

The JOURNAL



*Exit 1999. . . .
Enter 2000*



A New Millennium

Vol. 24, No. 1, April 2000

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Journal Back Issues Each Copy 7.50

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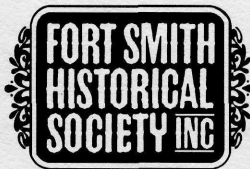
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Contents

VOL. 24, NO. 1

APRIL, 2000

Contents	1
Editors' Note.	2
Dessa Davis Moore	3
January 13, 1897 - December 13, 1999	
Events in the Twentieth Century.	6
Annual Business Sponsors.	11
Civic Club Sponsor.	11
Mayor Tom Ben Garrett	12
Henry S. Suratt and the Queen's Crown Jewels	15
Fort Smith Teacher Finds Home in America	17
The Blue and The Gray	19
Book Notes	20
Fort Smith Symphony.	21
Musical Know-How Lands Lorna Schultis on.	21
Pages of National Magazine	
Park Operations at Fort Smith, Arkansas.	24
News and Opportunities	26
In Loving Memory.	32
Genealogy News; Rogers Cemetery and	34
Old Burying Grounds	
Inquiries.	43
1899 Newspapers	44
Index	46

COVER: A New Millennium

Exit 1999...Enter 2000

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ISSN 0736 4261

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Editors' Note:

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend the joint annual meeting of the Fort Smith Historical Society and Fort Smith Social Studies Educators' Frontier Achievement Awards meeting at newly redone Darby Junior High School Auditorium:

6:30 P.M., THURSDAY, APRIL 27

The world has just celebrated a very special, once in our lifetime event – the end of one millennium and beginning of another.

It would take volumes to just mention every thing and every person that have influenced the development of Fort Smith, so no attempt will be made to include them all, but in addition to regular features, in commemoration of this event we welcome some new writers and both issues of Volume 24 of *The Journal* will spotlight articles representative of some special events, entertainment, business, immigration, medical care etc. of the last century of the first millennium in Fort Smith, that have, to quote the present mayor, Ray Baker, "made life worth living in Fort Smith." This April issue features memories of 102 year old Dessa Moore and her son W. Trueman Moore; Mayor Tom Ben Garrett's 1899 state of the city address, reporting achievements during 1899 and throwing out challenges for improvements in 1900; Henry S. Suratt, farmer, soldier, chief of police, railroad detective and fire chief, one of many prominent people buried in Oak Cemetery; *The Blue and the Gray*, one of several movies partially filmed in Fort Smith; Fort Smith Symphony; talented musician and writer, Lorna Schultis; story of Thonsavath Duong, teacher in Fort Smith who escaped from Laos in a 2-foot wide canoe and came to Fort Smith during the mass emigration to escape cruelty in Asia.

The September issue will include the history of a family which has provided medical care in Fort Smith for more than a century, history of the New Theater, a leader in historical restoration in Fort Smith, biography of a business man, etc.

From all of us, we want you to know how valuable you are to the Fort Smith Historical Society and how much we appreciate your support. Without your memberships and contributions, there would be no Fort Smith Historical Society and no *Journal*.

Thank you and best wishes from all of us:

Amelia Whitaker Martin

Sarah Fitzjarrald McCullough

Janice Bufford Eddleman

Dessa Davis Moore

January 13, 1897 - December 13, 1999

By Amelia Martin

Here are some of the things Dessa Davis Moore said on her 100th birthday, January 13, 1997:

"I was born January 13, 1897, in a log cabin about five miles east of Greenwood, Arkansas. When I was born, Grover Cleveland was president of the United States for the second term, but soon Benjamin Harrison was sworn in as the 25th president. I have lived in the administrations of 19 of the 42 U. S. presidents. I saw Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, Woodrow Wilson, Herbert Hoover, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George Bush and others – and now Bill Clinton.

"Accurate records for the date of my birth are not easily obtainable, but when I was three years old the American Baseball League was started, the mousetrap and the Stanley Steamer were invented. Five pounds of flour cost \$0.13, bacon was \$0.14 a pound and milk was \$0.28 a gallon.

"I was four years old when President McKinley was assassinated in Buffalo, New York, Marconi received the first trans-Atlantic radio signal, the first Ford Motor Carriage rolled off the assembly line, and the future Japanese Emperor, Hirohito, was born.

"When I was five, 'Bill Bailey, Won't You Please Come Home' was a popular song and the bank robber John Dillinger was killed. The AAA was founded and Mount Pelee volcano erupted, killing 40,000 people.

"When I was six, barbershop quartets were singing, 'Ida, Sweet As Apple Cider' and 'Sweet Adeline' and 'Waltzing Matilda.' The Ford Motor Company was incorporated and the Wright brothers made their first flight lasting 12 seconds.

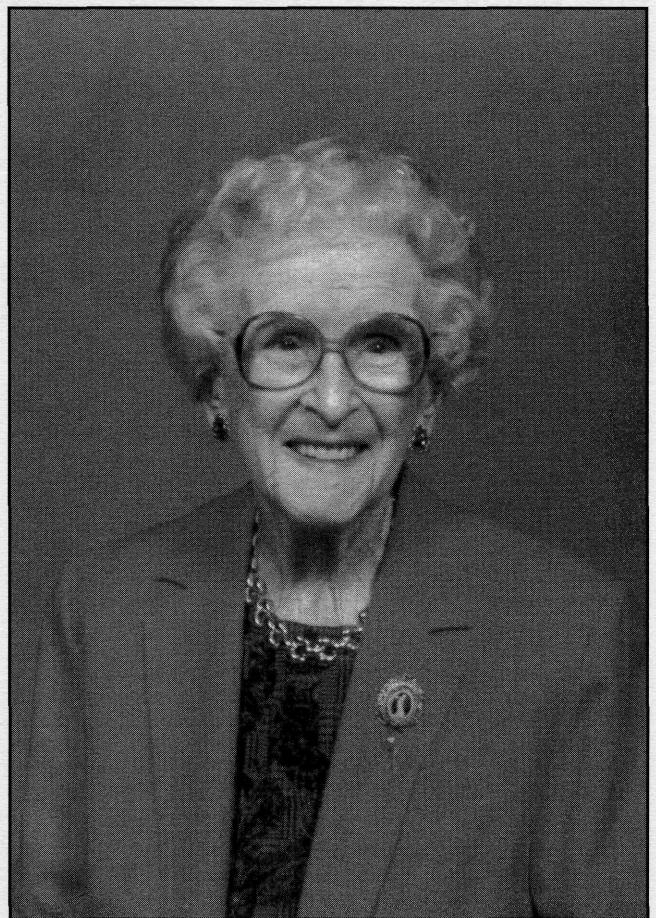
Lawrence Welk, Leslie Townes Hope (Bob Hope), and Lou Gehrig were born that year, too. A New York Times editorial said rockets would never fly.

"When I was seven, the ice cream cone was invented and the safety razor. Dr. Seuss was born.

"At the age of eight, I heard folks singing, 'Wait Till the Sun Shines Nellie' and 'In the Shade of the Old Apple Tree.' That year bumpers first began to be put on cars and the outboard motor was invented.

"I was 15 when the Titanic sank and the Girl Scouts were founded. I was 17 when Mother Teresa was born. When I was 18, the Germans started using chemical warfare in Germany in the First World War. Pyrex dishes were invented too.

"When I was 19, windshield wipers were invented and President Woodrow Wilson was reelected. When I was 20, the Bolsheviks gained power in Russia, and Lena Horne was born.



Dessa Davis Moore

*"When I was 23,
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of bacon was \$0.52..."*

I graduated
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\$60 a
month. I

taught one summer term with nine grades in the same room. That year my boyfriend was called into the Army and went to fight in France.

"When I was 21, people were singing 'I'm Always Chasing Rainbows.' The Czar of Russia along with his family was executed. That year the automatic toaster was invented, and Billy Graham was born.

"When I was 23, I got married. Five pounds of flour cost \$0.41 and a pound of bacon was \$0.52, but of course, we raised all of our own bacon and ham."

In the twenty-four page story of her life which Dessa wrote at the request of her son Truman, she tells of her Davis family lineage, growing up on a farm in the area which became Camp Chaffee, the move from the camp area, her 63 years of marriage to Herschel Moore, her children, education, teaching career, friends, move to Fort Smith, love of music and service in her church which included church pianist for thirty-one years and teaching a Sunday school class for eighty years.

Her parents were Reuben Jefferson and Serena Frances Foster Davis. Reuben was born in Georgia January 18, 1863. His great-great-grandfather, Jonathan Davis, born in England circa 1730, came to America circa 1756 and settled in Virginia where he married Lucy Gibbs.

Reuben Jefferson Davis's descent from Jonathan and Lucy Gibbs was:

1. Rev. William Davis, Sr., b. 7 January 1765 Orange/Culpepper Co., Virginia, who married Nancy Eastin on 5 February 1789 in Orange County, Virginia.
2. Rev. William Davis, Jr., b. 8 December 1796, married Joice Johnson.
3. Ruben Eastin Davis, born 5 May 1819 in Wilkes/Elbert Co. Georgia; m. 25 November 1838 Elizabeth G. Whitaker, b. 20 January 1821 in South Carolina.

Dessa's mother, Serena Frances Foster, was born August 5, 1864 in Roanoke, Alabama. Serena's nickname was Rhoda. She and Reuben Jefferson Davis were married in 1883, came to Arkansas in September of that same year and bought a farm on which a one-room log cabin had been built.

Dessa Davis and Herschel Moore were married in Sebastian County, 5 September 1920. Six children were born to that union. She was so proud of those children, and well she should have been. The children are:

1. Wanda Lucille Moore, born with cerebral palsy, graduated from Greenwood High School with high marks; graduated from Central College and Ouachita Baptist University in Arkansas; earned master's degree in Religious Education with emphasis on social work from Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; employed by the Home Mission Board of Southern Baptists, serving in New Orleans and in rural South Carolina. She resigned in 1948, taught 22 years in the Arkansas public schools in DeValls Bluff, Lavaca, Barling and Fort Smith. She married 26 January 1974 in the Grand Avenue Baptist church to Baptist minister Walter H. Watts, born Belzoni, Humphreys Co. Mississippi; a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University; died 1993 after serving over 60 years in the ministry. This was a second marriage for Rev. Watts; m. first to Bertha Spicer of Scranton, Arkansas, who died 1972; three children by Bertha, no children by Wanda.
2. Roger Neil Moore, B-29 co-pilot in World War II; architectural engineer; married 5 January 1945 to Betty Jo Beach. They have three children, Terri Lynn, Deborah and Nancy Moore.
3. Rosemary Moore, graduate Western Union Managerial School at Bastrop, Louisiana; became manager of the Western Union office at Paris, Arkansas; m. Afton Virgil Looney; a lockmaster and civil service employee; have three children, Linda Gayle, Gary Don, Rodney Dale.

