his father, John Qualles, served as a Tuskegee Airman in 1945.

He stated that, "This film will help to dispel the myth that blacks lacked the ability for combat flying" "Finally it will give them the respect they deserved during the war and recognize them as being the best fighter pilots in history.

The film will also feature some of Fort Smith and Ft. Sill, Oklahoma's "budding acting extras." Those on the set working while I was there were, SSG Alonzo King, SFC Joseph A. Dunn, Octavian C. Martin, James Patrick Shepherd, Alan Stokes, Charles Scaife, all from Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and Michael Hodge and Leonard Housley, Jr., both from Fort Smith. They all had rotating roles such as, cadets, drill sergeants, jeep drivers, pilots and ground crew workers. Some of the other "extras" are also my colleagues, Regina Shoate and Harold Wilson, Jr., (Lincoln Echo), Carla Kirkwood and Sheila Branche (Beverly Enterprises). They, like myself, admit to having a great time and being thankful for the opportunity to participate in such a history making endeavor.



From Left to Right: Robert W. Williams, a Tuskegee Airman, in the cockpit of P51, speaks with actor, Laurence Fishburne, who stars in the HBO Pictures Presentation, THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN which finished photography in Muskogee, Oklahoma and Fort Smith, Arkansas. The TUSKEGEE AIRMEN debuted exclusively on HBO in late summer, 1995. Mr. Williams was co-executive producer of the film, which is based on his life experiences serving in the Army Air Corp from 1943 to 1945.

Fort Smith Musical Coterie

By Lorna Dickson Schultis

The following was an idea for presenting the history of our club at an orientation meeting in 1990. Information was obtained from existing minutes stored at the Fort Smith Public Library.

Nancy Huleatte, long-time member and wonderful musician, agreed to play "appropriate" music as I read.* We had fun presenting dry facts in a new and unusual way.

Nancy died the following year. She is missed as a friend, as well as a musician. I dedicate my rhyme of history to her memory.

Back in the year 1904, twenty-five ladies came to the fore
Dedicating themselves at the first meeting here
Of the MUSICAL CLUB organized that year.

*Kuhluau's Adagio movement from Sonatina Opus 20, No. 2

Rules were as follows (that have changed quite a bit ... and
We've managed to endure in spite of it.)
"Members must live here in Fort Smith;
Each must participate musically forthwith."

CLUB limit was twenty-five with vacancies filled
From the top of a list ... and only one shill
Could cancel that lady. Imagine the gall...
Not becoming a member via one little black ball!

If you could not perform on your given day
A fifty-cent fine you surely must pay.
The dues for each one were a monthly ten cents.
Your tardiness, however, was a nickel well spent.

The most dramatic rule, besides the Black Ball,
Was "No ragtime music could be played at all!"

*The Entertainer by Scott Joplin

Meetings were Saturdays in 1906.
Three Black Balls were necessary to nix
A proposed member of the Musical Coterie we became.
(A high-sounding group from the gist of the name.)

The roll was answered by a "musical event".
What did that mean? Did they answer in song?
Or run forward to play for however long?

Not much changed until World War One.
We paid a poll tax that was begun
To help "Our Boys" and keep us free.
We did our part for Democracy!

*America

The '20's brought less to fear
Though it took a while for programs to appear
In fancy books with selections named.
One strange rule was finally explained:

*Hello, My Baby

You answered the roll with "items of musical interest".
How frightening for a Coterie apprentice!
Tidbits of theory or song was the norm.
Wish we had audio of that roll-calling storm.

In the '30's we found twice a month would do
For meetings with programs by members new.
Esther Graham performed from '32 on;
Vivian Wood in '38 presented a Haydn song.
*Schubert's Andante from Impromptu Op 142, No. 3

Music in Home and Industry brought the '40's in.
And the President of '42 noted the sin.
Of meetings she missed because "too cold"
Or "rain" or "not at night. I'm just too old."

KFPW and KWHN were the meeting locale in the '50's.
Were some programs broadcast? That would have been nifty!
We moved to the "Y" in '55.
Two meetings a month still survived.

"Keyboard and Canvas" was one program done
By James Groves and friends ... and new members won
By a reception held, probably with cake.
This all took place in '58.

Meetings changed to Wednesdays in '64
To once a month or more
For there were concerts, teas, and such.
Membership didn't decline that much.

The '70's found Coterie faithfully meeting
Once a month and really competing
With family demands, part-time work,
Full-time jobs or duties at church.

The '80's revealed the need clearly
That the focus on programs had suffered dearly
As we tried to accommodate time and rehearsals.
Progress had dictated a Coterie reversal.

Into the '90's we've survived to decide
That our main focus continue to ride
On the considerable talent our young musicians bring
As NFMC* Junior Festival entrants at Westark each spring.

Three to four hundred will perform as required.
With pride and excitement they never get tired
Of earning those points for Good, Excellent, or Superior.
Coterie feels no effort can be considered inferior.

Promoting good music for listeners' ears
Has been Coterie's goal for ninety-five years.
For study and performance will always remain
As Fort Smith Musical Coterie's highest aim.

*National Federation of Music Clubs (Federated in 1906.)

Lucy Byrd Mock

By Dusty Helbling

My research on golf history in Arkansas began in 1996 when I moved to this state. Eddell Wortz gave me the name of Ted Darragh as a knowledgeable person on the subject. He told me he had heard about a seventeen year old girl from Prairie Grove who brought golf to Arkansas in 1893. She designed and built a five hole golf course on the old family plantation located two miles south of Prairie Grove. That was all he had been able to find out.

I visited the newspaper, library and a few of the older folks at Prairie Grove with very little results. Seems there were no living relatives left. The newspaper was not published then and very little seemed to be known about our seventeen year old Lucy Byrd Mock. She had left Arkansas in 1894 after graduating from the University of Arkansas at eighteen years old. Another problem was that yearbooks at the University of Arkansas did not begin until 1895. But I hit pay dirt at the University of Arkansas special collections department of the library that started the ball rolling.

Lucy Byrd Mock was vacationing in England and Scotland in the summer of 1893 when she learned to play golf, becoming so enthralled with the game that she brought a set of clubs and golf balls back with her to Prairie Grove when she returned home.

However her father, James Mock, was not about to give up any of his tillable farm land for such a frivolous venture. The Mock farm, "The Oaks," was located one mile west of town on Viney Grove Road. The house is still in good repair and occupied today.

Lucy (or "Birdie" as she was known to her friends), a brilliant student who entered the

University of Arkansas at the age of fourteen and graduated when she was eighteen in 1894, was not to be discouraged by a single set-back.

Instead, she appealed to her uncle, Doctor Will Mock, to let her build her golf course on the family's original plantation. Called Locust Dell Plantation, it was located two miles south of Prairie Grove on Mock Road. Doctor Mock and his plantation were well known for producing excellent thoroughbred race horses. Surviving to the ripe old age of 98, he rose to prominence as a surgeon practicing in Fayetteville.

Always astonished and amused by his niece, he quickly agreed to allow her to build her golf course, and even proffered the services of several of his hired hands to help with the work.

Birdie studied the terrain of the plantation and came up with a five-hole course design, and the work began.

The course was crude compared to today's manicured links: A farm pasture with tees and fairways cut shorter than the surrounding grass and the greens still shorter. Wet sand was used to mold tees by hand, so each tee box needed a bucket of sand and a bucket of water.

But finally the course was complete, and late in the summer of 1893, a group of Prairie Grove teenagers (Birdie and her friends)

played the first round of golf in the state of Arkansas.

Seventeen-year-old Birdie recorded many "firsts" in Arkansas golf history. The state's first golfer, its first golf instructor, the first golfer at the University of Arkansas, first teenager and the first woman in the world to build and design a golf course!

After graduating from the U. of A., Birdie moved to Seattle, Washington, where she pub-



Lucy "Birdie" Mock
Photo courtesy of University of
Arkansas Archives.

lished poetry books, a history of Seattle and her own magazine.

She became a poet of some renown. Her poem, "The Olympic Games Past, Present and Future" was displayed in Berlin stadium at the 1936 games, in which a fleet-footed black American named Jesse Owens put Hitler's "master race" to shame. The placard bearing Birdie's poem may be seen at the International Olympic Museum in Lausanne, Switzerland. A number of her poetry books were translated into French and German and were included in the libraries of some of Europe's royal families.

She wrote under the name of Byrd Mock, and used the mocking bird as her symbol.

After writing a health book in 1920, she moved to New York to work with a major publishing house as a reviewing editor. There she remained until the age of eighty, when she retired and returned to Arkansas. She lived in Eureka Springs with her brother, Thomas Patton Mock, who was also a noted poet.

Their home at 203 Spring Street, where she lived from 1955 to 1966, was called Mocking Bird

Hill by "Birdie". The house has been renovated into a rent-by-night cottage of "Edgewood Manor."

When "Birdie" died in 1966, the funeral home showed that she was in Fort Smith, yet they showed her home was still in Eureka Springs.

I recalled in my research that Dr. Mock was on the original board of the Methodist Nursing Home in Fort Smith. While considering she would be 90 years old then, she may have needed special care. This was probably the reason she was in Fort Smith as record showed she was placed there in April of 1966 and passed away November 17, 1966 at Sparks Hospital. Lucy Byrd Mock was buried November 19 next to family members at Prairie Grove Cemetery.

A strange twist to this story is that I may have seen and spoken to this lady while she was at the Methodist Nursing Home as I visited there weekly during the summer of 1966.

I submitted Lucy Byrd Mock's nomination into the Arkansas' Golf Hall of Fame. She was selected and inducted April 3, 1999 along with three others, including golf legend Bryon Nelson.

Memories . . .

Paul Flippen of Beggs, Oklahoma, observes:

"In reading about the theaters of days gone by in Fort Smith, I noticed no mention of two theaters in use during World War II.

"The Fort Smith Theater was located just west of Sixth Street on the southside of Garrison and The Uptown was west of Fifth on the north side of Garrison.

"My dad, Frank Flippen, worked as a stage hand at the Princess Theater at Eighth and Garrison."

(From undated column by Tom Blake in the *Southwest Times Record*.)

The Sky Vue Drive-In on Midland Boulevard – a Fort Smith landmark for 36 years, is being torn down to make way for new developments on the 8.5-acre site.

The drive-in was closed in May 1986.

Workers finished digging up the speakers at the old outdoor theatre, which in its heyday would be filled with 400 cars.

The Sky Vue's marquee, which advertised the drive-in's last movies – "Death Wish" and Texas Chainsaw Massacre II" more than a year ago – was demolished Thursday.

Opened in 1950 by J. Fred Brown, the Sky Vue was the last of several Fort Smith drive-in movies to eventually succumb to competition from new theaters with their multiple screens, video cassette rentals, home satellite receivers and cable television.

(Abstracted from article by Linda Seubold from *Southwest Times Record* dated November 7, 1987)

MEMORIAL AND COMMEMORATIVE GIFTS IMPORTANT TO THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

When making a gift to honor or remember someone important to you, please remember the Fort Smith Historical Society. Gifts may be made in memory of a loved one, or in honor of a birthday, graduation, anniversary, or other event. Memorial gifts are acknowledged with a letter to both the donor and the family of the person honored. Gifts may be made in any amount.

Tent Show, Opera, Silent Movie Vaudeville, Road Show and C.A. Lick

By Jimmie Barry

In the beginning there were tent shows and opera houses. Then came silent moving pictures which caused the building of thousands of theaters that were not opera houses. Progress followed.

To spice things up, a half hour of entertainment was added to the movie. This was called vaudeville and consisted of singers, solo and small group instrumentalists, comedians, performing animals, acrobats, jugglers, dancers and magicians. Usually three to six acts filled the half hours.

Finally came the road shows. The most successful shows on Broadway traveled to the largest cities in private railroad cars. Sometimes it was the original company after two or three months run. In other cases, a second company was formed to go on the road. Critics often said that the road company was better than the original.

That's where Chauncey Lick came in. His Weldon, Williams & Lick Printing Company printed most of the tickets and his New Theater was the largest standard theater in this part of the United States. Curtains, props and everything would fit and work the same as on Broadway.

All of the big shows played Fort Smith. Railroading meant that your eyes and ears got full of cinders and your nose full of smoke. Jumps from St. Louis to Kansas City to Fort Smith to Dallas were perfect. And, most important, Chauncey Lick was here – one of the best known men in show business. He could take care of anything or get your check cashed for any amount.

Our family went to nearly all of the road shows. My father's law office was next to John E. Devlin's insurance office. After early morning mass, Mr. Devlin would get in the line at the New Theater and buy choice tickets at lowest prices.

I remember Charles H. Wiseman, the doorman at the New Theater. He had a long white beard and little children were always asking their mothers if he was Santa Claus.

Mr. Lick was a charming character, but he hurt my feelings. Although a teenager, I was in the radio business, a member of the Chamber of Commerce (Ray Gill manager) and considered

myself almost grown up. I spoke to him in the living room of the Pines on my way back to service Mrs. Lick's radio set. He said, "Don't call me Mr. Lick. Call me Grumpy. All the other kids call me that." I called him Grumpy as long as he lived.

He signed his name with a bunch of scribbles and printed C. A. Lick underneath. I asked him about this. He said, "people I do business with in distant cities want to be certain it is my signature on a contract ... I have told them about a tiny detail of the scribbles. Nobody else would notice it but they know what to look for."

The same Railroad conditions that caused road shows to put Fort Smith on their schedules brought the big circuses here. Of course, Mr. Lick was a strong influence too, because his company printed their tickets.