4. Willis Trueman Moore, class valedictorian, Mansfield, Arkansas high school; graduate University of Arkansas with degree in agriculture, Master and Doctor of Divinity degrees from Southwestern Baptist Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; spent 15 years in Bangladesh as evangelistic missionary, teacher, agricultural consultant and translator of the Bible lessons into the native language; eruption of the India-Pakistani War forced evacuation of family with consequent loss of all possessions; became pastor of East Side Baptist Church of Fort Smith, Arkansas; retired 1990 after 42 years in the ministry. After retirement served as interim pastor for a number of churches, including South Side Baptist Church in Fort Smith. Married 14 June 1953 to Erma Jane Bassett, daughter of Orville Lee and Gracie Syble Bassett; graduate Arkansas Tech University, Russellville; also served as missionary in Bangladesh; four children: Trudy Jane Moore, physician; Willis Truman Moore, youth minister; Lee Arthur Moore, office manager/computer analyst for health service organization; James Franklin Moore, graduate University of Arkansas, claims agent for Union Pacific Railroad.
5. Don Moore, graduate Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; served as pastor for several Baptist churches including 12-1/2 years as pastor of Grand Avenue Baptist church in Fort Smith before becoming Executive Secretary-Director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention; married to Shirley Ray Terrell, 1 May 1955; two children: Cynthia Kay "Cindy" Moore, wife of Gearl Spicer, Administration and Education minister of First Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia, and Donald Jeffrey Moore, graduate Ouachita Baptist University and University of Arkansas School of Medicine with pediatric residency at Arkansas Children's Hospital; Pediatric practice Searcy Medical Center, White County, Arkansas; two children, Andrea Leigh Moore and Jared Don Moore.
6. Arlene Mozelle Moore, degree in music and education, Ouachita Baptist University; church organist, reading specialist and public school teacher; married to George Lee O'Neal, has two children, Roger Lee O'Neal and Robin Leigh O'Neal.

Dessa was featured on the May 5, 1966 cover of the Arkansas Baptist News Magazine when she was honored as "Mother of the Year" by Arkansas Baptists.

Dessa's record of community and church service was featured in a loving article about the Moore family written by Wanda's husband, Rev. Walter H. Watts, and published in the 1981 summer issue of The Key, official publication of the South Sebastian County Historical Society.

Dessa Davis Moore wanted to live until the year 2000 so she could say she lived in three different centuries, but that was not to be. She died December 13, 1999, just eighteen days short of that goal and one month before her 103rd birthday. She is survived by all of her six children: Wanda Watts of Fort Smith, Rosemary Looney of Charleston, Arlene O'Neal of Bella Vista, W. Trueman Moore of Barling, Don Moore of Little Rock and Roger Neil Moore of Westerville, Ohio; thirteen grandchildren and twenty-seven great-grandchildren.

The following article, *Events In The Twentieth Century*, by W. Trueman Moore, Dessa Moore's son, tells about his Moore family, national and world events, how it was growing up in the Moore family and includes many quotes from Dessa Moore's story of her life.

Sources:

1. *Information from W. Trueman Moore*
2. *Manuscript of Dessa Davis Moore's story of her life*
3. *Jonathan Davis of Orange County Virginia and Wilkes County, Georgia and Some of His Descendants, compiled by Mildred Davis Davidson*

Events in the Twentieth Century

by W. Trueman Moore

My father, Herschel A. Moore, was born in Sebastian County, January 28, 1891. Since he lived to the age of 93, he saw most of the twentieth century. My grandad, James Denmark Moore, built a log cabin on four acres of land that he bought. They moved into it on March 1, 1901. Their hogs ran in herds in the woods. They cleared the land and made ties and hauled them to Fort Smith and sold them for railroad and streetcar track crossties.

There were no screens on their houses and many people were sick a lot because of flies and mosquitoes, and cotton was king. The land was rich. They made lots of money and built a frame house with weatherboard outside and shiplap on the inside with wall paper over it. They put out an orchard of peach trees and that brought a lot of money for five years. Then disease and insects hit, and the family had to destroy the peach crop. Then they grew early potatoes and that made money for five years. Every merchant in town and every lawyer and doctor got into the potato business. Then you couldn't sell them. You'd sell a carload and couldn't get back enough money to pay the bill for the freight.

Dad started to school in 1900 when he was nine years old. He started a bit late because he had to walk through the woods to school, much of the walk alone. After some distance, he would meet up with his uncle, Karl McClendon, and the Young boys, and they walked three miles each way to the Biswell Springs School. Grandpapa Moore used a brush broom to clean and lay out a path for his first-born son to walk through the woods. There were about thirty children in the school. The teachers were men and women just out of high school.

The schools were not graded. Boys frequently went to school until they were 18 or 20 years old. They took math mostly and graduated out of subjects more than out of classes. When they could read the fifth grade reader, they graduated out of reading. When a student learned to spell all the words in the speller, he didn't have to take spelling anymore. Most of the girls quit school earlier and got married.

Dad quit school at the age of fifteen and farmed and ginned cotton. He went back to school when he was 18 and continued until he was 21.

When Dad was asked how young people are brought up differently today, he said, "They are not disciplined in the way we were." He said his father did the disciplining in their home and he used a board paddle. Dad confessed though that he was never paddled by his father but one time.

Biswell Springs was noted not only for its school but also for its campground. The two springs were located one mile south of the junction of Arkansas highways 22 and 96 and about one furlong east of highway 96. Dad did not know who discovered the springs and developed the campground. He remembered that when he was a very small boy there was a hotel, the school, and three or four stores. People used to come for miles around and camp at the springs because they thought the mineral water was good for them. Even in my time, the sides of the springs were covered with an orange-colored mineral deposit. We called it "copperous water." Actually, I think the water was very high in ferric sulfates — iron, not copper. People drank and bathed in the water which they thought would help their arthritis and other ailments.

The Methodists built a huge tabernacle between the two springs. The west spring was the stronger of the two so they built a pool down there and covered it with canvas. The hotel was known as Parks House. The Methodists used to hold camp meetings there every summer. About the turn of the century, people decided there was no magic in the water and the development began to fade.

Dad attended a picnic or fair at Biswell Springs and first heard a recording there. It was an Edison machine and the record was made on a black cylinder. He paid a nickel to get to listen to the recording on earphones. They also had a merry-go-round which was powered by a mule. It cost a dime to ride the merry-go-round.

Church services were conducted there quite often and one time when a preacher was preaching he died in the pulpit.

Dr. B.V. Ferguson, pastor of First Baptist Church of Fort Smith, and Rev. Harvey March built a brush arbor at Biswell Springs and held a revival in it. Grandpapa Moore led the singing. Many people came in wagons, brought chickens and eggs, and camped there during the revivals. Some stayed in tents. They did their own cooking. (I attended such a meeting there, but I think Rev. Oscar Stallings was the evangelist.)

My mother, Dessa Davis, was born in Sebastian County, January 13, 1897, in a log cabin about five miles east of Greenwood, Arkansas. Her parents were Ruben Jefferson and Rhoda Davis. They had moved to Arkansas from Georgia, leaving on the very day they were wed in Georgia. About the same time, a number of other families were moving too, including the Barretts, the Cummbies, the Rays, and the Wares. Since they were all from Georgia, the families visited together and had picnics. All of those large families together would have quite a picnic.

Education was an important part of the early century. My mother said of her parents: "Dad did not finish elementary school, but he was a strong believer in education and served on various school boards for more than a quarter of a century. He believed in teachers being strict in school. Mother could neither read nor write.

Dad would sit around the fireplace and read the newspaper to Mother. She knitted wool socks while he read. He always insisted on wearing wool socks in the winters. They raised sheep, sheared them, spun the wool into thread for socks, sweaters, and other items of clothing."

She told what life was like down on the farm: "Dad also raised corn, cotton, and other row crops to keep a house full of kids busy. If there was nothing else to do, then sprouts had to be cut and rocks picked up in the fields. He always kept all the kids busy. One year we grew 20 bales of cotton.

"When he would come in from the fields at noon, he would lie down in the breezeway and sing songs from The Sacred Harp song book. He would have all the kids sing along with him, because he loved music. Dad would attend singing conventions and always wanted his kids to be involved in singing schools. (His favorite song was "On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand.")

"Dad would take us to the circus at Fort Smith and we all stayed in the wagon yard. Some slept in the wagon while others slept in a little hut nearby. He would take a bale of cotton to town, sell it, and get enough money to buy all the kids new shoes."

Mom was eleven years old when the famed Model T Ford came out, with a twenty-horsepower engine on August 12, 1908.

Henry Ford himself drove the first car through the streets of Detroit and said the company would sell twenty-five thousand of them next year. The car sold for \$850.

The General Motors Corporation was formed September 14, 1908, and William Howard Taft became president of the United States March 4, 1909. Also, Admiral Perry reached the North Pole in 1909.

When they had revivals, dads would take wagons loaded with children who would sit on quilts in the back of the wagon. When Mom was 13, she surrendered her life to Christ during one of those revivals. The church house was the center of our community and of our lives. Besides Sunday School, worship, and singing conventions, the church house was also used for Home Demonstration Club meetings. I almost always attended these since there was nowhere else for me to go. My mother was always looking for ways to make our lives better – ways to stretch the very few dollars she ever got to use.

Mrs. Joyce Sharp Bell was the home demonstration agent. She taught the ladies how to landscape their homes, can fruits and vegetables, make jelly, mend clothes, and

make mattresses. The ticking, cotton and thread were all furnished by someone. The huge needles were threaded and stuck through the thick batting of cotton. We kids would get underneath the mattress and return the needles back through the mattress to our mothers above.

Christmas was a time when the church house was used as a community center. Usually there would be a Christmas play and then Santa Claus would arrive with candy or fruit for everyone.

Getting an education was not easy in the early years of the twentieth century. Mom was the first girl in her family to go to high school. She and a younger brother drove a horse and buggy to school in Greenwood. Several days the weather was not pleasant. One day they started out with

*"Henry Ford
himself drove the first
car through the streets
of Detroit ..."*

the thermometer 2 degrees below zero. They lit a lantern and put it under the lap robe, also warmed bricks and put them to their feet. They hadn't gone half way until there were icicles hanging on the horse's whiskers. They paid a price for their education back then.

In school they studied Latin, ancient history, Caesar, Shakespeare's plays, physics, the classics, or any other subject to make them think. One year their classics books were late getting in so they studied the Book of Genesis. (Imagine that!)

Mom said "Dad thought Tennie Watson was the greatest teacher. I did, too. He thought Allen Hill Autry was the greatest preacher. He also loved to hear Jim Brewer. If either of these were preaching, he would attend. Otherwise, he did not go to church very often. He loved to hear Dr. John W. Kesner on the radio." In 1911, Irving Berlin produced his famous Alexander's Ragtime Band. The next year C.J. Jung introduced his theory of psychoanalysis, and Woodrow Wilson was elected president of the United States.

A little known event also occurred in 1912. An Ohio dentist, Zane Grey, gave up his dental instruments and took a pen to write *Riders of the Purple Sage*. He went on to become one of the world's best and most prolific writers.

But 1912 was a bad year in one way: The Titanic sank on April 16, 1912, with the loss of 1800+ people. The ship went down while the band on the deck played, "Nearer, My God, to Thee." Mom was 15 when the Titanic sank and that year the Girl Scouts were founded. She was 17 when Mother Teresa was born. When she was 18, the Germans started using chemical warfare in Germany in the First World War. Pyrex dishes were invented, too.

When she was 19, windshield wipers were invented and President Woodrow Wilson was reelected. When she was 20, the Bolsheviks gained power in Russia, and Lena Horne was born. She graduated from high school and started teaching school at Palestine at \$60 a month. That year her boyfriend, my father, was called into the Army and went to fight in France.

The sinking of the Lusitania set the stage for World War I. On April 6, 1917, the *Southwest American*, Fort Smith's daily paper, carried headlines 5 3/4 inches high which said simply "WAR! (and in smaller type) BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND GERMANY." The paper said: "The resolution that a state of war exists between the United States and Germany, already passed by

the senate, passed the house shortly after three o'clock this morning by a vote of 373 to 50." Passage of the resolution followed seventeen hours of debate.

The Armistice was finally signed November 11, 1918. The Allies had mobilized more than 42 million men, and 5 million of them were killed, including 116,516 Americans. Several of the Moores were involved in the war as was Orville Bassett, my father-in-law.

The citizens of the early twentieth century were hardworking people and expected children to work also. They grew cotton and corn mostly for money crops. They also had a large garden, hilled out turnips and potatoes in the fall of the year so they would have something to eat in the winter. For their meat, they killed hogs each year, packed them in a big box with salt over the meat. Then they would hang the meat up in the smoke house, get some hickory sticks and smoke it good.

Northwest of the Davis's place, there was the Mountain Home school house. The people got water from a spring at Mountain Home. Zenobia Leonard (later Mrs. John Abernathy) taught school at Mountain Home and stayed with my Davis grandparents. At the same time Mom taught school at Palestine and stayed with the Earl Crosses. The school at Palestine was named Pleasant Ridge School, and the church was named Palestine Baptist Church. She taught nine grades one summer at Pleasant Ridge. We had a 2-month session in the summer after crops were planted and before the harvest.

When Mom was 21, people were singing "I'm Always Chasing Rainbows." The Czar of Russia along with his family was executed. That year the automatic toaster was invented, and Billy Graham was born.

When she was 23, she and my dad got married. Five pounds of flour cost \$0.41 and a pound of bacon was \$0.52, but of course, they raised all of our own bacon and ham.

Mom and Dad were married at Cornish on September 5, 1920, and lived in the Union Grove Community. Their only local grocery store was at Cornish and the principal school their children attended was Cornish Elementary School.

At Cornish, the men had a good baseball team. They played at Osburns' farm across the highway from the store. (It was on that field, in the shade of persimmon trees that we got our typhoid shots from the county health nurse, Miss Shaeffer, for many years—and were always sick

after we got them.) The men played croquet at Cornish, too, but Dad never played and did not like for the boys to go there to play.

With the moral chaos which seems to occur during every war, there was a cry for the banning of the manufacture and sale of liquor. So on January 16, 1920, the Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution went into effect, banning the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages.

Not many people had cars at this time. Even the mail carrier rode a horse or traveled in a buggy to deliver the mail. Later he got a Model T Ford. One day my dad's sisters walked to the mail box, about a mile away to get the mail. When they heard and saw the mail carrier's car coming, they became so frightened that they ran home – without the mail!

Dad's family (the J. D. Moores) got their first car in 1917. It was a yellow Dodge. By this time, there were seven children in the Moore family. It was a great day when his mother got her "Home Comfort" cooking range, a "red letter day." That helped with the cooking, but still no refrigerators were available. They didn't even have an ice box. Food was kept cool by storing it in spring houses or by letting it down in buckets partially immersed in springs or open wells. Usually, meat was peddled the same day of its slaughter. Beef would keep longer than pork and chicken without refrigeration so it was most often sold house to house.

Adolph Hitler published *Mein Kampf* (My Struggle) in 1926, which was a demagogic book calling for a national revival and battle against Communism and the Jews.

The headlines of the *Southwest Times-Record* on April 17, 1927, said:

"FORT SMITH'S FRONT YARD IS
FLOODED ALMOST TO FOOT HILLS
IN OKLAHOMA."

The river had crested at its highest stage in 94 years. About 500 people were forced out of their homes and their needs were urgent.

"Black Friday," October 29, 1929, was the most disastrous day in Wall Street history. The high for the Dow Jones Industrial Average in 1929 was 381.2. The low was 198.7. In 1932, the Dow Jones Industrial Average plummeted to 88.8.

*"Dad's family
got their first car in
1917. It was a yellow
Dodge."*

The headlines of the *Fort Smith Times Record* on March 6, 1933, were:

"NATIONAL BANK HOLIDAY
NOW IS IN EFFECT"

Leaders were seeking a way to carry on commerce as Clearing House Certificates were being printed. The scrip was to be issued and used in place of the old currency. President Roosevelt had

declared the bank holiday Monday through Thursday. During those days no bank was allowed to transact any business whatsoever except by permission of the Secretary of the Treasury. A special session of Congress was called to deal with the problem.

In 1933 our family was suffering terribly from the Depression. I often wondered if we would starve to death. I remember seeing Mom take the last of the flour from the bin. She normally stood in front of the cabinet in which the flour was kept in a bin built in to the top deck. There was a sifter at the bottom of the flour bin, and Mom could sift flour directly from the bin into a bowl or skillet.

When all the flour was gone, we had to survive on corn meal and little white peas we had grown on our rocky hillside farm. Fortunately, we usually had tomato sauce that we called "chili sauce" (the salsa of our day) to put on the peas, and they were pretty good. In fact, we used chili sauce on almost anything. Since most of us loved tomatoes, we even would put salsa on biscuits and cornbread.

A calamitous drought gripped the Midwest in 1934. It did not rain for nine months. In spite of the difficult times we were having, we had some enjoyable experiences with our larger family. I remember going to Grandpapa and Grandmama Moores' house to eat ice cream. Most of their children and grandchildren would come. Someone would either buy a five-gallon tub of ice cream or they would freeze it in a large ice cream freezer. We would enjoy multiple bowls of that good, cold treat. There would be great family fun and fellowship.

When we were young, we had lots of other things to think about. Bonnie and Clyde, both in their twenties, were gunned down by lawmen near Ruston, Louisiana, on May 23, 1934. They were accused of robbing banks and multiple murders. They occasionally came to Sebastian County.

John Dillinger, labeled "public enemy number one," was shot July 22, 1934, as he left a Chicago movie theater.

The headlines in the *Southwest American* on August 17, 1935, shouted:

"POST AND ROGERS KILLED IN ALASKA"

They were killed in a plane crash near Point Barrow, Alaska, as their new airplane motor faltered shortly after take-off. The plane which carried the noted aviator and respected humorist to their deaths was made of second hand parts and operated under a restricted government license.

On May 27, 1937, the Golden Gate Bridge opened in San Francisco Bay with two hundred thousand on hand to celebrate one of the engineering marvels of the century, the longest suspension bridge in the world.

Grandmama Moore moved back in with us in the years after Grandpapa died. She was a joy to have around and caused no trouble for us. Mom and she got along well and we kids learned a lot from her. We grew our own food which Mom canned, and we had Jersey cows to give milk and butter. We sold milk and had hogs for pork. We all went to the field to work. As the children grew, some of the older ones would stay at the wagon in the shade to take care of the baby on a pallet. Sometimes we would take our lunch to the field, and sometimes we would go home to eat. When we did that, we would all lie down on the floor to rest. Mom usually used a Sears-Roebuck catalog for her pillow.

Dad and Mom were not making enough money farming to keep the children in school, pay the mortgage payment, taxes, insurance, etc. so Dad got a job of building bridges on state highway 96. After the bridges were all finished, he began building stone houses. Mom thought Dad could never get on WPA. She didn't know why. I thought he didn't want to get on WPA because he thought it was government relief, and he was too proud and independent to accept handouts. Later he got a job supervising NYA boys, building sidewalks in Greenwood and small stone houses at road intersections in which students could wait for school buses.

At Bun McConnell's store at Cornish, almost everything a rural family needed was available. We bought sugar, flour, salt, vinegar, and clothes like overalls and work shoes etc. there. The store also bought cream from the local residents, and then sold it to the creamery in Fort Smith. Bun let us and others buy groceries and other essential items on credit, if we had to – and we frequently had to.

Bun also operated a mill back of the store. We used to shell our dried field corn and take it to the

grist mill for grinding into corn meal. We were blessed with adequate crops most of the time and provided our own meal for corn bread and corn meal mush.

We had a telephone, but no electric lights, no car for a long time, and no washing machine. We took our dirty clothes to a spring down in the pasture, used a rub board, boiled the clothes in a big black pot, rinsed them, and hung them on clotheslines or bushes to dry, or we brought them wet back up the hill and hung them on clotheslines or fences at the house.

We also enjoyed "musicals." The term had a different meaning back then. What we meant by the term was a gathering of everybody in the area who could play a fiddle, guitar, banjo, harmonica, mandolin, or piano. They would come together to have a long night of singing the old ballads, gospel songs, and spirituals. My father-in-law, Orville Bassett, was one of the finest fiddlers in the country. No one wanted to end a musical without hearing him play "Listen to the Mocking Bird" or "Turkey in the Straw." Fred Townley was one of the most notable of the guitarists who also could sing the wonderful songs of our time. I can still hear "Beautiful, beautiful Texas, Where the beautiful blue bonnets grow; We're proud of our forefathers, Who fought at the Alamo..." "The Yellow Rose of Texas," "Home on the Range," "Arkansas," "Victory in Jesus," "I'll Fly Away," and others too numerous to mention were sung every time we had a musical.