Old Fort Smith was tops in show business.

Looking Back

The New Era, Thursday, April 3, 1884.

"The Chatauqua held a very pleasant meeting Monday night at the residence of Mr. J.H. Hamilton, and after the lesson, elected an assistant secretary in the person of Misi Josie Perkins."

The New Era, Thursday, May 1, 1884.

"The Chatauqua Society celebrated the anniversary of Shakespeare's birthday, on Tuesday evening at the residence of Col. Wm. M. Cravens. The evening's exercises were extremely entertaining and very much enjoyed by all present."

The New Era, Thursday, May 1, 1884.

"The Charlotte Thompson Company will be here on May 19th and 20th, and will play at the Academy of Music. This company is a first class one and the plays to be presented are standard favorites, such as Camille, Jane Eyre and East Lynne. Secure seats early as they are rapidly being taken."

Culture Lost With Passing Of Chautauqua Era

By Frances Somers
Southwest Times Record Lifestyles Editor
(December 18, 1983)

Before the age of radio and long before the advent of radio, speakers and entertainers like William Jennings Bryan, Winston Churchill and Barry Fitzgerald toured the U. S. delivering inspirational and educational messages.

Lucile Wall of Methodist Village in Fort Smith helped book many of these performers.

They were part of the "Chautauqua Movement," a collection of cultural fairs held each summer in towns across the country.

The fairs were usually booked for one or two weeks into small towns and featured readings, lectures, plays and music. They were modeled after the "Chautauqua Assembly" the annual summer educational and recreational program for adults which began in 1874 in the southwestern lakeside New York town of Chautauqua (pronounced sha-tok-wa).

"It was started by a group of New Yorkers. It was set up for entertainment," Wall said. "And then someone who couldn't get to Lake Chautauqua decided to take it on the road." After graduating from business college, Wall began working as a booking agent for the Brown and White Bureau out of Kansas City in 1922. ("That was the name of the two men who owned it, Mr. Brown and Mr. White.")

Her job was to get the town to sponsor the Chautauqua; the town would then sell tickets.

One time she found herself in Jamestown, Tenn., face to face with one of the most celebrated soldiers of World War I, Sergeant Alvin Cullum York, credited with bringing in an entire enemy battalion with the help of only a handful of men.

"He was very, very nice, very courteous. I told him I'd like to have his signature along with the other merchants and doctors and lawyers in town," Wall said.

"He was such a religious man. He told me 'Miss Wall I can't sign it, because I see on the pro-

gram there will be some dancers' and he said 'I can't support that.'"

Sometimes schools or organizations sponsored the Chautauqua, but often the sponsors were small groups of leading citizens.

The "Chautauqua Movement," encompassed the Great War and patriotism was at a peak. Many of the speakers on the circuits were military figures and often their messages were "uplifting," according to John Ferguson, director of the Arkansas History Commission in Little Rock.

"In Arkansas, newspapers were full of chautauqua billings. Backers thought of it as something with cultural significance to uplift and inspire the people patriotically and otherwise," Ferguson said.

"One of the speakers was former Arkansas Gov. Charles Brough. He spoke about the glory of the old South and the grandeur of the new. It was a hopeful sort of thing. He was quite an Arkansas booster. He used to say that Arkansas was the only state that could build a wall around itself and still live comfortably."

Another lecturer was Capt. Richmond Pearson Hobson, captain of the iron ship Merrimac (renamed Virginia) involved in a battle with the Monitor during the Civil War.

Hobson received top billing in a news story dated June 5, 1903, in "The Fort Smith Elevator." "A program rich and rare has been prepared ... presenting illustrious speakers, whose names are familiar household words in old Chautauqua centers, among them Capt. Hobson of Merrimac fame, the facile and pleasing Lou J. Beauchamp, the widely-known Col. Copeland, Dr. Samuel Phelps Leland, who presents science in the most popular and pleasing forms, Dr. W. A. College, a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society of England, and renowned experts in wireless telegraphy and liquid air, X-ray lectures and other features in popular science."

The program also featured lectures and classes in athletics for girls; lectures on domestic science, civic improvement and a special ladies' day program. There were also numerous musical performances, including the "celebrated male quartette of the University of Missouri, who will sing at every session the entire week, rendering college dialect and character songs in costume."

Some well-known local people also were billed. "Father Horan, who has made a profound study of Dante's 'Divine Comedy,' will lecture on Italy's great poet.." and "President Hartzog of the University of Arkansas will speak on the 'Arkansas Traveller.'"

But the lecture by Capt. Hobson drew the largest crowd. "Several thousand persons" came to hear the hero of the Merrimac."

"Captain Hobson's address was altogether practical. It depicted the United States as they exist, as virtually the arbiter of the world's destinies, but without that which must be their greatest defense and their greatest power in the role they will be called upon to perform – an adequate navy. The most intense patriotism permeated the address, and its almost every word was instructive. It gave those who heard it much to think about," the reporter wrote.

The Chautauqua that year was held in the auditorium in McLoud Park, no longer in existence. There were playhouses for the children, "rest tents for the women and children and smoking tents for the men, with daily papers, etc."

"For the amusement of the boys and those in search of a lighter form of recreation there will be a ten minute exhibition ... of expert bicycle riding, called the 'cycle whirl,'" the article said. At 25 cents a session or \$2 for an adult ticket for the week (half price for children), prices posed no hardship. And the railroad helped out by offering lowered rates for patrons who came in from Little Rock, Muskogee, Paris and Springfield.

Jean Montague, a retired school teacher and friend of Wall's who also lived in Methodist Village, remembers attending the programs. Her mother, who attended the original "Chautauqua Assembly" in New York, passed on an appreciation for the programs.

Often the speakers and performers also would stay in homes of townspeople, Wall added. She was put up in several homes as she traveled on different chautauqua circuits. During her career as a booking agent Wall scheduled programs for Chautauqua and Lyceum, another educational

program offered only in the winter months., and she worked for the Southwestern Music and Lecture Bureau out of Dallas from 1927-1932, scheduling performances to visit towns every six weeks or so during the school year.

Wall also was emcee at opening Chautauqua sessions. Some of the people she remembers meeting include Winston Churchill, James Shera Montgomery, chaplain of the House of Representatives during President Harding's term. Charles Brandon Booth of the Salvation Army, a descendant of William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, Nellie Ross, director of U. S. Mint; composer Thurlow Lieurance, who wrote "By the Waters of Minnetonka"; violinist Efrom Zimbalist Sr.; opera star Mary Lewis; and Bohumir Kryl, a coronetist who was famous for "triple tonguing."

"The performances were at night. We would have a lot of idle time after the Chautauqua started. There was nothing for us to do but enjoy it. So I had time with these people," Wall said.

Kryl, who directed the Navy band in the Great Lakes during World War I, decided after meeting Wall that he wanted her to do his band's booking.

"I thought I'd have to pretend that I knew everything about every instrument in the band," she said. Wall worked for him for one season out of Chicago, booking the band into small fairs in Michigan.

"I met so many fine people," she said. "William Jennings Bryan was wonderful. He was my mother's idol I have one brother named for him."

The "greatest" engagement of all, however, was The Abby Theater players from Dublin, Ireland. They were performing "The fair-haired Boy of the Western World," later to be known as "Playboy of the Western World," a satire on the rugged and naive life on the remote Aran Islands, off the coast of Ireland. It was their first American tour in 14 years.

The troupe included actor Barry Fitzgerald and actress Maureen O'Sullivan.

The Abbey Theatre players were a smash hit. Even the "Dallas Morning News" critic who found every other performance sour (he never had a good word for anything that came) said they were the one perfect thing that had ever come to Dallas.

The coming of radio, the availability of cars and improved roads brought an end to the "Chautauqua Movement." It began to wane because people could go places they couldn't go before.

By 1930 Chautauquas had all but fizzled out.

State's First Races Staged in Fort Smith

DuVal Establishes Track in 1825 and Pioneers Raised Best Horses in South For Long Period of Years

One of the first race tracks in the state of Arkansas was located in Fort Smith.

William DuVal, who came from West Virginia in 1825, laid out the first race track in this locality, according to an interview given a newspaper reporter by his son, the late Colonel Ben T. DuVal, circa 1886.

Long before the development of the sport into gambling schemes the Fort Smith Jockey club was formed.

The meeting of the Jockey Club was a time for general hilarity and enjoyment. Hugh L. Rogers, Charles B. Johnson, Colonel William Dickson, Colonel Garrett, agent for the Creek Indians, William Dickson of Fort Gibson, Captain W. Turnstall, John Drennen and other men of prominence, went into the training of fine horses. All were fond of the sport, and all owners of fine thoroughbreds. Many races were splendid exhibitions of speed and endurance.

Various Clubs Formed

The race track established by William DuVal was in the vicinity of what is now Greenwood Avenue. There was no jockeying then. Everything was on the square and all races were run on their merits. The sport had not developed into gambling schemes.

Mr. DuVal, a native of Maryland and a resident of West Virginia before coming to Fort Smith, brought from Virginia fine blooded horses. He was an ardent lover of fine stock and was fond of regular or turf racing, but never ventured more than the entrance fee, not being disposed to bet.

Clubs similar to the Jockey Club were organized at Little Rock, Batesville and Van Buren, but Fort Smith's was the first, according to Colonel

Duval, who gave a history of the early racing days in this city, when he delivered the opening address at the Sixth annual Western Arkansas fair in Fort Smith in October, 1885.

There were regular spring and fall meetings, lasting four or five days.

War Ends Races

This must have been a terrible strain and cruel to the horses, because many entries and drawn heats sometimes made three and four heats necessary.

Major Elias Rector, Colonel Drennen and William DuVal were the chief raisers of fine stock in this section.

With the bursting of the paper bubble and the consequent ruin and bankruptcy, the regular races ceased. The love of pure stock was not destroyed, and until the War Between the States broke up all the industrial pursuits of the country, there were many fine horses raised in Western Arkansas, and there occasionally was some fine racing on the old track.

All this was recalled by Ben T. DuVal when he made an address at the fair opening, five years after establishment of the fair association in 1880 and the building of a fair ground race track. The Jockey Club had existed half a century before that time.

From *Southwest Times Record*, July 19, 1936

Memorial and Commemorative Gifts Important to the Historical Society

When making a gift to honor or remember someone important to you, please remember the Fort Smith Historical Society. Gifts may be made in memory of a loved one, or in honor of a birthday, graduation, anniversary, or other event. Memorial gifts are a beautiful and lasting way to honor those who are dear to us. All memorials and commemorative gifts are acknowledged with a letter to both the donor and the family of the person honored. Gifts may be made in any amount.

Historic Oak Cemetery

By Charles Raney, Assistant Director of Community Services, City of Fort Smith

This is the first in a series of articles about Oak Cemetery. The Oak Cemetery Commission and the City of Fort Smith are making a strong effort to preserve the history of the cemetery, to add new amenities needed by the users of the cemetery, and to educate all ages about the historical contributions those buried in Oak Cemetery have made toward the development and growth of our area.

Future articles will provide updates on the cemetery activities and will tell the individual stories of those resting there. From 1842 to present, there are nearly 15,000 stories to choose from.

We need the help of area residents, friends and families of those buried in Oak Cemetery to provide copies of photographs, articles, facts or first hand knowledge about residents of our historic cemetery, "LEST WE FORGET"! Contact Chuck Raney, 501-784-2353, if you can be of help.

In year 2000, if funds are available, a new Sexton House will be built. Incorporated into the

design are areas for records storage and a museum for pictures and artifacts pertaining to residents of Oak Cemetery. Design will match the new Pavilion, with adjacent Memorial Garden, pictured below and constructed in 1998.

A new gate and fencing on the east side of the cemetery along South 31st street is now under construction. "Tales of the Crypt", presented in Oak Cemetery on May 31, 1999 drew a record crowd of 1,234 and many were from outside the state. This will be an annual event and is one of the most entertaining and educational programs about our history conducted in the area.

We are working on an Outlaw and Marshal Tour. Of the 79 men hung by Judge Parker, 34 are now known to reside in Oak Cemetery. The latest research shows that 45 marshals, deputies, jailers and bailiffs make Oak their resting place.

Latest research also shows that Oak Cemetery is home to 122 confederate soldiers. Research continues. More records have recently been found and future articles will discuss items of interest to all of us.



Oak
Cemetery
Pavilion
and
Memorial
Garden

St. John's Episcopal Church

Fort Smith, Arkansas

Contributed by St. John's Church

The history of Saint John's Episcopal Church at 215 North Sixth Street in Fort Smith, Arkansas, goes back to the year 1838, when the Right Reverend Leonidas Polk was consecrated Missionary Bishop of Arkansas, Indian Territory, Alabama, Mississippi and Texas. This was the same year in which the army post became permanent.

Bishop Polk, in 1838, visited Fort Smith and baptized two of the children of Major and Mrs. Elias Rector. This is the first known visitation of an official of the Episcopal Church to Fort Smith.

In 1844, George Washington Freeman was made Missionary Bishop to Arkansas and the Indian Territory. He preached in Fort Smith on May 1, 1845. Later that year, in Little Rock, he met the Reverend Charles C. Townsend, a missionary from Bowling Green, Kentucky who wanted a position. With Bishop Freeman, Townsend went to Fort Smith and together they held services on Tuesday evening, November 25, 1845. Townsend seemed acceptable to the small group of Episcopalians then living here, and Bishop Freeman appointed him as missionary to this station on December 9, 1845.

This begins the history of the Episcopal Church in Fort Smith. Records show that services of the church were conducted in the garrison, where a very spacious room was elegantly fitted up with seats and pulpit by the officers of the U. S. Army expressly for the Episcopal

Church, however, the first sermon was delivered in the dining room of the City Hotel, owned by Captain John Rogers.

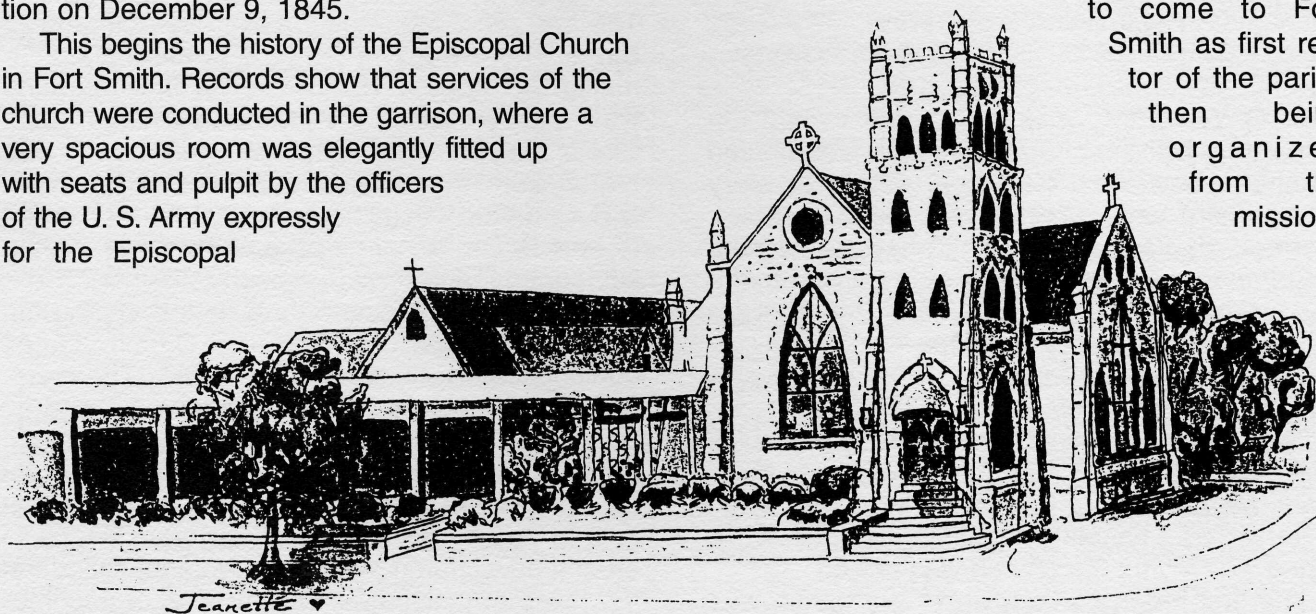
For the next several years, things did not go too well toward establishing the Church. Townsend established a school and divided his preaching time between Fort Smith and Van Buren, having services in each place on alternate Sundays. Some services were also held in the school house on North 5th and A Streets. The group, at that time, was called "All Saints".

By 1848 there was a fair-sized congregation and it was steadily growing. A Sunday School had been established and was doing well.

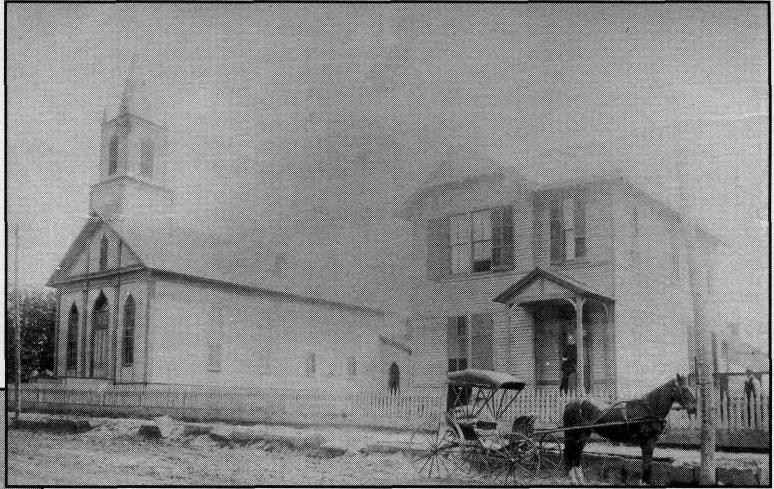
In 1852 the Reverend Charles Townsend was relieved of his commitments in Fort Smith and appointed to serve Van Buren only, where he had taken up residence.

Fort Smith was without permanent clergy until 1859, when the Reverend William Binet assumed temporary charge. After Bishop Freeman's death in 1859, Henry Champlin Lay became Missionary Bishop of the Southwest and took up residence in Fort Smith. At his persuasion, the Reverend John

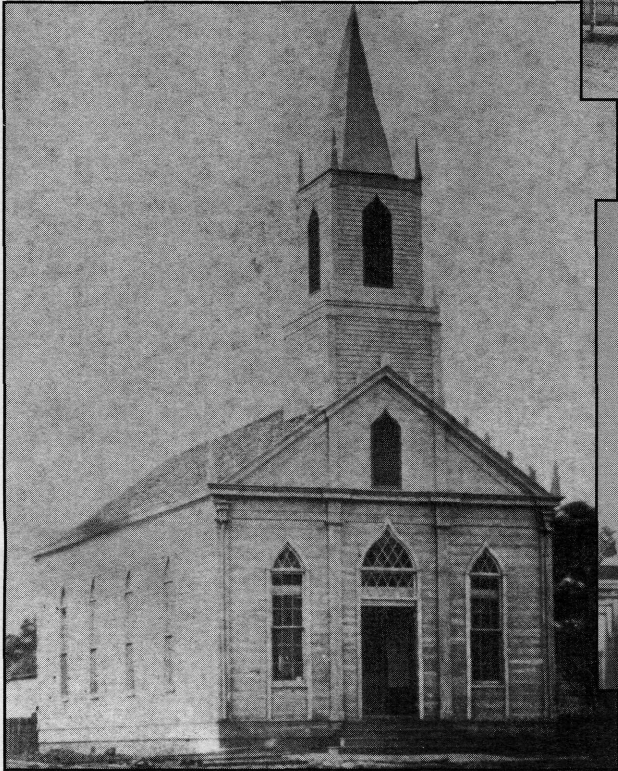
Sandels was induced to come to Fort Smith as first rector of the parish then being organized from the mission.



A church building was started in 1859 and completed in 1860 on land donated by Mr. George Birnie at the corner of the streets then known as Knox (now 6th) and Sycamore (now C), the church facing C Street. There is a tradition that the worthy donor of the grounds requested, and may have made it a condition, that the sittings in the church should be forever free. This request has been sacredly honored through the years.



Frame church and rectory about 1887.



Frame church in the 1870's.



Interior of frame church.

O. C. Word, Sr., who had earlier owned the property where the church was built, contributed the church bell. The bell's history carries the story of workmen, who, when it had been uncrated, informed Mr. Word that it would have to be sent back because it was cracked, not realizing that it was a replica of the famous Liberty Bell of history. The church building was of frame and with various additions and repairs was used until the present structure was built. It was razed in 1901.

The Reverend Sandels was rector of St. John's from 1860 until 1870, with the exception of three years, March 1863 to November 26, 1866, when he served as a chaplain in the Confederate Army, during which time the church was closed.

The first recorded baptism of the parish was Franklin Frederick Bollinger on March 10, 1860.

The first recorded communicant was George S. Birnie. There were 11 persons in the first confirmation on August 19, 1860. The first marriage was May 8, 1860, Charles Axman and Anna Sibilla Meyers. The first recorded burial was March 26, 1861, Major Francis Nelson Page, U.S.A., retired. On January 7, 1866, the Reverend Robert B. Cross opened the church and Bishop Lay confirmed several persons.

There was a succession of rectors during the following decade. In 1886, the church bought additional property and built a rectory. The rectory was completed in the same year, and in December, 1886, the Reverend George Degen became rector. Through the years, the women of St. John's have played a prominent part in its history. In about 1887, preparations were begun to erect a new church. A circle of women, called the "B's" was organized for the purpose of accumulating funds for building. Among their activities



First Easter in new church around 1900.

was the first "Woman's Exchange" operated in town. Before the circle was disbanded, they had amassed a fund, that, with interest, amounted to \$2,000 a few years later, which enabled the rector and vestry to put in the foundation of the present church building.

With the assistance of these faithful workers, the Reverend Degen founded the first hospital in this part of the State in July, 1887, St. John's Hospital. It was maintained for years until its mergence with Belle Point Hospital, and later, Sparks Hospital, now renamed Sparks Regional Medical Center.

It was a doctor who realized the need for a hospital here, a Dr. W. W. Bailey, who was a surgeon for the Frisco Railway, and an Episcopalian. Dr. Bailey needed to amputate the leg of an accident victim and there was no place to do this. The Rev. Degen, with the help of the women of the church, started this hospital on North Second Street in the old Atkinson home. It is interesting to note that later, when Sparks Hospital was about to close due to operating deficits, an Episcopalian, Dr. Charles S. Holt, took over the management of the hospital and it has grown steadily ever since.

The pastor who succeeded the Reverend George Degen, the Reverend Wm. T. Allen, pressed for the construction of the new church. Under his charge, the walls were erected after the old frame church had been moved back on the alley to clear the way for a brick or stone building on the corner. Finally, the chancel and sanctuary were completed under the charge of the Reverend Angus A. Robertson, and the church was first used. Later, the interior walls and ceiling

were finished and the first pews were bought. The new church edifice opened for worship on Easter Day, April 15, 1900. The tower of the church was completed February, 1912, through the efforts of St. Monica's Chapter and friends.

The first wedding in the new church was in the year 1900, when Miss Lilly Baum was married to Mr. Commodore D. Chandler. The first pipe organ was installed when the Reverend Caleb B. K. Week was rector 1903-06. It was estimated to have been built about 1870 and was purchased by St. John's in 1904. Repairs were made from time to time until repair was no longer feasible, and at a cost of over \$22,000 a new organ of 1,553 pipes and a three

manual console was put into use on November 15, 1953, dedicated by Bishop R. Bland Michell on November 22, 1953. In 1985 Dr. Samuel Koenig donated a harpsichord that he built to enhance the music of St. John's. It was the women who purchased the land next to the church property. This land and home was originally owned by Mr. and Mrs. O. C. Word and later by Mr. and Mrs. Spinks. This became the parish house.

About 1867 there was a Ladies' Society, composed of the women of the parish. Later, the Ladies' Society of St. John's Church was organized, March 1884. The rectory was commenced in May, 1886 and completed in August. A history of this society, with a list of names of members and other papers pertaining to the church were placed in the cornerstone of the new church, May 20, 1898. Through the efforts of St. Monica's Chapter and friends, the tower of the church was completed February, 1912 as a memorial to the Reverend John Sandels, first rector of the parish, 1859-1870.

The remarkable stained glass windows in the church relate the story of Christ's birth, life and resurrection with wondrous illustrations that envelope the sanctuary. The story of the leaders and ardent supporters of St. John's can be found in the windows' dedicatory inscriptions. The original four windows were commissioned in Belgium in 1898 and are dedicated to the men and women who brought not only peace and fortune to the small fort town, but also the conviction of their faith.

There is a beautiful stained glass window put in the church by the St. Monica and St. Anna Chapters, as a memorial to each chapter. The

Reverend Degen, in 1887, changed the name of Ladies' Society to Woman's Chapter of St. John's Guild. In 1891 he divided the chapter. The original members of married women became St. Monica Chapter of St. John's Guild. The daughters of the original Chapter, and young women, to be called St. Anna Chapter of St. John's Guild. He also formed other chapters. The Woman's Auxiliary was organized in 1919. The Sunday school of St. John's during the early days deserves special mention as an important factor in the growth of the church. Major P. K. Roots was the painstaking and efficient superintendent of the largest Sunday school in the town, the roll much of the time numbering several hundred. Mrs. William M. Fishback was a faithful Sunday school worker and in recognition of her work, the Sunday school gave brass Altar vases as a memorial in her honor.

A young girl's guild, which consisted of 12 or 14 girls, was organized during the pastorate of the Reverend Joseph L. Berne (1881-85). During the first few years of organization, they provided the brass candlesticks for the altar and also the silver communion service.

In the chapel there is an interesting stained glass window depicting a girl playing a piano. This was the first music teacher in Indian Territory. Judge Isaac Parker underwrote her. The window is in memory of Josephine Bard Jackson, 1866-1908.

On April 10, 1910, a window, "In Memoriam Rev. Wm. Bruce McPherson", was unveiled and dedicated. The Rev. McPherson was rector from 1907-08 and died while in charge of the parish. The altar was placed in memory of Mrs. Mary Preston and Mrs. Ann Swift by the children of Mrs. Swift.

Two iron grill gates were installed on the Sixth Street side of the church in 1958 from which the garden, the parish house and the church are easily accessible. These were a memorial to Dr. Charles S. Holt. In 1961 new lighting was installed in the church in memory of Sam B. Hutton.