My mother was frequently the pianist for the musicals – and almost everything else. She played for church services, revivals, music schools, funerals, and school programs. She played some of those songs from World War I such as "It's a Long, Long Way to Tipperary," "Over There," and then the songs of World War II and the branches of the armed services such as "Let's Remember Pearl Harbor," "From the Halls of Montezuma," "Off We Go into the Wild Blue Yonder," "Anchors Away," and "The Caissons Go Rolling Along."

Music was a vital part of our lives, and we have all been the richer because of it. We have sung our way through disasters of every kind. We have worshiped our God in song whether we appeared to be winners or losers. We have hummed tunes that turned our despondent thoughts to new hope and ambition. God was good when He gave us the gift of music and musicians to teach and lead us in melody and rhythm.

My mother and father were faithful in Sunday School and church. They attended the Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church. This church was

aligned with the Southern Baptist Convention, but sometimes it was not too clear on which side they stood. My mother played the piano for various churches for about thirty-one years.

For those who had time to read, Ernest Hemingway came out with his popular novel *For Whom the Bell Tolls* in 1940. November 5, 1940, Franklin Delano Roosevelt was elected for a third term as U.S. president by defeating Wendell Wilkie.

J. Fred Patton wrote (J. Fred Patton, *Southwest Times Record*, September 26, 1982, "FS Turns Corner with War," p. m-1-3): The economy of Fort Smith was dragging in 1940. The city grew in population as more rural residents abandoned the countryside and moved into town. The government was buying forest land to put together the Ozark National Forest, and the Civilian Conservation Corps gave employment to Fort Smith's young people. The population of Fort Smith grew in 1940 to 36,548.

In 1941 a devastating flood hit the Fort Smith area. All lowland areas of the city were flooded. The Arkansas River southwest of the city spread nine miles wide. Each rain that hit the city brought the water level higher. In October 1926, the river was at 28.4 feet; in November 1941, the water level reached 37.3 feet.

Events in 1941 began to swirl in a frenzy of patriotism as we began to move from our home place on December 15. Mom got a new cook

stove. It had warming ovens above the cooking surface, a warm-water reservoir on the level with the cooking surface, and a fine large oven. Of course, we used wood as fuel in the stove since we did not have natural gas, propane, or electricity.

Everything was to change on December 7, 1941 when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. We began moving from Union Grove on December 15, 1941, because the U.S. Government forcibly took our land for use as a military camp, Camp Chaffee.

Our parents' upsetting moves to Dayton, then Greenwood, and then Fort Smith was more than matched by world events including World War II, the atomic bomb, the Cold War, the introduction of television, and the coming of the computer age. Through it all, Mom and Dad reared six children. One has been a Sunday School teacher for many years, another a Baptist deacon, another a home missionary and pastor's wife, another a pastor's wife, and two Southern Baptist pastors and denominational servants.

Mom and Dad were married 64 years. They served the Lord, His churches, and His servants unreservedly for all their lives. They have been the kind of church members and citizens that our nation needs.

Mom died December 13, 1999, one month short of her 103rd birthday at her home in Fort Smith.

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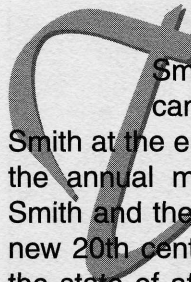
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1897 - 1902

om Ben Garrett was mayor of Fort Smith from 1897-1902. How better can we know the situation in Fort Smith at the end of the 19th century, than to read the annual message of the mayor when Fort Smith and the world were preparing to enter the new 20th century. In his message he addresses the state of affairs in Fort Smith, both good and bad – accomplishments and needs to be met. The following article was published in the *Fort Smith Elevator* on April 14, 1899.

THE NEW CITY COUNCIL

Was Organized for Business Last Monday Night
Mayor Garrett's Annual Message to the
Aldermanic Body Reviewing the
Municipal Situation

Improvements are needed

Fort Smith's new city council was organized last Monday night when County Judge Spradling administered the official oath to the new guardians of the city's interests. Messrs. Hank Wyman, John Schaap, J. A. Hoffman, James Kelley and F. T. Grober are the new men who occupy aldermanic seats.

The mayor's annual message to the council, which reviewed the past year and referred to the future, was as follows:

To the members of the Honorable City Council:

Gentlemen – Another year in our city's official history has been brought to a close, and when we look back over the records of the past two years and see that has been done for our city's advancement I feel proud that our efforts have brought forth good fruit, and when the other improvements now in course of construction are completed we will have a city equal to, if not in advance of any in this portion of the great southwest.

I feel that other good things are in store for us and that they will be brought forth by proper effort on our part.

There will be grave and momentous questions presented to you for your solution during the present year and I dare say you will be able to meet them in a manner that praise will be due you from your constituents.

The many familiar faces before me in this chamber, men who have served the city faithfully and with honor to themselves in the past, and the new and untried members recently elected to this body, whose faithfulness and energy are known to all, convince me that the city government is in the hands of men that will be equal to any emergency, however complicated, that may present itself.

It is easy for one's constituents to suggest what should be done, or not done, by officials, and it is easy at times for officials to see what should be done in order that the entire population might enjoy, to some extent, the pleasures and benefits from paved streets, lights, water, police and fire protection as others do, yet this cannot be done at all times on account of the depressed financial condition of the city.

The financial condition of our city is the leading question to be solved by you. How to increase our city's finances without making it burdensome upon the taxpayers is the question. Who should this burden fall upon? The answer is, simply, it should fall on all alike, by equal and just taxation.

The question then is, How is this to be accomplished? I leave it with you right here to consider. The city's indebtedness will be shown by the clerk's report when presented to this body.

I will now call your attention to other departments of the city:

Streets. – I am proud to inform you that our unpaved streets are, with a few exceptions, in as fine condition as dirt streets can be found at this season of the year. Slight repairs only will be needed for some time. Some portions of Garrison avenue will have to be repaved in the near future, yet with slight repairs in places, we can perhaps delay the general repaving for some months.

I desire to call your attention to the grade upon unpaved streets over which the electric railway

will soon be built. If the grade on any of these streets can be advantageously changed, the same should be done at once.

Therefore, I recommend that the street commissioner with the city engineer take this matter up and a report be made without delay to the council, if they find it necessary to change the grade at any place.

I am informed that the appropriation made by the U. S. government to build an iron fence around the U. S. jail will revert to the treasury if not expended, or the contract will not be let unless the city grades the streets around the block upon which is located the U. S. jail building. This should have prompt attention from the proper committee.

The sidewalks in some portions of the city are in bad condition, and in other parts of the city there are none at all. I recommend that an ordinance be passed requiring said walks to be repaired and others laid where necessary and needed.

Police Department. – This department, under the control of Chief John Fuller, has been very efficient and active in the suppression of crime and maintaining order throughout our city during the past year. I hope to see the same continue.

Fire Department. – Chief J. J. Little has control of this department and too much praise cannot be given him and his efficient men, both paid and volunteer firemen, for their untiring efforts and able work in behalf of our citizens' property and lives. The growth of the city demands an additional fire house, or station, and equipment, near the center of the city. This matter will come before you at some future time for your consideration.

Park. – Our city park has now become a most beautiful place, and a lovely resort under the able management of the commission. Some repairs are almost essential on the fence and arbors.

Cemetery. – The city cemetery has been well kept during the past year under the untiring care of the worthy sexton and assistant. More ground will be needed in the near future and the same should be purchased. That portion of the cemetery set apart for our colored population is now about filled with graves. I recommend that more ground be set apart for the colored people, and that the same have immediate attention from the cemetery committee.

Sewers. – The sewers of the city are in good condition. The repairs have been quite small during the year and I hope they will continue small.



Handsome young Tom Ben Garrett. Photo from Cravens collection, courtesy special collections library, University of Arkansas at Little Rock. **THE SEARCH CONTINUES FOR AN ADULT PHOTOGRAPH OF MAYOR TOM BEN GARRETT** for the city's collection of photos of mayors of Fort Smith. Anyone who can supply an adult photo of Mayor Garrett, please contact Mayor Ray Baker, Fort Smith City Hall, 623 Garrison, Fort Smith, AR 72901 or Amelia Martin, c/o Fort Smith Public Library, 61 South 8th Street, Fort Smith, AR 72901.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I hope the burdens taken up by you will prove a pleasure to you, and when your work is completed it will add materially to the upbuilding of our progressive city. I also hope the working of this body will be harmonious at all times and pleasant to all, and the results of our labors will meet the expectation of our constituents.

The mayor announced that he had reappointed J. J. Little as chief of the fire department, and John Fuller as chief of police. The council then proceeded to the election of officers. J. B. Gass was elected city engineer, T. J. Hurley, street commissioner; Henry Wegman, city weigher; Conrad

Hoffman, city sexton; J. O. Rye, sanitary guide, and Messrs. A.A. Pantet, Wm. Prendergast and J. B. Gass, park commissioners.

The mayor then announced the following committees:

Finance – Aldermen Kuper, Kenney, Phillips.

Ordinance – Aldermen Edmondson, Hoffman, Kelley.

Streets and Alleys – Aldermen Phillips, Wyman, Kuper, Kelley, Scruggs.

Fire Department – Aldermen Edmondson, Schaap, Grober.

Police – Aldermen Grober, Kenney.

Claims – Aldermen Hoffman, Phillips, Kenney.

Cemetery – Aldermen Grober, Hoffman, Schaap.

Sanitary – Aldermen Kelley, Wyman, Scruggs.

Public Buildings – Aldermen Kuper, Scruggs, Edmondson.

Gas, Electric Light and Water – Grober, Wyman, Schaap, Hoffman.

On July 30, 1897, the *Fort Smith Elevator* reported:

“Under the instruction of Mayor Garrett and the board of the public affairs the old gallows in the federal jail yard, which has been the scene of so many executions for crimes committed in the Indian Territory, was torn down last week and burned up. This removes an object which, unsightly and gruesome as it might be, was, nevertheless, an interesting one to strangers from abroad.”

Mayor Garrett died August 6, 1928. The following obituary was preserved in a scrapbook, and date and name of newspaper publishing it is unknown.

T. B. GARRETT,
FORMER MAYOR
OF CITY IS DEAD

Funeral services for Tom Ben Garrett Sr., former mayor, postmaster and leader in civic affairs, were conducted at 4 o'clock Thursday afternoon from the family residence, 402 North Sixteenth street, with Rev. J. W. Paxton, supply pastor of First Presbyterian church, officiating. Burial was in Oak cemetery. The Putman funeral home was in charge.