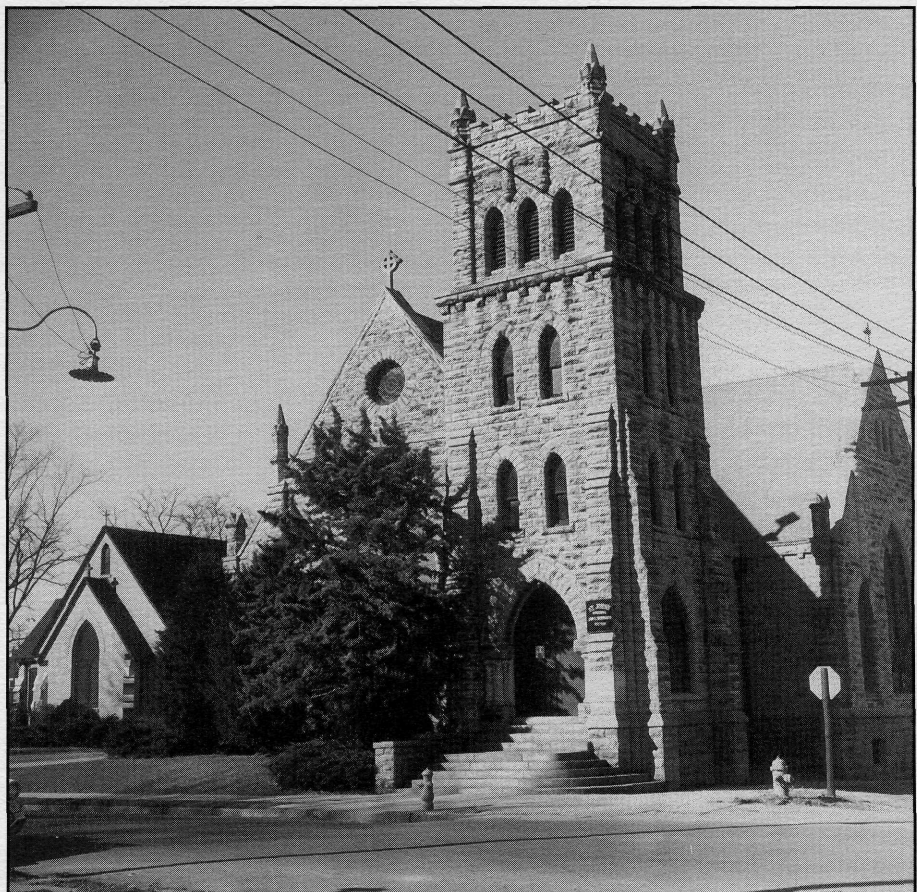
The Lathrop memorial Window, from the many friends of the Reverend Carleton D. Lathrop, pictures St. John, Evangelist and Apostle, Patron

Saint of the parish, and was installed in July, 1960. The Stephens Memorial Windows depict St. Matthew and St. Mark and were given by Arrow Foundation in memory of Mrs. E. S. Stephens (Marie). The St. Luke window was given in memory of Joe H. Ballman in May, 1960. These four windows were all made by the same studio in New York in 1961. A new altar rail was installed in 1969 as a memorial to Virginia Hinton Thompson.

In 1971, doors were installed leading from the vestibule to the church as a memorial to Mina P. Caldwell and Walter O. Caldwell. Chambers Hallway was added to the Sunday school wing in 1983. The bookstore at St. John's was opened for business in 1992. It outgrew its original location and was relocated in 1998 to two of the Sunday school rooms that were combined for this purpose. It was named the Blanche O. Caldwell Memorial Bookstore. The remaining Sunday school rooms have been refurbished.

A pair of 3-step floor candelabra were given in memory of William Robert Pape and pews and kneelers installed in the chapel in memory of Henrietta B. Pape.

When the parish house was built in 1937, the two-story rectory had to be moved. The building



Church and parish house in 1956.

once stood on the lot just back of the church. Without disturbing its architecture, it was moved to be adjacent to the church on Sixth Street and was then moved to the south side of the church property in order for the new parish house to adjoin the church.

There has usually been a publication at St. John's. The following are found among the church records: a monthly publication known as "The Parishioner" was first published in March, 1880, with the Reverend C. H. Newman, the rector at that time, as editor. In March, 1990, "The Messenger", published six times a year, was published at St. John's and was a medium of communication for the church in western Arkansas, with the Venerable W. D. Williams, D.D. as editor.

Each of these publications carried items of interest to the parishioners, as well as advertising by quite a few of the businesses in operation at that time – some of which are still in business today. "St. John's Record" appears as early as 1888 and as late as April, 1912. This was published monthly by St. Margaret's Guild of St. John's Parish. The Reverend Edwin F. Wilcox was editor. This paper was distributed free at the church doors from October to June.

In February, 1924, "Saint John's Messenger", issued weekly, became the official church publication, with the Reverend Malcolm W. Lockhart, editor in chief. It was revived in February, 1941, as a bi-monthly publication.

During the years of World War II, a Soldier's Lounge was maintained at St. John's and meals were served on Sunday evenings. A War Mother's Guild was organized in 1942. The church was given an allowance by the Army and Navy Fund Commission, some of which was used for furnishings for the lounge. Reading and writing materials and games were kept on hand. In the beginning, the lounge was open only on Sundays, later it was open daily. 124 of the members of St. John's

entered the service. With Camp Chaffee nearby, soldiers attendance at St. John's picked up the slack in the congregation caused by the members in service. Five of the men of St. John's were killed in action. The organ chimes are a memorial to these men.

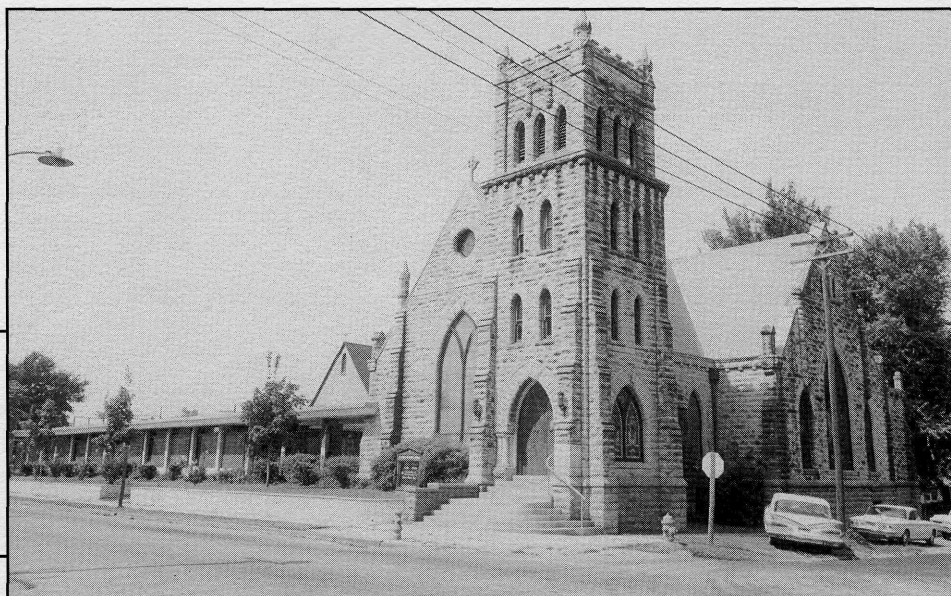
The Reverend Carleton Day Lathrop came to St. John's on May 1, 1930 and served for the next 25 years. This is the longest term of leadership in the parish. Mr. Lathrop retired August 6, 1955. Under his leadership, the church, which had been struggling under a debt of several thousand dollars, became debt-free and many improvements were made. The church was consecrated as being completely debt-free on December 20, 1936. The new brick parish house was built south of and adjoining the church in 1937. In 1957-58 a large addition was made, more than doubling the classroom and office space. In 1961, the Garth Garden was installed and landscaping done. A statue of St. Francis was placed in the garden by the employees of Weldon, Williams and Lick, Inc. as a memorial to Annis Mowen Lick in 1971.

The Reverend John Earl Shoemaker became rector in September 1955 and served until June 1, 1967. A centennial celebration recognizing the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Parish of St. John's was observed in 1960.

In 1965, two corner lots on Sixth Street were bought for use as additional parking space.

On September 1, 1967, the Reverend Charles T. Chambers, Jr. became rector of St. John's Church. At this time a new rectory was purchased at 3216 South 35th Street. It was later purchased by Reverend-Chambers.

Present day church and parish house and Sunday School.



In the early 1970's an extensive refurbishing program took place. New pews and new carpeting were installed in the church. Carpeting and new furnishings were installed in the parish house and offices, along with new kitchen floor covering. In 1982 the sacristy, the priest's robing room and the acolyte room were redesigned and carpeted. The church and parish house were repainted inside and out.

The pulpit and lecturn have been given in memory of Sarah Martin McDonough and James Buchanan McDonough. (Sarah was the sister of Wolsey Randall Martin, father of Wolsey Lanier Martin, July 24, 1887 - July 18, 1893) in whose memory the font was given. Wolsey Randall Martin is the grandfather of Mary Jule Crouse, Randall Viguier, and Sue Cross, members of St. John's Church 1998.

In 1993 the columbarium was established and the garth redesigned to its present state. The kitchen was totally redone in 1994. The Secrest Building, across the street on the south side of the parking lot, was purchased and refurbished as additional space for youth and an outreach ministry in 1994.

During 1995-1996, a Capital Funds Campaign was successfully conducted and following work was completed: oak floors were installed in the church with carpet runners, the church and chapel walls were repaired and painted, cabinet work, painting and new floors installed in the sacristy, vesting room and acolyte rooms, new sound system installed, new heating and air conditioning installed in the church and chapel, electrical system updated, a new Wicks organ was purchased and the organ console and choir area were relocated. Also, within this time span, a tornado damaged the Secrest Building and repairs were made. The choir room was remodeled and new choir robes were purchased. The nursery and toddler rooms were updated and repainted.

St. John's is listed in the National Register of Historical Places. Being located in the area of original Fort Smith homes which are being restored, it has been included in the Belle Grove Tour as an historical point of interest to Fort Smith visitors.

During the ensuing years, many repairs and improvements have been made to St. John's, and the parish has grown under the leadership and guidance of many rectors.

ST. JOHN'S RECTORS

John Sandels	Mar. 25, 1860 - Nov. 27, 1870
Dinsmore McManus	Sept. 10, 1871 - May 29, 1878
Frank B. Gilbert	June 1, 1878 - Oct. 28, 1878
C. H. Newman	Aug. 11, 1879 - Mar. 27, 1880
Edward Magee	Sept. 13, 1880 - June 26, 1881
Joseph L. Berne	May 7, 1882 - Oct. 11, 1885
George F. Degen	Oct. 31, 1886 - April 18, 1892
W. T. Allen	Oct. 27, 1892 - Feb. 5, 1899
W. D. Williams	Dec. 2, 1899 - Apr. 1, 1900
Angus A. Robertson	Mar. 25, 1900 - Apr. 27, 1903
Caleb B. K. Weed	Oct. 11, 1903 - Nov. 11, 1906
W. B. McPherson	May 9, 1907 - July 19, 1908
George Mosley Murray	Jan. 3, 1909 - Nov. 27, 1910
Edwin F. Wilcox	Apr. 9, 1911 - Sept. 24, 1916
John E. Curzon	Mar. 25, 1917 - Jan. 17, 1918
Clarence P. Parker	June 27, 1918 - Mar. 4, 1919
Malcolm W. Lockhart	May 11, 1919 - May 25, 1924
Louis Tucker	Nov. 10, 1924 - Aug. 1929
Carleton Day Lathrop	May 1, 1930 - Aug. 6, 1955
John Earl Shoemaker	Sept. 1, 1955 - June 1, 1967
Charles T. Chambers	Sept. 1, 1967 - Dec. 6, 1982
Robert Burton	Jan. 1, 1984 - April 14, 1991
Lowell E. Grisham	Feb. 13, 1992 - July 31, 1997
William B. Wright	Apr. 1, 1998 - Present

Genealogy News and Tips

By Janice Bufford Eddleman

DEAD DOCTORS RESEARCH

The AMA Deceased Physician File has been donated to the National Genealogical Society by that organization. The information usually includes date and place of birth and death, medical school attended, place of practice and citation to an obituary and are best for those who died between 1906 and 1969. There is a fifteen dollar research fee. Write to National Genealogical Society, Attn: Deceased Physician File, 4727 17th Street North, Arlington, VA 22207-2399 giving the person's name, time period and location (if known).

SOCIAL SECURITY AND GENEALOGY

With the current availability of the Social Security Death Index, many family researchers are using only it and by passing a more worthwhile Social Security genealogical asset – the SS-5. These are the original forms filled out (since 1936) when applying for a Social Security card and they include the applicant's full name, address, age, place of employment, place of birth, the names of his/her parents, his/her mother's maiden name, sex, race, date of application and signature. These become a matter of public record when the applicant dies. Simply write a letter to:

SSA, Office of Central Operations-Genealogy
300 N. Greene Street
Baltimore, MD 21235

requesting a copy of SS-5 for:

Last name, first name
SSN: XXX-XX-XXXX
DOB: MMM DD, 19YY
DOD: Year

and enclosing a check or money order for \$7.00 if you know the Social Security number or \$16.00 if you do not. Use the Social Security Death Index to secure as much of this information as you can.

NEW ON THE INTERNET

Genealogy research continues to get easier and faster by researching on the internet and using computers. Several new sites promise new resources for family historians.