Pallbearers for the funeral were: Wallace Bruce, Charles Reynolds, Ira Oglesby, Allan Kennedy, Carl Pierce, Harry P. Warner, C. A. Lick Sr., and Jerry Cravens.

Mr. Garrett died Wednesday at 6:40 p.m. at his home, following an illness of more than two years, and which had been serious for several months. He was 78 years old and had resided in Fort Smith since 1885. He was born in Tyro, Miss., Sept. 18, 1849, and was reared and educated in Mississippi. He was one of the oldest fraternity men in the city. He received a degree from the University of Mississippi with the class of 1871 and was a member of Phi Gamma Delta.

Identified with Fort Smith's earlier political, civic and social life, Mr. Garrett was closely associated with the father of W. J. Echols, president of Merchants National bank, and was widely known as a leader in city affairs of that period. He served for three terms as mayor of Fort Smith and was honored with practically every position in city government which was the gift of the people. He served as postmaster under the Cleveland administration.

For several years, Mr. Garrett had not been active in city affairs because of bad health. He went to Florida a few years ago to manage orange groves in which he was interested. He had been seriously ill since his return to Fort Smith.

Surviving relatives are his wife, Mrs. Ella Garrett, a son, T. B. Garrett Jr., Jackson, Miss., and three daughters, Mrs. George Pepper of Johnson City, Tenn., Miss Ollie Garrett, of Okmulgee, Okla. and Miss Gladys Garrett, of Fort Smith.

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.

Henry S. Suratt

and the Queen's Crown Jewels

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

Farmer, soldier, Chief of Police, railroad detective and Fire Chief all describe Mr Henry S. Suratt who died December 21, 1910 and is buried in historic Oak Cemetery along with his wives and several of his children. This interesting man of French descent, who was born in Corinth, Mississippi on June 12, 1850, was a child of 11 when the Civil War started. When it ended in 1865, Henry was still a child by today's standards but he had already served two years as a scout in Company A, 19th Tennessee Cavalry.

In Mississippi, Suratt married Isabella (Belle) Ann Harrison, a descendant of William Henry Harrison, who was President of the United States in 1841. Together they had six children named Clara, Willis, Ernest, Mary, Albert and Mamie Rebecca, all surviving to adulthood. Wife Isabella died June 22, 1888 and is buried in Oak Cemetery.

Suratt came to Arkansas in the 1870s after farming in Mississippi after being discharged from the Cavalry. On arrival in the Fort Smith area, he farmed for a while and then worked as a clerk for William Breen and later for Echols and Johnson. In 1885 he was elected Fort Smith's City Marshal in the city's closest election. Henry defeated Jack Kemp by only one vote. In 1886 he was reelected City Marshal. By 1887, he was Captain of Police and continued in Fort Smith law enforcement, becoming Fort Smith Chief of Police in 1894 and served in that capacity until 1897.

During all of the time he served with the police department, Suratt was also a volunteer fireman. Fort Smith did not have a paid fire department until 1899.

In June 1893, the crown jewels belonging to Queen Lilioukalani of Hawaii were stolen. Six of the diamonds from the crown were sent to Mrs McGinnis in Fort Smith. They were sent by her brother, Preston Harner, who had run away from home eight years earlier at the age of 13. Harner had assumed the name of Ryan and was working as one of the guards in the Royal Palace. Mrs McGinnis had no knowledge of her brother's whereabouts or the origin of the diamonds. Mrs McGinnis wrote her brother a letter which the Hawaiian authorities found in his possession. Since they had him under surveillance, they were able to use the contents of the letter to convict him. The letter bore a Fort Smith name and address so the information was forwarded to Fort Smith authorities. The letter was signed with a given name and last initial. However, there being only a few people in Fort Smith that the name and initial fit, Chief Suratt was able to locate Mrs McGinnis. When McGinnis learned the truth about the diamonds, she turned them over to Chief Suratt and Mayor Charles M. Cooke. The diamonds were deposited in a vault of First National Bank and eventually returned to Hawaii. Suratt received a \$100 reward according to the *Fort Smith Elevator* in 1894. Thus the connection between Fort Smith, Chief Henry Suratt and the stolen crown jewels of Queen Lilioukalani of Hawaii.

After wife Isabella died leaving him with six children, some of them small, Isabella's sister, Ella Harrison came to live with the Suratts and cared for the children. In time, Ella and Henry were married and had six more children. Lutie, Alene and Mildred survived to adulthood. Three boys died in infancy.

In 1897, Suratt went to work for the Missouri Pacific Railroad as a Special Officer or railroad detective. He held that job until 1907 when, newly elected, Mayor Fagan Bourland appointed him Chief of Police. Suratt served as Chief of Police through 1908. Suratt often stated that it was necessary for him to kill several men while in the line of duty as a policeman but in all cases he was exonerated.

Henry Suratt became Fire Chief in 1909. An interesting situation existed in Fort Smith at that time. There were two telephone companies in town so, as Fire Chief, he had to have two telephones. The phone companies did help make it simple by giving the Fire Chief the same number on both phones, 1212. Henry lived next door to his son Willis on Wheeler Street. Ernest, another son, was also a fireman and boarded with Willis. When the Fire Chief got a fire call, he called Ernest who ran across Wheeler to the wagon yard and hitched up the buggy. Ernest came by the house and picked up Mr. Suratt and away they went to the fire. In these days the fire equipment was horse drawn and the horses were trained to run to their places at the engine when the fire bell rang and their gate was opened. The harnesses were suspended and were lowered onto the horses. In 1909, during Suratt's first year as Fire Chief, he suffered a serious injury. Fire horses, being trained to run to their places when the alarm sounded, were tied to a column when the alarm sounded this day in 1909. As trained, they bolted for their positions pulling down the column. A beam fell on Chief Suratt breaking his neck. He was not killed but he never fully recovered from the injury.

Henry S. Suratt died December 21, 1910. Official cause of death: chronic Bright's Disease (kidney failure) according to Birnie Funeral Home records.

Oak Cemetery records reflect the following Suratt family members as being buried in Oak Cemetery:

Isabella Ann Suratt, w/o Henry Suratt.
 Albert Suratt, s/o Henry & Isabella Suratt.
 Henry S. Suratt.
 Henry Fletcher Suratt, Jr., s/o Henry & Ella.
 Two baby boys, no name, of Henry & Ella.
 William W. Suratt, Father.



Henry S. Suratt

Lela May, w/o James Parish.

Ella D Surratt, 2d w/o Henry S Suratt.

Mamie Rebecca Suratt Collins, w/o Fred D Collins, d/o Henry & Isabella Suratt.

***Acknowledgments: Jerry Atkins,
 Dorothy Clinehens and Chloe Lamon.***

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 persons with a
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 Historical Society
 — they will love
 The Journal and you.*

Fort Smith Teacher Finds Home in America

Thongsavath Duong's life was in turmoil when she escaped Laos years ago. But recently she was honored as one of Arkansas' best educators

By Paul Stone (Southwest Times Record, Dec. 13, 1999)

Nineteen years ago in a 2-foot wide canoe, Thongsavath Duong decided to seek a new life on the other side of the Mekong River.

There was one haunting possibility, however. If Laotian guards had detected her attempt to get from Laos to Thailand, she and four other family members would have likely been killed. "They guard it strongly at that time," said Duong, referring back to December 1980. "If you miss it, it's between life and death."

In fact, two years earlier, a cousin of Duong's – along with three of that relative's children – had perished in an attempt to escape the tightly-clenched fist of Communist rule in Laos. Duong's cousin was killed by the government, while the children drowned in the river. The woman's husband and one of the children successfully made it across.

"They kill you (if you're caught)", Duong simply said. "No mercy."

Since fleeing her homeland of Laos – a landlocked country bordered by Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand – Duong has come a long way. Today, she is a teacher at Fort Smith's Kimmons Junior High and was honored recently by the Arkansas Education Association in recognition of her role as a community leader and educator.

At Kimmons, 44-year-old Duong teaches math, science and social studies, and also assists in the school's English as a Second Language program.

Last spring Duong, an officer of the Kimmons Parent Teacher Association, led the Laotian Buddhist Community Activity Center in raising approximately \$5,000 to go toward the construction of a

sheltered area where students could go for noon breaks.

For efforts such as these promoting interracial and intergroup activities, Duong was awarded a plaque by the AEA November 11 at a banquet in Little Rock.

"I didn't expect this," said Duong, who has taught at Kimmons since 1986. "It's so high for me to get."

Almost two decades ago, one could have never predicted Duong would eventually receive an award for outstanding achievements as a teacher in this country.



Kimmons Junior High School teacher Thongsavath Duong, a former refugee in Laos, has been honored by the Arkansas Education Association

Prior to her escape, Duong was a math teacher employed by the Laotian government. If she got paid, the compensation was not in money, but instead in quantities of rice and sugar. Sometimes, a tube of toothpaste would be included in her "paycheck."

The pursuit of higher education turned out to be a breakthrough in Duong's attempt to leave Laos for a brighter opportunity.

"They (the government) trust me," Duong said. "They send me back to school to work on my masters. Then I have time to find a way out."

So in late 1980, Duong, who had failed to escape her homeland in two previous attempts, found freedom on her third try.

Once out of Laos, Duong and four relatives were sent to a refugee camp in Thailand. At the Nongkhai camp, she slept on the floor with a pillow and blanket, sharing a single roof with between 100-200 other refugees from Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia.

"It was horrible in the refugee camp, but it's better than the Communists anyway," said Duong, who was then 25.

"The life was horrible. It was a very hard time. Maybe I just miss home."

So Duong applied to four countries – the United States, Canada, France and Australia – to take her. After three or four months in Thailand, she was interviewed by U. S. officials and sent to the Bataan camp in the Philippines. It was there Duong was reacquainted with Loring Wagoner, the director of the refugee camp, whom she had known as a child in Laos as a friend of her uncle's.

Wagoner, who had earlier worked for the U. S. government in Laos, taught Duong the importance of community service during her time in the Philippines refugee camp. "He said, 'When you have time, do something to help your neighbor, do something to help your community'" said Duong, who mentioned Wagoner and Kimmons Principal Dan Roberts as strong influences on her life. "I don't know why he talk to me. I couldn't get point at that time."

Duong maintained contact with Wagoner until his death three years ago, sending him a card about once a year.

After spending almost a year in the Philippines, Duong's next stop was Hawaii, where she moved after being "sponsored" by her cousin. Once there, she drove two hours to Honolulu to take classes to learn to speak English.

Duong landed in Fort Smith in early 1983, working in a chicken plant for three months before

gaining a teaching position at Howard Elementary School in the fall of that year.

Oddly, Duong currently teaches the son (Danny Phonsaya) of one of her former students (Amphone Phonsaya) in Laos.

Duong said there are approximately 75 Laotian students attending Kimmons.

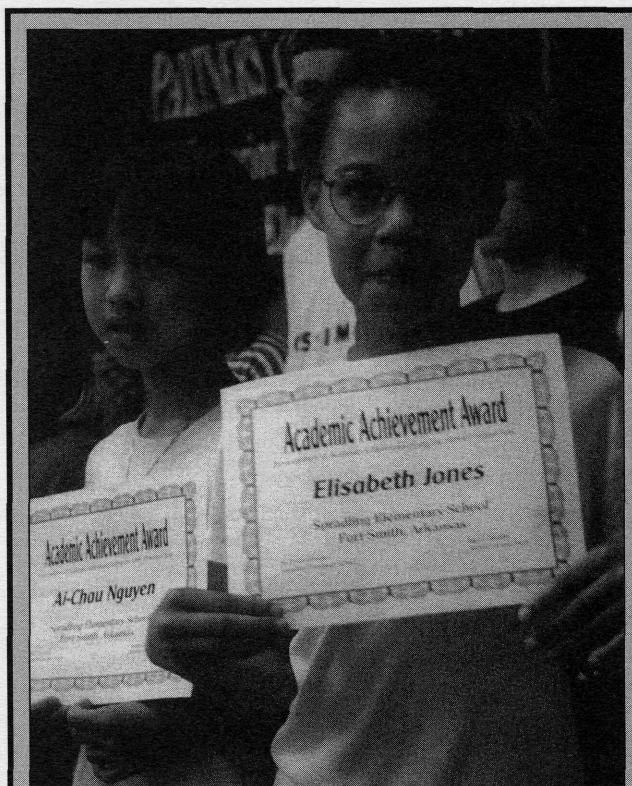
"The world is so small," said Duong, who received her higher education at Ecole Superior Pedagogic in Dong Dok.

Since leaving, Duong has returned to Laos once – in 1995 – to see her grandmother a final time. Her grandmother died a year later at the age of 103.

"I didn't really want to go back," said Duong, who still has two sisters and a brother in Laos. "It's hard for me to make the decision."

Today, Duong attempts to foster stronger relations between the local Laotian community and other ethnic groups in several ways such as working on events sponsored by the local Multi-Cultural Center.

"I just want the people to learn from each other – my community and the American people," Duong said.



Elisabeth Jones and Ai-Chau Nguyen, Spradling Elementary School students, display Academic Achievement Awards earned during the 1996-1997 school year. Superior Federal Savings Bank, Partner In Education, supports Spradling's incentive efforts. (Cover of Fort Smith Public School's publication, *Good Things Are Happening*, September 1997)

THE BLUE AND THE GRAY

"The Blue and the Gray" television movie filmed in 1981-1982 by CBS Entertainment, a division of the CBS Inc., was filmed at 102 different sets in northwest Arkansas and Oklahoma, some of which were in Fort Smith and the Fort Smith area. Many of the battle scenes were filmed at Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park, site of an actual Civil War battle in Arkansas in December 1862. The epic eight-hour drama about the American Civil War, was broadcast on three nights by KFSM-TV: Sunday, November 14, 7 to 10; Tuesday, November 16, 8 to 10; and Wednesday, November 17, 7 to 10. CBS called it the most ambitious undertaking ever by the network and expected the movie to be the highlight of the 1983 television season.

In advance publicity, William Self, Vice President, Motion Pictures for Television and Mini-Series, CBS Entertainment, said "The original story, prepared for the CBS Television Network by Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Bruce Catton and by John Leekley (who served as editor for Catton's final, posthumously-published book, 'Reflections on the Civil War'), is filled with the carefully-researched color and detail for which Catton was so noted — and which now instills 'The Blue and The Gray' with a depth, scope and accuracy unequalled in Civil War dramas."

In addition to Stacy Keach and John Hammond who starred in the movie, the distinguished cast included Gregory Peck in his television dramatic debut as Abraham Lincoln, Sterling Hayden as abolitionist John Brown, Rip Torn as Ulysses S. Grant, and guest stars Lloyd Bridges, Colleen Dewhurst, Paul Winfield, Robert Vaughn, Geraldine Page, Warren Oates, Kathleen Beller, Gerald S. O'Loughlin, Diane Baker, Rory Calhoun, David Doyle, Paul Benedict, John Vernon, Michael Horton and Dan Shor.

The mini-series also starred Julia Duffy, Brian Kerwin, Penny Peyser, Cooper Huckabee, Robin Gammell, David Harper, Walter Olkewicz, David Rounds, Julius Harris, Gregg Henry, Duncan Regehr, Christopher Stone, William Lucking, Charles Napier and James Carroll Jordan.

The epic production utilized 175 speaking roles, 4,500 extras, hundreds of horses, and a wardrobe whose replacement value was ascertained at \$10 million. Cameramen shot 410,000 feet of film, of which 44,020 appeared on screen.

While the foreground of the story is fiction, its background is populated by a galaxy of historical figures, including Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant, Robert E. Lee, along with such lesser known but still intriguing people like Gen. Herman Haupt, Prof. Thaddeus Lowe and Christopher Spencer.

THE PLOT

The plot focuses on two related families — one in the North and one in the South — whose lives become interwoven by the various momentous events of the Civil War. The central character who serves as the most prominent link between these two families is John Geyser (John Hammond), talented young artist who leaves his family farm near Charlottesville, Virginia, to work as an illustrator on his uncle's newspaper in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. With the war imminent, John returns home, where he witnesses the murder of a free black man on the Geyser farm. Shaken, the youth leaves Virginia and refuses to ever defend his native soil. Yet he also finds himself unable to fight for the North, since that might force him to bear arms against his brothers in the Confederate Army. Once the Civil War actually begins, the young artist/correspondent's travels make him a frequent witness — and even an occasional participant — in many of the major events and campaigns of the war, including the First Battle of Bull Run, the Peninsula Campaign, the Siege of Vicksburg, and the Battle of the Wilderness. John's personal crisis of conscience is played out against this larger canvas of a nation at war.

DIRECTOR - STARS - PRODUCERS

"Bruce Catton's The Blue and The Gray" was directed by Andrew V. McLaglen. Son of Academy Award-winning actor Victor McLaglen, this veteran director had made 27 feature films, including five that starred John Wayne and four starring James Stewart. McLaglen's best-known pictures included "McClintock!," "Shenandoah," "The Way West," "Bandolero!," "The Undefeated," "The Wild Geese" and "Ffolkes."

The script was written by Ian McLellan Hunter, the award-winning screenwriter whose credits included the adaptation of Thomas Wolfe's "You Can't Go Home Again" and several episodes of "The Defenders," all on the Network, and an episode of the PBS series "The Adams Chronicles."

Stacy Keach's versatile acting roles had ranged from title-role performances as "Hamlet" and "Peer Gynt" on stage to low comedy characters in the Cheech & Chong movies "Up in Smoke" and "Nice Dreams." On Broadway, Keach starred as Buffalo Bill in Arthur Kopit's "Indians" and in Levin's long running mystery/comedy "Deathtrap." He completed a national tour as P. T. Barnum in the musical "Barnum." His numeropus films included "The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter," "Doc" (as "Doc" Holliday), "The New Centurions," "The Life and Times of Judge Roy Bean," "Fat City," "Luther" (as Martin Luther), "Gray Lady Down," and "Butterfly." For "The Long Riders," Stacy and his brother James Keach co-wrote, co-produced and co-starred as Frank and Jesse James.

John Hammond starred on the Network in two motion pictures-for-television: "A Few Days in Weasel Creek," and "Scared Straight: Another Story." He starred in the pilot, "Pony Express," and guested on the series "Knots Landing," both on the Network.

"Bruce Catton's The Blue and The Gray" was a Larry White and Lou Reda Production in association with Columbia Pictures Television, with White as executive producer and Reda as co-executive producer. The producers for the mini-series were Hugh Benson and Harry Thomason.

SOURCES:

1. Promotional information dated March 1982
2. Press release to newspaper dated June 1982 which included this information: "Bruce Catton's The Blue and the Gray" will be receiving an extensive publicity campaign. By next November, we anticipate that there will be a major resurgence of interest in the American Civil War. People should be eager to learn more about that fascinating period of American history. With this in mind, we would like to encourage you to consider printing Lincoln and Civil War-oriented articles in your September, October and November publications. Such articles should find a ready and welcome audience.
3. *Southwest Times Record*, November 1983.

Book Notes . . .

JAY HILGARTNER'S 2000 KFSM ALMANAC by Jay Hilgartner, KFSM Meteorologist. 96 pages, paperback, price \$3.50 plus tax. Available at Harps and Price Cutter stores.

This is an almanac for the millennia, past, present and future as symbolized on the front cover. To bid farewell to this past millennium, included is lots of area history. Spiro Mounds archaeologist Dennis Peterson gives an exciting wrap-up of A.D. 1000 to A.D. 1850. Local historians have brought us closer to the recent past with articles and photos from their collections. There's much here on past weather, including the worst droughts, floods, tornadoes, and snowstorms with articles by Doppler 5 meteorologists Jeff Constable and Darin Drennan. There are also stories from a single lifetime such as Jim Jones' fascinating experience with a UFO as a cold war U-2 pilot over Russia. Two articles bridge past and future: area meteorologist Forrest Johns looks back at his years with the National Weather Service and Young Patrick Marsh describes his ambitions to pursue a career in weather.

This almanac also looks into the new millennium. University of Arkansas chemistry professor Lothar Schafer describes what could be one of the most unexpected and profound developments of the next century. What about the Y2K bug? You can trust what KFSM's super computer doctor Chris Nagy has to say. Also includes updates on tornado safe rooms and the greenhouse effect.

SEBASTIAN AND CRAWFORD COUNTIES, ARKANSAS is one of the Postcard History Series by Steven Hanley and Ray Hanley. Published in 1999 by the Arcadia Publishing company. 128 pages, paper back, price \$18.95. Available in bookstores and museum gift shops.

From the 1890s thru the 1920s, the postcard was an extraordinarily popular means of communication, and many of the postcards produced during this "Golden Age" can be considered works of art.

Postcard photographers traveled the length and breadth of the nation snapping photographs of busy street scenes, documenting local landmarks, and assembling crowds of local children only too happy to pose for a picture. These images, printed as postcards and sold in general stores across the country, survive as telling reminders of an important era in America's history.

This fascinating new history of Sebastian and Crawford Counties, Arkansas, showcases more than 200 of the best vintage postcards available.