The National Archives now has an index to the criminal records for the Federal Court of the Western District of Arkansas on line. The index

allows the researcher to determine if the person he or she is researching is in the criminal files and gives the necessary information for obtaining copies of those documents. To reach the index call up the following address on the internet and follow the directions:

<http://www.nara.gov/nail.html>

The National Genealogical Society has a new on-line genealogy course and the first lesson is free. Try it out at the NGS web site:

www.ngsgenealogy.org

The Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah now is on-line and you can search the Ancestral File, the International Genealogical Index and websites for your ancestor at:

<http://www.familysearch.org>

RootsWeb has a new type of search engine that puts together everything at RootsWeb that relates to a particular surname. It is available at:

<http://resources.rootsweb.com/surnames/>

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

The Ozarks Genealogical Society will hold its annual fall conference September 17 - 18, 1999 in Springfield, Missouri. The featured speaker is Curt B. Witcher and it includes mini-sessions and book vendors. For information send an SASE to OGS Conference Registrar, P. O. Box 3945, Springfield, MO 65808-3945.

The Dallas Genealogical Society presents its 1999 Fall Workshop featuring twenty selected topics by regional and national genealogical lecturers at the Dallas Convention Center on October 16, 1999. For more information, write to DGS Fall Workshop, P. O. Box 25556, Dallas, TX 75225-1556 or e-mail: dgs@chrysalis.org

The National Genealogical Society's next regional conference will be in Chicago on October 15-16, 1999 at the Wyndham Hotel Northwest. The speakers will be Curt Witcher, Christine Rose and John Wylie. For more information visit the NGS web site at www.ngsgenealogy.org or call (800) 473-0060, ext. 116.

The Arkansas Genealogical Society's Fall Seminar and Book Fair will be held on October 22 -23, 1999 at the Holiday Inn-Airport East in

Little Rock, Arkansas. On Friday evening, participants may have their choice of two mini-sessions which include such topics as "Razorbacks and Rackensackers" by Russell P. Baker, "Pitfalls in Researching" by Barbara Roberts Baylis, "Researching Irish Origins" by Susan Gardner Boyle, "Researching on the Internet" by Tracey Converse and "Panning for Genealogy Gold in the Draper Papers" by Lynda Suffridge. Saturday's conference will be led by national known speaker John Phillip Colletta, Ph. D., whose topics will include passenger arrival records, naturalization records, primary sources and writing a genealogical work. There is a discount for both early registration and AGS membership. For more information contact the Arkansas Genealogical Society, P. O. Box 908, Hot Springs, AR 71902-0908 or visit their web site at: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~args/index.htm>

The Conway County Genealogical Society is sponsoring an Everton workshop on Saturday, October 30, 1999. For further information contact: Euna F. Beavers, 20 Rocky Point Road, Morrilton, AR 72110; phone: 501-354-4428.

The National Genealogical Society's Conference in the States will be held May 31 - June 3, 2000, in Providence, Rhode Island, with the theme "New England - Bridge to America." For further information visit the NGS web site www.ngsgenealogy.org or write to them at 4727 17th Street North, Arlington, VA 22207-2399.

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.

Inquiries

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.

HORN, MOORE

I am seeking information about the marriage of my great-great-grandfather and grand mother whom I believe may have had their marriage certificate issued by the federal court in Fort

Smith in 1879. They were Thomas C. Horn (w.; m.; b. 1849. Hornsboro, SC) and Lucy Ellen Moore (w.; f.; b. 1858, Columbus, OH). My grandfather was born at Emet, Indian Territory, in 1880.

Alton Horn
7041 S. Harvey Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73139

GUY

Seeking information on Rodney Rodney "Buddy" Guy. He was a sheriff who worked for Judge Parker after the Civil War. Any information or pictures will be greatly appreciated.

LaRue Alegria Guy
44335 North Palo Verde Street
Lancaster, CA 93536

SMITH

The 1860 Federal Census of Sebastian County shows the following Smith families, all in marion Twp. Would very much like to correspond with any descendent of any family. Believe A.S. and William are brothers and Henry, Jesse and William are brothers. Are they also related as in cousins?

A.S. (Abey Singleton Smith), wife Juda, family #560.

William Smith, wife Elizabeth, family #561 (Juda and Elizabeth were sisters, maiden name was Glenn.)

Henry Smith, wife Sophia, family #517.

Jesse Smith, wife Alice, family #519.

William Smith (no wife) and children, family #521.

Rev. A.S. Smith and wife Juda are buried at White Bluff Cemetery. Where are the other Smiths buried?

Betty Davis
3137 North 68th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66109-1342
E-mail: bmdavis@swbell.net

ADAMS, FORMAN, WILLIAMSON

Seeking information about the D.P. Adams family living in Pottsville, AR in June of 1889. Is this one of the daughters of Joseph and Malinda Forman? If so, was it Sophia (b. 1852, KY; m. Thomas E. Williamson), Leutitia (b. 1854, KY) or Hester (b. 1873, AR)?

Carol Sandlin
37 Nicholson Drive
Chatham Twp., NJ 07928

BISHOP, BLEVINS

Seeking information about the possibility that my great-great-grandfather Solon Bolon Bishop (b. ca. 1845, Hempstead County, AR; m. Nancy Hard Blevins 7 Jan. 1869, Hempstead County, AR) was a prisoner of war at Fort Smith during the Civil War.

Susan Raines Story
157 W. Bayview Blvd.
Norfolk, VA 23503-4746

CHEEK, PURKHISER

Seeking information on the parents and family of Julia Catherine Cheek (b. ca. 1850, Indian Territory, m. John Preston Purkhiser, October 1867, Carthage, MO). According to a news article, she committed suicide on 8 May 1886 at her home two miles from Mountainburg, AR, leaving a husband and five children.

Gerald H. Forman
1508 West View Dr.
Berkeley, CA 94705-1657

CLAPHAN, DAVIS, LEACH, POWELL, WILSON

Looking for information about the descendants of George Washington Claphan (b. 1837 in OH; m. 9 Feb 1862, Hardin Co., OH; son of William Clappin and Sarah Powell) and his wife Catherine Davis (b. 1840, OH; daughter of Thomas and Hulda Davis). Their known children were: Charles E. Claphan (b. 1863), Sarah E. Claphan (b. 1865), Leora Claphan (b. 1866), Harry Claphan (b. 1879), Mary Elizabeth Claphan (b. 18 Nov. 1871, Hardin Co. OH; m. Lee Francisco Leach, 21 Oct. 1888, Crawford Co., AR; d. 14 Jan 1926, Vacaville, CA), Elize Dwight Claphan (b. 10 June 1879) and Golda Claphan (b. 12 Sept. 1883).

Carl Leach
1226 Chaparral Way
Stockton, CA 95209

Dear Ms. Martin:

Thank you for the four copies of *The Journal* that I had previously requested. They arrived in good shape ... the information contained in the *The Journal* articles is very interesting and easy to grasp. *The Journal* is definitely a publication that you and the Fort Smith Historical Society can be proud of.

Sincerely yours,
Thomas C. Fennell.

(Thank you Mr. Fennell. This kind of letter we love to receive.)

BROWN

Need information on my great-grandfather, Thomas A. Brown, b. about 1853 in Arkansas, married in lower Sebastian County in 1875. I believe his father was George H. Brown of Cavanaugh, 22 Jan 1832 - 16 Dec. 1893, who was a U.S. Deputy Marshal in 1870, and I believe, was still a deputy for Judge Isaac Parker. I am told the father of George H. Brown was Joshua Brown, 19 Aug 1798 - 30 Jan 1840, who moved to Western Arkansas from Kentucky around 1820. An abstract from an 1833 *Arkansas Gazette* mentions a Joshua Brown as Sheriff of Crawford County, but I have no proof that this Joshua Brown and my ancestor are one and the same.

Stan Brown
220 Via Los Miradores
Redondo Beach, CA 90277

FRED L. WILBURN



Fred L. Wilburn, who formerly lived in Fort Smith and played with the "Southerners" and the "Ozarkans" jazz groups, died in Jacksonville, Illinois on December 28, 1998 at the age of 86. A graduate of the University of Arkansas,

he paid his way through college by playing both the clarinet and saxophone.

He was born June 27, 1912, in Fort Smith, the son of Roy Barry and Kate Payne Wilburn. He married Lucy Ledbetter on January 10, 1937, in Fort Smith and she survives in Jacksonville. He is also survived by one daughter, Judith (husband Bruce) McCoy of Jacksonville.

After college, Wilburn worked for OTASCO (Oklahoma Tire and Supply Company) for 38 years, retiring in 1974. Twenty-five of those years were spent as a district manager for the company. In 1981, he returned to Fort Smith, and in April of 1997 he and his wife moved to Jacksonville to be nearer to family. He was a member of First Presbyterian church of Fort Smith. In Oklahoma City, he was a lifetime member of the Rotary Club, a member of the board of directors of the Better Business Bureau and the Chamber of Commerce, and served two terms as president of the Twin Hills Golf and Country Club. His hobbies included golf and fishing.

Private graveside services were held at the Diamond Grove Cemetery in Jacksonville.

In Loving Memory

(Obituaries abstracted from Fort Smith Southwest Times Record.)

MARCI BARBER FERGUSON

Marci Barber Ferguson, life member of the Fort Smith Historical Society died June 23, 1999 in her home. She was a Spanish teacher at Waldron High School, and taught children's ballet classes at the Fort Smith School of Ballet.

She is survived by a sister, Teri Sharum of Elm Park; a brother, Easy Barber of Fort Smith; a niece, Jessica Barber of Fort Smith; and a nephew, Eagle Barber of Seattle.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Sebastian County Humane Society, 3800 Kelley Highway, Fort Smith, AR 72904; St. Edward Hospice Program, P.O. Box 17000, Fort Smith, AR 72917; or Phillips Cancer Support House, 2510 Dodson Ave., Fort Smith, AR 72901.

(See Volume 16, issues No. 1 and No. 2 for the history of the Barber Construction Company, Bridges they built and the Barber Family.)

MARIANNA PHILLIPS

Marianna Phillips, 74, of Fort Smith, died Feb. 21, 1999 in Fort Smith. An employee of the Fort Smith School System for 27 years, she served as a teacher at Ballman Elementary, Dean of Girls at Darby Junior High, and counselor at Chaffin Junior High School. In addition to teaching, she served as Executive Director of the Fort Smith Girls' Club from 1946 to 1964, and was a member of the Christian Church and the Eastern Star.

Memorial contributions may be made to American Cancer Society, P. O. Box 5438, Fort Smith, AR 72913, the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 1274, Fort Smith, AR 71902, or Ostomy Group of Phillips Cancer Support House, 2501 Dodson Ave., Fort Smith, AR 72901.

LUYEN CHU

Luyen Duy Chu, 75, of Fort Smith died March 23, 1999. He was a retired Lt. Colonel for the South Vietnamese Army and retired from Rheem Manufacturing. He is survived by his wife, Ban Thi Doan; six daughters, Minh-Tam Thi Chu, Linda Tran and Mai-Loan Thi Chu, all of Fort Smith; Minh-Hong Thi Chu of Greenwood, Thien-Huong Allen of Irving, Texas and Huong-Lan Thi Chu of Haverhill, Mass.; three sons, Trinh Manh Chu, Tuong Manh Chu and Luong Minh Chu, all of Fort Smith; one sister, Hao Thi Chu of Atlanta, Ga; one brother, Kham Duy Chu of

Minneapolis, Minn.; 28 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

HELEN TAGGART

Helen Elizabeth Taggart, 102, of Fort Smith died April 15, 1999. She began her 45 year teaching career in Leslie, Ark., then taught at Hot Springs and Little Rock before coming to Fort Smith. Funeral services under direction of Fentress Mortuary of Fort Smith. She is survived by two nieces, Patsy Chandler of Trinidad, Colorado and Marian Gay of Bethesda, Maryland.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. John's Guild or St. Margaret-Michael's Guild, St. John's Episcopal Church, 215 North Sixth Street, Fort Smith, AR 72901.

FAYE JETTON

Faye Jetton, 84, of Fort Smith, a member of the Fort Smith Historical Society, died May 6, 1999. She was a member of East Side Baptist Church and was a church organist for many years. She was a retired bookkeeper for the Boal Foundry. She is survived by one sister, Beulah Jetton of Fort Smith and several local cousins.

Memorial contributions may be made to East Side Baptist Church, 2710 South Massard Road, Fort Smith, AR 72903.

ALTHA ROBERTS

Altha Jane Lee Roberts, 83, of Fort Smith died Friday May 7, 1999, in Winter Park, Fla. She was a member of Ninth Street Missionary Baptist Church, Phyllis Wheatley Federated Club and the Queen Esther Chapter No. 265 Order of the Eastern Star. She received her bachelor's degree from Arkansas AM&N and her master's degree from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. She was a retired principal of Howard Elementary School and received the Golden Apple Award in 1980. She was the widow of Roy C. Roberts Sr.

Funeral was held at Ninth Street Missionary Baptist Church with burial at U. S. National Cemetery of Fort Smith under the direction of Rowell-Parish Mortuary of Fort Smith.

She is survived by two sons, Roy C. Roberts Jr. of Tulsa and Henry Lee Roberts of Winter Park, Fla.; two sisters, Jeanne Reynolds of Detroit and Hazel Rowell of Kansas City, Mo.; 12 grandchildren and a number of great-grandchildren.

ROBERT B. "ROBBIE" WESTPHAL

Robert B. "Robbie" Westphal died May 18, 1999. He was owner of Robert Westphal and Co., Inc. since 1959 and also Ozark Oil & Gas, Inc., Westphal

Oil and Gas, Inc. and Foundation Life Insurance Company of Arkansas. An active member of a number of civic organizations, he was also a faithful member of the First Lutheran Church and member and supporter of numerous charitable organizations. He is survived by his wife, Betty; son, Bennie and daughter-in-law, Landy of Fort Smith; daughter, Robin Clegg and son-in-law, Elliott of Fort Smith, and three granddaughters, Emily and Caroline Westphal and Christianne Clegg of Fort Smith.

Memorials may be made to the Robert Westphal Scholarship Memorial Fund at First Lutheran Church, 429 North 12, Fort Smith, AR, 72901 or the Fort Smith Boys Club, 4905 North "O" Street, Fort Smith, AR 72904.

BONNIE BOWLING CONNOR

Bonnie Bowling Connor, 89, of Fort Smith died June 5, 1999. She was a retired teacher, having taught in the Fort Smith Public Schools at Cavanaugh, Peabody, and Raymond Orr Schools. She also taught in Van Buren and Harrell. She was a recipient of the Golden Apple Award and a member of the United Daughters of Confederacy. She was survived by a son, James, of Deerfield, Illinois; a sister, Juanita Rogers of Fort Smith, four grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. She was the widow of the late James T. Connor. Her daughter, Betty, was recently deceased.

Memorial contributions may be made to First United Methodist Church, 200 North 15th Street, Fort Smith, AR 72901.

JUANITA BOWLING ROGERS

Juanita Bowling Rogers, 87, died June 13, 1999. Her late husband was Floyd Arthur Rogers. She taught and was principal of several area schools, including Dardanelle High School, Van Buren High School, King and Sophia Meyer schools of Van Buren, Darby Junior High, Belle Point and Mill Creek schools in Fort Smith. She retired after 40 years of teaching and was co-owner, with her husband, of Rogers School Supplies, Inc. She was a member of many professional and honor societies, including the Girl Scouts as district director, and the United Daughters of the Confederacy. She is preceded in death by her husband, a brother, George Darden Bowling of Louisiana, and most recently by a sister, Bonnie Loraine Connor.

Memorial contributions may be made to the First United Methodist Church, 200 North 15th Street, Fort Smith, AR 72901.

REV. HERBERT BARNETT

The Rev. Herbert G. Barnett of Fort Smith died June 8, 1999. He was a member of South Side Baptist Church, an Army veteran lieutenant colonel (Ret.) and a chaplain for the Army Reserve. He

retired from full time ministry as pastor of First Baptist Church in Washington, Oklahoma, and served with his wife in Panama in the Mission Service Corp. He is survived by his wife, Margaret; one daughter, Gayle Choate of Fort Worth, Texas; one son, Charles of Fort Smith; one brother, Cecil of Philmoth, Oregon; and two grandchildren, Rebecca Choate of Germany and Rachael Choate of Los Angeles.

Memorial contributions may be made to Women's Missionary Union of South Side Baptist Church, 2400 Dodson Ave., Fort Smith, AR 72901.

MARGARET PALMER HOWARD

Margaret Palmer Howard, 88, a member of the Fort Smith Historical Society, died July 27, 1999, in a Fort Smith Hospital. Funeral was June 30 under the direction of Fentress Mortuary of Fort Smith. Cremation was under the direction of Fentress Mortuary.

She is survived by two daughters, Marjorie Ann Henson of Muldrow and Nancy Slagle and husband, Marshall, of Covington, New York; two sons, Everett Howard and wife, Sandra K., and Eddie Howard, all of Fort Smith; twelve grandchildren, thirteen great-grandchildren and many loving friends.

MAXINE LANGFELDER CHAPMAN

Maxine Langfelder Chapman, author of the history of Belle Point School which was published in the Volume IX, Number 1, April, 1985 issue of *The Journal* of the Fort Smith Historical Society and the *Southwest Times Record* Insight 2000 Section, died July 4, 1999. She was an elementary school teacher in the Fort Smith public schools for 35 years, mostly at Belle Point School.

Mrs. Chapman was a member and past-president of a number of local and state professional educational associations and was named Arkansas Teacher of the Year in 1964. She also was Seven State South Central Regional Director, Department of Classroom Teachers of the National Education Association and a former member of the NEA Executive Committee.

She was a member of the United Hebrew Temple and an active member and officer of a number of civic organizations, including the League of Women Voters on both the local and state level.

Mrs. Chapman was the widow of Dr. Arch Sylvester Chapman who was associated with the Cooper Clinic from 1924 until his death December 22, 1931. She is survived by one son, Arch S. Chapman of Fort Smith, three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Fort Smith Public Library, Large Print Books, 61 South 8th Street, Fort Smith, AR 72901.

News and Opportunities

ATTENTION

The Fort Smith Historical Society now has E-mail address and FAX number in addition to telephone number:

e-mail: amartin@ipa.net

FAX: 501-782-0649

Phone: 501-783-1237

Please feel free to use e-mail or FAX at any time 24 hours a day.

TOP HISTORY AWARDS

In the 1998 Arkansas Historical Association's County and Local history competition, *The Journal* of the Fort Smith Historical Society received the Walter L. Brown Award for the best county or local history published in Arkansas in 1998.

The award includes a certificate and check for \$100. Michael Bryant of Pocola, Oklahoma, received the Civil War Roundtable award for the best article on the Civil War published in 1998. His article, *The Battle of the Backbone Markers. Which is Correct?*, was published in the September 1998 issue of *The Journal*. This award also included \$100.

Both awards were made by the Arkansas Historical Association at the annual meeting in Pine Bluff, Arkansas on April 16, 1999.

OFFICERS AND NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Officers and new Board members elected at the annual meeting of the Society on April 22:

President, Linda Schmidt

Vice President, Harry Shipley

Recording Sec., Cyndy Bedell

Membership Sec., Jo Tillery

Treasurer, Michael Richardson

Cyndy Bedell

Wayne Bledsoe

Cathy Conley

Delores Dewitt

Dorothy Doville

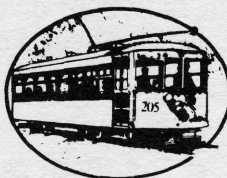
Mary Lou Jacobsen

Michael Richardson

These seven new board members join the twelve remaining members of the board.

Retiring board members are Ben Core, Richard Griffin, Bill Kirk and Sue McCain. Their years of service on the board are much appreciated.

REMINDER – EXCEPT FOR LIFE MEMBERS, IT IS TIME TO PAY DUES FOR THE YEAR 2000.



FORT SMITH TROLLEY MUSEUM

May 1 began the ninth season for the operation of Fort Smith Light and Traction car #224. Restoration was completed and operation began May 19, 1991. Sometime early in this season the 100,000th paid rider will board the trolley.

In the six weeks since the trolley began this season there have been riders from 16 states and four foreign countries that registered. Registration is optional and no special effort is made to encourage registration.

Ridership has trailed slightly since our neighbor, the National Historic Site, is undergoing remodeling. The completion of the restoration of the tornado damaged visitors center, Miss Laura's, will be a stimulus to tourism.

We are grateful to our volunteer operators that make all of this possible. The operators are Leon Taylor, Mervin McMillion, Ervin Glenn, Jim McCauley, Vernon Stewart, Ray Milton, Claude Groves, Bud Watson, Tom Porter, Haskell Jeffries, Bill White, Dale Kesner, Guy Overman, Walter Harrison, Tom Ross, Henry Moore, Chuck Girard, Jim Baker, Zack Hilton, Bill Kimmons, Ralph Kramer and relief operators Bradley Martin and Art Martin.

The Secondary Social Studies Educators of Fort Smith presented Frontier Achievement awards to members of the community who work to preserve Fort Smith's history. Honored were: Lynn and Michael Moore, recognized for the complete restoration of a historical three-story home on Rogers. The home has been converted into a bed and breakfast and is now known as Michaels Mansion.

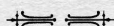
Karla Jacobs, president of the board of trustees for Fort Smith Museum of History, was honored for her work with the museum.

The Historic District Commission was recognized for its work with the Belle Grove Historical District.

This is the 18th year that the Secondary Social Studies Educators of Fort Smith have honored members of the community for their contributions to the historical development and preservation of Fort Smith.

Ayers House of Fort Smith nominated to the National Register of Historic Places on April 7. The William N. Ayers House, located at 820 North 12th Street in Fort Smith, was built in 1888 by Ayers who operated several businesses in Fort Smith in the late 19th century.

Ola Philpott was honored May 20, four days shy of her 100th birthday, with a luncheon hosted by the Fort Smith Garden Club. She has been a member of the club for fifty years.



1999 CHRONOLOGY

January 29, 1999 - June 18, 1999

Abstracted from Fort Smith Times Record

by Sarah Fitzjarald McCullough

and Amelia Martin

JANUARY

29th – The Fort Smith Jaycees paid final tribute to the late Rep. W. K. "Mac" McGehee by posthumously awarding him with the organization's Distinguishd Service Award. McGehee's son, Tripp, and daughter, MacKenzie, accepted the award. Other awards went to Chad Partain, Outstanding Young Firefighter; Greg Smithson, Outstanding Young Law Enforcement Award; Diane Willis, teacher at Euper Lane Elementary school, Outstanding Young Educator; and Ben Thomas of Cellular and Pager Warehouse in Fort Smith the secretive Boss of the Year Award.

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FEBRUARY

1st – Northside High School quiz teams took both first and second place in competition with 20 other state high school teams at Benton High School Saturday, January 30.

2nd – U. S. Postal Service to issue special stamp on February 9 in honor of hospice workers.

3rd – City directors set liquor-by-the drink hours at 7 a.m. to 1 a.m., Monday through Saturdays.

9th – A \$2 million gift from Baldor Electric Co. and three of its corporate officers was announced Monday, February 8, as Westark college broke ground for its \$10.8 million Baldor Technology Center. The center will be over 102,000 square feet and will house several state-of-the-art technology degree and certificate programs. The building will be located on Kinkead Avenue across from Westark's tower and green. The facility should be completed within 12 to 15 months.

9th – Buildings at corner of Greenwood and Rogers Avenues demolished. A new Walgreen Drug Store is planned for the corner.

9th – Old Fort Museum heads into the new millennium with a name change and a new logo. From now on the museum will be known as the Fort Smith Museum of History.

10th – Site plans for a 16-acre medical park along the Phoenix Avenue extension were approved February 9 by the Fort Smith Planning Commission.

10th – Service Merchandise to close Fort Smith Store.

12th – Sister Pierre Vorster was named the winner of Project Compassion's third annual Key Person Award on Thursday, Feb. 11. Paul and Theda Willis are the sponsors of the non-profit Project Compassion's annual Key Person award which was named for Marion Stephens, a founding member of the community service group where she served until her death in 1993. She was Project Compassion's first elected president and served on the Executive Cabinet from the founding in 1972 until her death.

12th – Southside High School student, Sarah Judy, 15, accepts a first-place check and certificate for winning the annual Veterans of Foreign Wars' Voice of Democracy essay contest at VFW Post 8845. Winner from Northside High School was Amanda Stec, 17.

14th – Unhappy AOG customers seek answers for high bills.

16th – School safety and security for students and faculty is a high priority at Fort Smith Public Schools.

17th – Sebastian County Justices of the Peace voted to spend \$272,042 on 61 voting machines.

17th – Recent AOG rate hike studied after city directors expressed concern about citizens' higher gas bills. Mayor urges Arkansas Public Service Commission to rescind AOG's recent rate hike.

19th – Members of the Fort Chaffee Public Trust unanimously decided Feb. 18th that if the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission wants less acreage than it was offered for a \$4 million nature center at Fort Chaffee, the excess land will be used as a natural area.

21st – Ruling champion Caroline Hazman, 12, a seventh-grader at Darby Junior Highschool, returned this year to reclaim her title as Sebastian County Spelling Bee champion by spelling formicivorous.

21st – If a major crisis occurs in Fort Smith, Fort Smith Public Schools have organized district and school crisis teams to lend a hand.

21st – The Best Western, Fort Smith Downtown, formerly the Trade Winds, is reinvesting more than \$700,000 in an extensive upgrade which fits in nicely with the downtown revitalization program.

22nd – Permanent housing for homeless people, a preschool to assist "developmentally delayed and normal children", a vocational training center and housing for aging disabled populations are planned for some of the 7,400 acres of surplus Fort Chaffee property.

23rd – The U.S. Postal Service will pay tribute to the second largest ancestral group in the country on the 150th anniversary of the potato famine with the nation-wide issuance of the Irish Immigration stamp Feb. 25.

23rd – State Rep. Jo Carson has been named the Arkansas state director of Women in Government, a national nonprofit organization.

24th – The Westark College Board of Trustees unanimously approved a proposal for a new degree program in graphic design which will lead to a two-year Associate of Applied Science Degree consisting of 60 to 63 credit hours.

26th – Winners in the Western Arkansas Art Educators Association's student billboard design were Joseph Hedinger, Fort Smith, with the slogan "Stop the Dope Before You Croak" and Rusty Sindle, Van Buren, with his slogan "Sweep up the Drugs and Violence."

28th – Five area legislators are part of the majority of representatives in the Arkansas House for the first time this session. Reps. Jo Carson and Jake Files, both of Fort Smith, Mary Beth Green and Larry Prater, both of Van Buren, and Cleveland Herschel of Paris, are all members of a 57-member freshmen class.