Collected and interpreted by Steven and Ray Hanley, the images in this informational volume provide readers with a delightful trip down memory lane, bringing an important period of the area's history to life for visitors and members of the younger generation.

Fort Smith Symphony

The Fort Smith Symphony is a per-
service professional orchestra dedicat-
ed to providing the community with excellent
orchestral programs which entertain, educate
and enhance the quality of life. The orchestra
performs five subscription concerts, a family con-
cert, a Fourth of July concert and numerous com-
munity and run-out concerts. The orchestra draws
musicians from Fort Smith, Fayetteville, Little Rock,
Springfield, Tulsa, Oklahoma City and other sur-
rounding communities.

In 1923 Kathryn Price and William Worth Bailey
founded the orchestra making it the first symphony
in Arkansas. The orchestra performed for 10 years
with Mrs. Bailey as conductor and Mr. Bailey as con-
certmaster. In 1951 Harold Geiler, a Julliard gradu-
ate and U. S. Army Bandmaster stationed at Fort
Chaffee, reorganized the Fort Smith Symphony.

During the 1960s the Fort Smith Symphony col-
laborated with the University of Arkansas and was
able to benefit from the expertise of two of their dis-
tinguished professors of music. Dr. Marx Pales led
the orchestra from 1961-1966, followed by Dr.
Roger Widder who was conductor through 1969.

The symphony then turned to Westark College
for collaboration to bring Mr. Walter Minnear to
Fort Smith to serve as both conductor of the Fort
Smith Symphony and Professor of Music at the
college. Mr. Minnear conducted the symphony
through the 1984 season. The orchestra's first
executive director was appointed at this time.
From 1982 to 1999, Carol Sue Wooten was the
Executive Director. Her dedication and vision con-
tributed to the continued financial stability and
growth of the Fort Smith Symphony.

From 1984 to 1995, John Thellman, a Julliard
graduate, was Music Director and Conductor of
the symphony. Additionally, Mr. Thellman served
as orchestra teacher for the Fort Smith Public
Schools.

In 1995, the Fort Smith Symphony hired its
first full time Music Director. After a nation-wide
search, Ya-Hui Wang was selected as Music
Director. Ms. Wang was then invited to join the
Detroit Symphony as Assistant Conductor.

In July 1997, John Jeter, founding Music
Director of the Greater Indianapolis Youth
Symphony, was appointed Music Director. He has
conducted orchestras in 17 states, Spain, and the
Czech Republic. Mr. Jeter is a Magna Cum Laude
graduate of the Hartt School of Music and is an
Honors graduate of Butler University's Jordan
College of Fine Arts with a Masters degree in
Orchestral Conducting.

Fort Smith is the second largest city in
Arkansas with a population of approximately
80,000. The city is located in the northwestern
corner of the state bordering the Arkansas River
and is in close proximity to the Ozark Mountains.
Fort Smith was originally founded as a military
post and is now a center for international manu-
facturing.

Two concerts remaining on the 1999-2000
concert schedule are:

Saturday, April 8, 2000, 8:00 p.m.

Twentieth Century Giants

Hindemith: Violin Concerto

Charles Rex, Violin, Associate Concertmaster,
New York Philharmonic Ives: Symphony No. 2

Saturday, April 29, 2000, 8:00 p.m.

American Showcase

Copland: Fanfare for the Common Man

Gershwin: Rhapsody in Blue

Adam Neiman, Pianist

Mobberley: Aquaria (Fort Smith Symphony
Composer-in-Residence)

Gershwin: America in Paris

Musical Know-How Lands Lorna Schultis on Pages of National Magazine

By Tina Taber (Times Record, Monday, October 18, 1999)

Lorna Dickson Schultis* learned the importance of music at an early age, and it has never let her down since.

Music has helped Schultis pay bills, introduced her to new friends, helped her grieve for the loss of loved ones and even put her in the spotlight.

Schultis of Fort Smith is featured as a "No. 1 Country Musician" in the October/November issue of "Country," the magazine that's published for people who live in or long for the country.

Schultis was nominated for the honor by long-time friend Tess Todd.

"My friend Lorna Dickson Schultis was trained in classical music but loves to play folk and gospel tunes," said Todd, formerly of Fort Smith. "She is a truly fascinating woman."

Schultis, 60, grew up at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains in North Carolina and played music practically from birth.

"My mother used to say I was singing before talking. Of course, she tended to exaggerate a lot," Schultis said. "I grew up in North Carolina without television. I grew up with music. Lots of my family played instruments. It was just part of life."

Although she played the tenor guitar and banjo, Schultis focused her training on the piano.

Talking as she sailed through sample renditions of Gershwin and Bach on the piano in her living room, Schultis explained that she took classical lessons on the piano for 18 years.

"My mother always said you can learn to do anything if you set your mind to it and have a good teacher. Having a good teacher is the key," she said.

With that in mind, Schultis gave back what she received of her knowledge in piano by teaching lessons in Fort Smith for 22 years.

Over the years, she has kept her fingers in a variety of other musical venues, running a singing telegram business with a friend in the early '80s, playing the piano with a Roaring '20s band, singing with the Belle City singers for tourists visiting Fort Smith, taking her part in the Fort Smith Chorale and serving on the board for the Fort Smith Symphony. She also serves as the music director at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Fort Smith.

A few years ago, Schultis' music career took a turn away from classical and back to the music of her youth.

"About five years ago I saw an ad in the bargain column for a psaltery for \$100. I asked my husband if we could go look at it," Schultis said.

Although she had never played a psaltery, Schultis began teaching herself. She soon found herself traveling the road back to her roots.

"I had to quit thinking theoretically and just play. I can't think of reading music. I've read music all my life. I've never just picked something up and started playing. But that's what I had to do," Schultis said.

Schultis' venture into the world of the psaltery led her to yet another instrument she had never played – the hammered dulcimer.

"I was in Wal-Mart in North Carolina having some photos developed. The girl saw a picture of me with the psaltery and asked if I wanted a hammered dulcimer. She brought it in, and I told her it was worth a lot more than she was asking. She

** In addition to her musical talents, Lorna Schultis is a talented writer. Three of her articles have been published in The Journal of the Fort Smith Historical Society: History of the Musical Coterie, Vol. 23, No. 2, pages 16-17, and two oral history articles, Memories of Helen Olive Jones Harper, Vol. 15, No. 2, Sept. 1991, pages 17-23, and Memories of Exilda Josephine Marguerite St. Pierre Von Braun, Vol. 17, No. 2, Sept. 1993, pages 32-36.*

said she just wanted to get rid of it, so I bought it," Schultis explained.

In North Carolina for three months taking care of family business, Schultis had little to do in the evenings. She taught herself how to play old country and gospel music on her new instrument.

"I was staying with a friend in an old mill on the Yadkin River in North Carolina. It gave me the opportunity to learn to play. I would just sit down after a frustrating day and try to pick it up," she said.

Schultis got another big break in playing the hammered dulcimer after visiting the man who made the instrument in Foscoe, North Carolina.

"He gave me the tuning and gave me some tips on how to play. He helped a lot," she said.

She also plays the lap dulcimer.

Schultis used her new talent as part of the band in the play, "Smoke on the Mountain," which was performed on Sunday night at the First United Methodist Church in Greenwood.

"The play is set in 1938 in a small mountain church in North Carolina. It hits pretty close to home," Schultis said.

Although it was quite a challenge learning to play the various instruments, Schultis believes music has been a blessing. When she lost her only son, Scott, suddenly 13 years ago, music helped carry her through the difficult time.

"Music was a great sense of enjoyment growing up and it has provided a stabilizing force in my life. My son always thought I should take on new challenges. I think he sent these to me for a challenge," she said of the various instruments she has learned to play.

And Schultis is taking on yet another challenge with the help of her husband, Larry, and daughter, Leahe.

The family is currently restoring an 1866 Steinway concert grand piano originally made for the governor of Ohio.

"It's nearly nine feet long. I don't know what we'll do with it when it's finished," she said.

But in the meantime, Schultis will continue to meet the challenge of making music and caring for her musical instruments.



Lorna Dickson Schultis of Fort Smith plays a hammered dulcimer (far left) in her home. She also plays the psaltery (inset) and the piano (below). Schultis is featured as a "No. 1 Country Musician" in the October/November issue of "Country."

Park Operations

At Fort Smith, Arkansas

(From *Street Railway Journal*, Volume XXXI, No. 4, Page 114, January 25, 1908

Contributed by Stan Kujawa)

Considering the population of the city in which it operates, the Fort Smith Light & Traction Company has gone rather heavily in the amusement park business. Fort Smith has a population of about 15,000, yet the cost of the park improvements, exclusive of the land, is in the neighborhood of \$75,000. The company's policy with respect to park operation was adopted simply because the earlier experiments showed the park to be a paying investment.

The resort operated by this company, known as Electric Park, covers 110 acres and is located about 3-1/2 miles east of the business section of Fort Smith. It is reached by two car lines, and during the park season, a 10-minute schedule is run in the mornings, while in the afternoons and evenings a 5-minute schedule is maintained. Of the 110 acres, 54 on one side of the car line are devoted to a general amusement park and the remaining 56, which are heavily wooded, are used as picnic grounds.

Moorish architecture has been imitated in the construction of all of the park buildings. The largest on the grounds is the auditorium, which measures 240 x 110 ft., and has a seating capacity

for 2,200 people. It has a fully equipped stage 70 x 40 ft. in dimensions and a proscenium opening 30 by 33 ft. The stage is equipped with 15 sets of scenery in addition to the drops, and is surrounded by 16 dressing rooms.

The cafe and dance hall is a two-story structure near the park entrance. The restaurant occupies a considerable portion of the lower floor. The remainder is devoted to smoking rooms for gentlemen and reading rooms for ladies, in all of which are kept on file the daily newspapers and current magazines. The upper floor contains a dance hall 60 x 90 ft., and this opens out on broad balconies at each end of the building. The hall is provided with eight ceiling fans and a piano. A semi-circular band shell is used for open air concerts Sunday afternoons and nights. The grounds also contain a penny arcade, refreshment stand, rest cottage for ladies and building for the park superintendents. A greenhouse has been built to care properly for flowers during the winter season.

The park has its own sewer and water system. Water is supplied from two deep wells by motor operated pumps. There is a total of 5600 incandescent lamps used in illuminating the grounds

Entrance to Electric Park with the cafe and dance hall in the background.



and buildings. Current for these, as well as for the motors on the grounds, is supplied from transformers located in concrete pits under the buildings. The picnic grounds are provided with lawn and circle swings and small shelters.