28th – Inland Paperboard and Packaging Inc., presented Fort Smith Public Schools a \$25,000 Leadership Grant to help support the district's social skills programs.

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MARCH

6th – The St. Paul Methodist Church at 4100 Grand Ave. will observe its 50th anniversary during special services Sunday, March 7.

7th – Jack Moseley, editor of the *TIMES RECORD*, received an Arkansas School Bell Award in recognition of his columns opposing abolition of property taxes that fund public schools in Arkansas.

8th – Bud Martin, horseman and lawman, combines his two talents as commander of the Sebastian County Sheriffs Mounted Patrol.

14th – The 1999 recipient of the Gloria White Community Angel Award is Ed Dell Wortz.

15th – Gina Kay Calhoun was crowned Miss Westark March 13. The first runner-up was Amy Heiner-Jacobson of Mountainburg, second runner-up was Shanna Lyon of Fort Smith, and third runner-up was Melissa Ricketts of Fort Smith.

20th – Lady Bears basketball team 1999 state champions.

30th – The Westark College Board of Trustees has adopted a new policy in an effort to clarify that the college is serving the public, not itself, said the board chairwoman, Dr. Eileen Kradel, and is governed by citizen ownership, and has always been that way.

31st – Low unemployment and a high level of consumer spending continues to fuel the area's economic expansion, according to statistics released by the city of Fort Smith. The city reported that February street tax collections bested budget estimates by 11.7 percent.

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APRIL

2nd – St. Edward Mercy Medical Center kicked off its second annual districtwide contest to encourage elementary public school students to learn to read by awarding a bicycle to a student from each grade level for reading the most pages from books.

3rd – The area's economy continued to show signs of steady growth, with the jobless rate at a 29-year low.

5th – Rising from a troubled rating six years ago, the Fort Smith Housing Authority was designated by the Department of Housing and Urban Development as a "high performer."

11th – A celebration was held at Cisterna Plaza celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Randolph Morrow Wagon Train heading West from Fort Smith to the gold fields in California in 1949. Fort Smith was one of the first staging areas for this significant episode in American History.

15th – Sebastian County Justices of the Peace agreed to spend more money to renovate their 1937 courthouse, pushing the price tag to almost \$700,000.

19th – The Fort Smith Girls Club announced its name change to Girls Incorporated of Fort Smith May 18.

21st – In a unanimous vote, the Sebastian County Quorum Court gave its approval to add Fort Chaffee land designated for a proposed nature center to their county park system. The 357 acre parcel has been selected for the Arkansas Game and fish Commission's nature center near Wells Lake.

25th – Bruce Birkhead, Nancy Blochberger, Sondra Foti and Zero Mountain, Inc. will receive the Fort Smith Civic Center Honors April 26 in recognition of excellence in contributions to the arts in Fort Smith.

27th – Groundbreaking ceremonies for the Donald W. Reynolds Support House at 34th and M Streets (across from Creekmore Park). Construction of the 21,000 square foot building will help meet the

increasing supportive needs of cancer patients and their families and accommodate the in-service training and community education programs presently housed in the Phillips Cancer Support house located on Dodson Avenue.

29th – The Darby foundation is hosting the final reunion of the Fort Smith Darby Chapter of the Ranger Battalions Association of World War II, April 19 thru May 1.

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MAY

2nd – Joel Stubblefield, Westark Official, received a doctorate of higher education from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

2nd – The *Times Record* won two major awards for its defense of the public's right to know about the activities of government agencies, commissions and councils. The paper was named winner of the annual Arkansas Associated Press award for service to freedom of Information. It also received the Society of Professional Journalists' national award for its coverage of the open meetings on law and the public's right to know.

3rd – The Mount Magazine Girl Scout Council, a United Way participating Agency, on May 6 at the eighth annual Women of Distinction Awards Banquet will honor six women who are considered role models for girls. Honored will be: Karla Jacobs, Sherry McKinney, Dorothy Rappaport, Billie Riggs, Brenda Sellers and Judy Selkirk.

8th – Open house at New Theater at 9 North 9th Street, which is being restored by Music Fort Smith, a non-profit organization created to help establish and promote the performing arts, especially for youth.

18th – Organizational meeting of the Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary. 1999 officers: President, Nancy Baker; Vice President, Beth Watson; Secretary, Caroline Jones; Treasurer, Francille Brasuell.

20th – Rep.-elect Denny Altes of Fort Smith will be administered oath of office at the Capitol on May 20.

20th – Rep. Asa Hutchinson, R - Fort Smith, added an amendment to a bill authorizing billions of dollars in funding for the National Weather Service, urging the agency to keep its Fort Smith weather service open permanently.

26th – The Fort Smith Regional Airport Commission awarded two construction contracts, totaling more than \$4.86 million, for a new terminal ramp and drainage improvements. Work on drainage improvements is being funded by \$1.5 million from the Air National Guard. Bob Johnson, airport manager said tax money is not being used to fund the project. It is being funded from airport revenues and grants.

29th – Immaculate Conception Church will celebrate 150 years as a parish family and the 100th anniversary of the present church building with a Mass and Rededication of the Church on Sunday, May 30.

30th – Fort Smith officially appealed a decision by a federal judge that bars the city from keeping a topless nightclub closed.

30th – Privatized education in the Catholic tradition has been locally available for more than 120 years in Fort Smith. There are four local Catholic schools that serve students in preschool through ninth grade: Christ the King Catholic school, Trinity Junior High, Immaculate Conception and Saint Boniface school.

31st – Phil Gardenhire, announcer for the annual Old Fort Days Rodeo since 1987, tragically lost his life in a two vehicle accident in his hometown of Heavener, Oklahoma. He will be sorely missed.

31st – The Fort Smith National Cemetery is already making plans to keep up with the burial rate, which averages 325 to 350 per year, said Randall Spain, program director at the cemetery. Six and a half acres have already been added, which means at the current rate, no more spaces will be available by 2015. An additional nine acres have been secured by the city and the land acquisition committee. With these two additions, the cemetery is projected to be full by 2040. Funding for these expansions comes from the Department of Veteran Affairs.

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JUNE

2nd – The 1999 Old Fort Days Futurity and Rodeo brought more than 2,430 horse owners, riders and trainers from 39 states and three Canadian Provinces to the area, bringing in at least \$2,331,719 in new money.

3rd – Creekmore Park's 50th anniversary will be celebrated on Saturday, June 5, beginning at 9

a.m. with the presentation of the United States flag by Woodmen of the World. A ribbon cutting ceremony, followed by demonstrations of area Boy and Girl Scouts' activities at 9:15. All activities are free to the public. The park is located at 3301 South M Street.

8th – River Valley Bank became part of First National Bank of Fort Smith. First National is the oldest national bank in Arkansas.

10th – Northwest Airlink Saab 340 Airliner was christened "Spirit of Fort Smith", Wednesday, June 9, at the Fort Smith Regional Airport.

18th – After five months of construction and a \$3 million price tag, the downtown Holiday Inn has been completely renovated, including a new name – Holiday Inn City Center.

18th – City National Bank celebrates 85 years of service.

Local Theaters Recalled

A.W. Hillhouse, the 91-year-old taxi driver, recalls all the many local theaters "I attended during my 77 years in Fort Smith:"

Grand Opera House, Fifth and Garrison, opera only.

Imp Theater, 1022 Garrison, movies only.

New Theater, Tenth and Garrison, movies and vaudeville.

Lyric Theater, 118 N. Eighth, movies and vaudeville.

Princess Theater, 800 Garrison, movies but mostly vaudeville.

Palace Theater, 812 Garrison, movies only.

Hoyt Theater, 16 N. Seventh, mostly movies, some vaudeville.

Joie Theater, 15 S. Ninth, movies and vaudeville.

Temple Theater, N. 11th and B, movies and vaudeville.

Rex Theater, 1600 block of N. 11th, movies and some vaudeville.

Victory Theater, 508 Garrison, movies only.

Majestic Theater, 419 Garrison, movies and some vaudeville.

(Tom Blake Column, Southwest Times Record, undated)

1898-1899 Newspapers

FORT SMITH ELEVATOR— November 4 - March 24, 1899

(Articles abstracted from microfilm of the *Fort Smith Elevator* by Mary Lou Jacobsen)

NOVEMBER 4, 1898

MRS. A. A. HUNTER

Mrs. A. A. (Pat) Hunter wife of Luther Hunter, died at her residence in this city on the 1st inst., aged 25 years. Funeral services were held over her remains at 2 o'clock. Interment was made at Nowland Springs Cemetary.

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NOVEMBER 11, 1898

The new altar of St. Boniface church has been placed in position and will be dedicated by Bishop Fitzgerald next Sunday. This altar was made in Louisville, Kentucky, and is of finest workmanship. It is ornamented by six figures, representing the crucifixion group. On each side of the altar is a statue of St. Boniface, the patron saint of the church. The total cost of the statues and the altar is \$3000.

Astronomers say that heavy meteoric showers will occur on the 13th, 14th, and 15th of November. The shower will begin about 11 o'clock on the night of the 13th.

DR. MORGAN COMING

Dr. Morgan, the veterinarian, will be in Fort Smith next Tuesday morning and will remain for one week at Schulte's livery stable. Those who need his services should remember the date of his arrival and the length of time he will be here.

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NOVEMBER 18, 1898

FATAL ACCIDENT

Jessie Landers, an inmate of the county house, died at Charity Hospital on the afternoon of the 10th from burns received on the day before by falling into a fire. She was suffering from an epileptic fit at the time of the disaster. She was 21 years of age.

Mr. William Agnew and Miss Annie E. Hunter were married in this city on the evening of the 9th at the residence of J.W. Whittaker by Rev. F. T. Edmonds of the Christian Church.

MRS. HANNAH KELLEY

Mrs. Hannah Kelley, an old resident of this city, died Friday, the 11th, at the age of 70 years. Her funeral took place at 3:30 p.m. from the Church of the Immaculate Conception, interment being made in the Catholic cemetery. Mrs. Kelley leaves

three children, Mr. Joe Kelley, Mrs. Joe Pansze and Mrs. Williams of this city.

John Fuller, Chief of Police, John Dyer, and Jim Shannon made a haul this week which may lead to the breaking up of the gang of sneak thieves who have been operating in the city. They searched the house of Jim Jones, colored, and found a lot of plunder that had been stolen from homes which had been ransacked. Luther Davis, Scott Davis and Jim Jones were arrested. Jones' wife made things interesting for Fuller when he first entered the house, fighting him like a tiger.

DEATH OF HERBERT MAIDLOW

Mr. Herbert Maidlow, who has been ill with consumption for some time past, died last Friday evening at his home in Fishback Addition, aged 25 years. His funeral was from the residence of Mrs. Gruce, Rev. W. T. Allen of St. John's Church, conducting the service. Mr. Maidlow was the last of a large family, all of whom fell victims to the same disease.

MARRIAGE OF MR. W. B. MCCORKLE AND MISS ELIZABETH DICKENS

Mr. Will B. McCorkle and Miss Elizabeth Dickens were married Tuesday evening at the residence of the bride's mother, Mrs. M. A. Dickens, at North B and Eighth Streets. Dr. McN. McKay of the first Presbyterian Church conducted the ceremony. There were none present except the families of the high contracting parties. Mr. McCorkle is a popular young druggist of this city and is well known by most of our people. His bride is one of the most charming young ladies of this city.

MARRIED

Mr. Paul McKim and Miss Ida Schulebs were married Wednesday evening at the residence of Mr. Casper Reutzel, 612 North 11th Street, by Rev. Horst. Mr. McKim is a plumber by occupation, a first class young man with a large circle of friends and acquaintances. His bride is a handsome young lady, well worthy of such a husband. the *ELEVATOR* extends to them good wishes.

Advices from the Klondike region say Dawson had a \$500,000 fire recently. The fire started in a saloon during a fight between two women.

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DECEMBER 9, 1898

MR. JAMES WICKERSHAM

Mr. James Wickersham, a well known resident of this city, died Monday Morning at 9 o'clock at his residence on South Eighteenth street after an illness of a few days. He became ill on the first with the grippe and being of a delicate nature could not stand the ravages of the disease. His funeral took place Tuesday Morning from his residence. Rev. P. C. Fletcher of the Central Methodist church officiating. He was 66 years of age.

Mr. Wickersham was a native of Kentucky. He came to this city from Helena, Ark. about seventeen years ago and from then until the date of his death made it his home. He was an honest man and a sincere Christian. To mourn his loss he left a wife, a step-daughter (Mrs. B. C. Bealelly) and two children, the latter being Mrs. T. J. Prather of this city and Mr. J. W. Wickersham of New York.

A CATHOLIC SOUVENIR

Mr. J. B. Dunn has in preparation a handsome souvenir book as a memorial to the new Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception now about completed.

This book will be placed in the homes of every Catholic family in Fort Smith, aside from this circulation it will be given in other portions of the state.

Local advertisers will have an opportunity of profiting by this popular method of reaching the people locally and otherwise.

The *ELEVATOR* bespeaks for the new publication that success which it should and will no doubt merit.

**TTT
PURE WHISKEY**

What strange things a fellow sees when he has no gun. How seldom we find what we want just when we want it. But it does come our way once in a while to every man. Even though it is only his Christmas Whiskey at.....

CHRISTMAS TIME

We are largely overstocked this winter and the stock consists of well known brands, which have made "THE TWO TOMS" famous. These goods must go, and we shall make prices that will move them. At the same time we guarantee satisfaction to every purchaser. Money cheerfully refunded when desired.

We mean business. Send the cash with your orders until January first, 1899.

Taylor & Powell – Fort Smith, Ark.

There was never a more disgraceful fiasco in the prize ring than the Corbett-Sharkey prize fight, and it has done more to place professional pugilism under a ban and made it really disreputable than all the laws ever enacted.

MARRIED

Mr. Frederick D. Collins, of Van Buren and Miss Mary Surrat, daughter of Henry Surrat, ex-chief of police, were married in this city last Sunday afternoon at the residence of Mrs. Cooper, 216 North Eleventh street, by Rev. P. C. Fletcher. Shortly after the ceremony the happy couple left on the Frisco for a short wedding tour.

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DECEMBER 16, 1898

President McKinley has raised the rank of Powell Clayton from Minister to Mexico to Ambassador Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the same country.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR BOYS

Fine 2 blade pocket-knife given away free with every pair of shoes at the Apple Shoe Co.

One night last week thieves got into Charity Hospital at Van Buren and stole a lot of provisions. The chaps that did this dirty are on a par with the wretches who robbed the Children's Home in this city some time ago. Hanging is too good for such creatures.

20 PLASTERS 50 CENTS

Better than any porous plaster ever made. Guaranteed to cure lung troubles. Sample plaster sent free for two two-cent stamps.

Filmore Medicine Co. – Fort Smith, Ark.

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DECEMBER 23, 1898

MOONSHINERS AND BOOTLEGGERS

The colony of moonshiners in the Federal jail has been somewhat increased during the past week. Last Saturday Deputy Carlton arrived from Newton County with 4 – Filley Wheeler, James Felkins, Will Felkins, and John Pelham.

Deputy Hinchee also added to the colony. He reported with J. C. Langston, Ben Cooper, Pink Willingham, Will Reeves, and Charles Brauber. These men were charged with bootlegging and were arrested in Carden's Bottom, Yell County.

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DECEMBER 30, 1898

"HELL ON THE BORDER"

The title of a new book which is soon to be published in Fort Smith. It relates to the Old Federal Court. The *ELEVATOR* gets the printing contract.

(Article too long to extract in entirety)

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JANUARY 6, 1899

(Informational Note: Interesting facts are in this issue entitled "List of Buildings Erected and Improvements made in Fort Smith for the year ending 12/31/98. List compiled by authority of

Commercial League of Fort Smith Arkansas)

Examples of the information follows:

First Pres. Church	Church	North 12 & B	\$20,000
Fred Wenderoth	Dwelling	North 13	2,200
(Still at 1021 North 13) Between J & K			
Catholic Parish	New	North 13th & Garrison	55,000
	Church		
Henry Surratt	Dwelling	So. 12 #123	150
	Repair		

For overworked girls and feeble women, Simmons Squaw Vine Wine or Tablets are natures' greatest boost.

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JANUARY 13, 1899

A French gent arrived in the city Wednesday night and papa Galer is very proud - all girls in the past. See?

The new year opens with business in nearly all lines on the boom. The conditions of the iron trade, which is always supposed to be an index to the general trade of this country is in a most satisfactory condition. The balance of trade is in favor of the United States continues large and the present year bids fair to be a record breaker in a business way.

SODA POP PLANT FOR SALE

One Tuff's soda pop plant for sale. Will be sold on reasonable terms. For further information call or address

T. W. M. Boone
Fort Smith, Arkansas

SHOT

Jim Jones working as a hosteler at Goodman's Stable was shot by his wife, Beatrice Jones, Tuesday afternoon. The Jones family is of African descent, and that peace and quiet which are the necessary concomitants of all well regulated households, seem to have been missing. In fact, it is claimed that this delectable couple was in the habit of throwing sticks of cordwood, neck yokes of wagons, brick bats and like inoffensive missals at each other just for pastime, we suppose. Beatrice seems to have been imbued with the idea that James was not exactly living up to his marriage vows, and was prone to look upon other dusty damsels with a little too much admiration. Those things combined were too much for her sensitive nature, and she proceeded to go a-gunning after the aforesaid gentleman of color. She met him at the stable and after passing a few pleasantries hauled forth the ugly looking gun. This action on the part of his spouse seemed to convey to Jim's mind the advisability of flight. As he turned to put this idea into execution his wife

pulled the trigger and Jim received a bullet in the groin. He is pretty badly wounded, but it is believed will recover.

The woman surrendered to the officers and was placed in jail.

RESIGNS THE RECTORSHIP

Rev. W. T. Allen, Rector of St. John's Episcopal Church will go to Springfield.

The resignation of Rev. W. T. Allen, Rector of St. John's Episcopal Church first made known to his congregation last Sunday, will bring a feeling of disappointment and regret to his many friends in this section. Mr. Allen goes to Springfield, Mo. where he will enter his duties as Rector of Christ Episcopal Church February 10.

Dr. Kelleam's plan of organizing the city into a hospital district and issuing bonds in the sum of \$30,000, the same to be used in the erection of a first class city hospital, is meeting with the commemoation (yes, was written commemoation - perhaps should have been commendation) of many of the businessmen on the avenue. The scheme, if carried to successful conclusion, would throw the burden of building such an institution upon classes of tax-payers, and give the city such a building as we should have.

John Peckham, a blacksmith of Webb City, Mo., came to Fort Smith during the holidays on a visit to Levi Overstreet, 723 North 10. On Friday before Christmas, he started out on a tour of sightseeing among the factories on the Reserve. Failing to return that day, the Overstreets decided he had returned to his Missouri home. A letter from his wife says she has heard or seen nothing of her husband and she is much distressed over his strange absence. The city police are making an effort to find some trace of the missing man.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK ELECTS OFFICERS

Tuesday was election day at the First National Bank. There was no change made in the list of old and faithful officials under whose guidance the "Old Reliable" continues its victorious business career. Mr. Geo. T. Sparks was re elected president, Col. Saml. McCloud, vice president, Mr. John Vaile cashier, and Mr. Frank Handlin assistant cashier. No change was made in the Board of Directors - Messrs. B. P. Hobart, H. Baer, D. Y. Berry, Geo T. Sparks, John Vaile, H. Stone, J. Adler, J. M. Sparks, and Saml. McCloud being retained for another year.

CUCUMBERS

On January 20 we will let contracts for cucumbers for the year. No contract for less than 5 acres

will be accepted. We will not let a single contract except on January 20. If you don't come on that day you can't get a contract.

Call at office 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
OKLAHOMA VINEGAR CO.

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JANUARY 20, 1899

PRINTS LIKE A PRESS

Interest centers in the visable writing feature of the
WILLIAMS TYPEWRITER

But no Williams operator will admit that it has
an equal in any other point.

T. O. MOORE
Agent Ark. & Ind. Terr.
Ozark, Ark.

THE ENTIRE CHEROKEE DAWES TREATY
IS PUBLISHED IN THIS ISSUE.

IT IS ENTIRELY TOO LONG TO EXTRACT.

C. M. High brought suit in the Circuit Court
Friday for divorce from Alice High. Desertion is
the grounds for the complaint.

John Goin filed for a divorce from his wife, Ella
Goin, in the Circuit Court Friday. "Gone with a
handsome man" was the cause.

Deputy Sheriff James Silvers of Dewitt, was
accidentally shot last week by Deputy Sheriff
Robenson, of the same place.

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JANUARY 27, 1899

THE IRON HALL

The newly elected officers of the Iron Hall
Lodge were installed Wednesday evening of last
week. The installation ceremonies were public, at
the close of which a most interesting winding up
with a delightful supper.

The Iron Hall combines many worthy features
in addition to its policy contract sick or disabled
members can draw a stipulated weekly benefit
which often proves of great advantage to the pol-
icy holder. The order is growing rapidly as it
deserves to.

It snowed several inches deep at Little Rock,
South McAlester and at other places all around
Fort Smith Monday night. At this famous winter
resort the air was balmy and springlike. This
shows the great advantage possessed by Fort
Smith from a climatic standpoint.

The Fort Smith Overall Factory will greatly
enlarge its facilities for doing work, having made
arrangements to occupy the T. J. Smith building,

1005 Garrison Avenue. A large number of new
machines will be added to the plant and about 30
hands employed. We hope to see this enterprise
grow and flourish.

County Clerk Gardner refused to issue a mar-
riage license Monday. A well known stationary
engineer, considerably under the influence of
liquor, accompanied by one of Fort Smith's noto-
rious females presented himself to the County
Clerk's office requesting that a marriage license
be granted them. Clerk Gardner very sensibly
refused to issue the license, believing that when
the man sobered up he would see his folly. We
understand the couple went to Van Buren, think-
ing they could secure the license there, but were
met with another refusal.

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FEBRUARY 10, 1899

FITS

Stopped Free -

Permanently Cured -

Insanity Prevented - BY

DR. KLINE'S GREAT NERVE RESTORER

The police swooped down on a negro dive in
the rear of St. John's Hospital Monday night and
swiped a lot of tin-horn gamblers engaged in a
facinating game of "craps". They contributed \$10
each to the city's exchequer.

At the bienneal session of the Catholic Knights
of America at Little Rock this week two Fort Smith
men were highly honored. J. H. Krone was elect-
ed State President and Henry Kuper was elected
State Treasurer. Both of these gentlemen are men
of fine business qualifications and will make good
officers.

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FEBRUARY 17, 1899

We insist that the city government should take
steps to abate the awful dust nuisance. March
winds will soon be here, then, unless it should
rain every other day, the deuce will be to pay.

- • -

MARCH 3, 1899

It is very apparent that the legislature at Little
Rock are making preparation to camp there thirty
days after the regular session comes to a close.
May the good Lord have mercy upon us.

The city jail now has 36 inmates. The city pays
40 cents per day for feeding each prisoner.

RUBBER STAMPS

Single line rubber stamps, 10 cents. Other rub-
ber goods in proportion. Send your orders to the
ELEVATOR office.

- • -

MARCH 10, 1899
SMALLPOX BULLETIN

The *ELEVATOR* gives below the official report of the Board of Health concerning the smallpox situation up to the hour of going to press:

Fort Smith, Ark., March 9, 1899

A suspicious case died at the cottage annex of Charity Hospital on the 8th, and the hospital has been quarantined. After his death it was discovered this patient had been an inmate of St. John's Hospital, where he had been exposed to smallpox and from which place he had escaped on February 19th, a few hours before enforcement of the quarantine. He was the only man by the way, who thus escaped. He entered the Cottage of Charity Hospital on February 20 under an assumed name. He died before symptoms of smallpox were defined, but was isolated from other patients from the first development of suspicious symptoms.

Total cases reported to date	9
Total cases remaining in quarantine hospital	8
Deaths	1

J. G. Eberle, M.D., President
H. Moulton, M.D., Secretary
J. D. Southard, M.D.
T. B. Garrett, Mayor

Harry K. Albers has decided to embark in the gents furnishing business in this city, and is now in New York purchasing goods. His store will be in the Brogan Building next to Hotel Main.

Joe Porter, an employee of J. Foster & Co., was assaulted by an Indian in the rear of John Schapp's wholesale drug house Tuesday morning. The Indian stabbed Porter twice with a knife, but a notebook in Porter's pocket warded off the force of the blow and he was practically uninjured.

ALWAYS BUY
JOHN DEERE

Plows, Cultivators, and you will be sure to get the best.

Don't buy the "just as good" kind
Ernest Warren Sales Agent

Fort Smith Arkansas

Bartlett & Edwards are getting out stone preparatory to begin work on the new Baptist Church.

Joe Mathews' warehouse on F Street, between First and Second, burned Wednesday night. The loss will reach into the thousands.

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MARCH 17, 1899

Mrs. Mivelaz has relinquished her lease on Hotel Main and the building will be thoroughly renovated and refurbished.

QUARANTINE RAISED

No new case of smallpox has developed in 10 days.

The Congress, just closed, appropriated one and one-half billions of dollars, a half billion more than was ever appropriated by any preceding congress.

Ten Thousand Rolls of Wall Paper Bright and Fresh Spring styles. I have them. If you are going to paper your house or only one room, GET MY SAMPLES. A postal will bring them by return mail. Prices from 7-1/2 cents per roll and up. I furnish house paints at lowest prices too. Call or write before buying elsewhere.

J. D. Van Winkle 615 Garrison

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MARCH 24, 1899

The supply ship "Relief" is on its way to Manila with a hospital corp of 150 men and 7 women on board. Besides this small army on board the vessel is a years supply of medicine for 25,000 men. Uncle Sam is bound that his soldiers shall not want for bluemass pills and "yarbs".

Revival services at the Central Methodist Church on Thirteenth and B streets have been in progress all week with satisfactory results to the pastor P. C. Fletcher and his co-workers. The attendance has been large and great interest is being manifested in the meetings.

MARRIED

The marriage of Mr. Walter Evans to Miss Jennie Amis occurred Wednesday night at the home of the bride's mother, Mrs. Rebecca Amis, 308 North Ninth street. Only the immediate friends and relatives were present.

The groom is a well known Fort Smithian who has been in the employ of the engineering department of the Missouri Pacific railroad for some time, and commands the respect of all who know him. The bride is a charming young lady of the city and is popular among a wide circle of friends. Mr. & Mrs. Evans will make Fort Smith their home and will be recipients of congratulations at the hands of their many friends.

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- NOTES: # - some sort of graphic is used, other than a portrait.
 * - a portrait of the person(s) named is on page indicated.
 (- -) - for such as title, marital status, degree, etc.
 " - - " - for nickname or special emphasis.
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