The park is kept open from May 1 to the middle of October. Colored people have a park of their own and are not admitted to this. No intoxicating liquors are sold on the grounds. The admission is free. All the features, except the penny arcade, are handled by the company.

The theater is the chief source of revenue in the park. During the park season performances are given every evening and Saturday and Sunday afternoons. The prices are 10, 20 and 30 cents, and it has been found that the highest-price seats are in greatest demand. Seats may be reserved at the downtown office. The highest class of amusements pay best. Vaudeville features are furnished by the Western Vaudeville Association. The company maintains an orchestra of six professional musicians at a permanent salary. All stage hands and ushers are also kept on regular wages.

During the present season, the theater was closed in with the idea of giving performances throughout the winter. Heat is furnished by natural gas. The company put on a stock company of its own, which ordinarily plays every night, but at intervals gives way to larger attractions. Fort Smith is a midway point between Kansas City and Texas, and because of its location many of the larger

theatrical companies can be secured which would otherwise consider Fort Smith too small a town to stop in.

During the summer season, the grounds are turned over to the Chautauqua Association free of charge for a period of 10 days. Meetings are held in the auditorium and the other buildings are used for smaller assemblages. The company gets its returns from the traffic induced. In a like manner conventions of various kinds are tendered the use of the grounds. Newspapers, billboards and special cars are utilized to advertise the park.

Carl Berry, as amusement manager, devotes all his time to the operation of the park and the financial success of the park is no doubt largely due to the fact that one man gives all of his attention to it. J. Walter Gillette, as general manager of the railway company, has general supervision over the park.



**Auditorium of
Electric Park.**



**Cafe and Dance Hall
of Electric Park.**

News and Opportunities

FORT SMITH HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

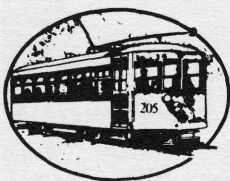
**6:30 p.m., Thursday, April 27, 2000
Darby Junior High School Auditorium
which has just been redone**

The Annual Meeting of the Fort Smith Historical Society will again be held in conjunction with the Fort Smith Social Studies Educators' Frontier Achievement Awards meeting.

6:30 p.m. Reception

7:00 p.m. Presentation

**7:30 p.m. Annual Meeting of the Fort
Smith Historical Society**



FORT SMITH TROLLEY MUSEUM

**FORT SMITH TROLLEY MUSEUM ANNUAL
OPEN HOUSE WILL BE
SUNDAY, JULY 9, 2000 – 1:00 to 5 p.m.**

As the face of Fort Smith rapidly changes, so does the Trolley Museum, 200 Garrison is to be a trolley stop that will be visible on entering the city from Oklahoma. The former site of an office building that was destroyed in the 1996 tornado is to be come a memorial park to a citizen of Fort Smith. The park will be built and given to the city by the family with an endowment to maintain it with no cost to the city. A multi-purpose use building facing west will be available for the public. The trolley track will curve west from its present location by the Varsity Grill to cross the 200 Garrison property. The landscaped park and building will serve as a trolley stop. It is planned that the track will continue west turning north under the Garrison Avenue bridge to stop across the railroad track from Miss Laura's Visitors Center and the newly developed river front.

The museum is to receive a gift of land that originally was part of the Midland Valley Railroad depot tract on which the Frisco engine #4003, the

dining car and power car are now parked. The land is owned by Neil Lampe, owner of the Fort Biscuit Company. Mr. Lampe is donating this tract of land to the museum, which completes the land needs for the museum. An adjacent section of land has been sold to the county to build a county employees parking lot. On completion, the cemetery trolley track will pass thru the landscaped county parking lot.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Immaculate Conception Parish of Fort Smith celebrated The Jubilee of the year 2000 and introduced the parish history book on Sunday, February 13, 2000. This is the 150th year of the parish and 100 years in the magnificent building at the end of Garrison Avenue.

OAK CEMETERY

The Oak Cemetery Commission received the Outstanding Achievement in Preservation Advocacy award from the Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas.

Mayor Ray Baker nominated the commission for the award. Oak Cemetery, a 30-acre site along South Greenwood and Dodson Avenue, features more than 14,000 graves, many of notable Fort Smith citizens. Fifteen early Fort Smith mayors and former Arkansas Gov. William Fishback are buried at the cemetery, along with more than 100 Confederate soldiers and 28 outlaws hanged by Judge Parker's court.

The city-owned cemetery is more than 150 years old and was named in 1995 to the National Register of Historic Places.

Charles Raney, who writes the Oak Cemetery articles for *The Journal* of the Fort Smith Historical Society, has been elected to serve a three-year term with the Arkansas Recreation and Parks Association Board of Directors. Raney is assistant director of community services for Fort Smith.

Raney was also recertified as a manager of landfill operations in July and received his diploma for parks planning and maintenance from the National Recreation and Parks Association in August.

He has been employed with the city of Fort Smith since May 1995.

ST. ANNE'S ACADEMY REUNION

St. Anne's Academy first all school reunion will be June 10, 2000. For more information contact Bob Werner, 3229 South Chase, Wichita, KS 67217. Phone: 316-943-3577

FORT SMITH LITTLE THEATRE

The oldest community theatre in continued activity in Arkansas, the Fort Smith Little Theatre has been performing for area audiences since 1947. Program for 2000 includes the following plays:

"A Flea in Her Ear" by Georges Feydeau, **February 17-26.**

"Blithe Spirit" by Noel Coward, **April 6-15.**

"Daddy's Dying, Who's Got the Will?" by Del Shores, **June 1-10.**

"Chicago" by Fred Ebb and Bob Fosse, **August 3-10.**

"Proposals" by Neil Simon, **September 3-10.**

"I Remember Mama" by John Van Drutgen, **November 9-18.**

"A Partridge in a Pear Tree" by Lowell Swortzell, **December 7, 8, 9.**

BOOK OF GOLDEN DEEDS

Dan Richardson head of the Clearing House of Community Services, is the recipient of the Exchange Club's Book of Golden Deeds Award for 2000. Among his many other community and area services, he began the program which covers Sebastian and Crawford counties that sends food home with needy school children to ensure they will have food over the week-end.

FORT SMITH MUSEUM OF HISTORY

Schedule of Events

April 2000 to September 2000

Antiquing with Ginne – The popular appraisal show hosted by Ginnie Garvey will be broadcast three times this year. The dates are: April 26, July 26 and October 25. Anyone wishing to have an item appraised during the broadcast should contact the museum for information. Items to be appraised during the broadcast are selected in advance by Ms. Garvey. However, those who attend the show may each bring one item for appraisal following the broadcast.

"Path of Least Resistance:" Transportation in Arkansas, 1800-2000 is a traveling exhibit

about the role four modes of transportation have played in Arkansas' history. Still images, text, artifacts and interactives examine the role early roads, stagecoaches, taverns, rivers, boats, railroads, lock and dams, the highway department, cars, and bicycles played in the development of Arkansas' society, politics, and even architecture. **May, 2000.**

"Around the World in Fort Smith" – "That Puppet Guy" is John Bryan, from Atlanta, Georgia, who is scheduled to present workshops and performances on marionettes. Family fun and education about the varied, rich cultures of Fort Smith, comparing their differences and similarities. Free. This will be an Arkansas Heritage Month celebration, sponsored by the Department of Arkansas Heritage. **May 12-13.**

More Than Child's Play, the museum's historic marionette display **continues through May.**

"Staying Cool" – When Fort Smith's weather turns hot and muggy, the Museum will feature a special exhibit guaranteed to keep you cool. Imaginative use of collections items, based on different aspects of the word "cool".

Ninety Years of Service: Fort Smith Museum of History Celebrates Ninety Years of History. The Museum will feature a special "what is this?" exhibit with unusual artifacts. The public will be able to see artifacts not usually on display.

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

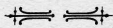
Phase three landscaping began January 21

As work nears completion inside the barracks/courthouse building, the last phase of the renovation project is just about to get started. Phase three consists of landscaping work to restore more of the historic landscape and environment of the fort. Three and a half blocks of streets will be closed and removed in order to outline the location of the wall around the post. The locations of the officer's quarters and the guardhouse will also be marked, and the main parking lot will be redesigned.

Crawford Construction of Fort Smith was awarded the \$893,500 landscaping contract on January 11. Crawford also did the work for phases one and two. A preconstruction meeting between the contractor and the Denver Service

Center architects was held January 19. A three-block section of Third Street was closed for removal on Jan. 21, and work has begun in the parking lot.

The landscaping work is expected to take approximately 110 days and be completed early in the summer.



NEWS CHRONOLOGY

June 1, 1999 - January 28, 2000

**(Abstracted from *Fort Smith Times Record*
by Sarah Fitzjarrald McCullough
and Amelia Whitaker Martin)**

JUNE

1st – Dr. John Bradley Holcomb, ex-Southside student, in collaboration with Dr. John Hess of Walter Reid Institute of Surgical Research in Washington, D.C. and Dr. Martin McPhee from the Red Cross invented blood clotting, life-saving bandage.

2nd – The Old Fort Days Futurity and Super Derby events brought at least \$1,331,719 new money into Fort Smith. Using the accepted economic theory that each new dollar turns over four times before losing impact, the total economic benefit of the Futurity and Derby equaled \$5,326,876. Impact of the 1998 Futurity and Derby was \$5,013,564.

17th – Fort Smith turns up heat to save the Fort Smith National Weather Service office.

30th – City and railroad plan new traffic signal for rebuilt intersection at U. S. 71 South (Zero Street) and South 24th Street.

30th – City area agencies publish Y2K status.

30th – Ground breaking begins on new state police offices at I-540 and Kelley.

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JULY

4th – Immigrants settling in Fort Smith will have a cultural and information haven after the city officially opens a multicultural center July 8 in temporary quarters at Albert Pike and Kelley Highway.

4th – 1999 Masters National Cycling championships to be held in Fort Smith July 7th -11th.

6th – Sister Judith Marie Keith recently named to the Top 100 Women list for the state of Arkansas.

6th – Senator Blanche Lincoln's new regional office in downtown Fort Smith to be staffed by Jason Ford.

12th – Hector Monsalve wins men's 65+ division of the 1999 Master's Cycling Championships in downtown Fort Smith on July 11.

13th – Bed and Breakfast inns in Fort Smith are Beland Manor and Michael's Mansion.

13th – Westark College given \$14 million by the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation for a new student union building.

13th – Beginning in August a new Arkansas law will prohibit people from smoking or chewing tobacco on public school property.

15th – A \$29,000 grant from the state's Violence Against Women program will enable Fort Smith to become the state's first site of a STARR program – Sexual Trauma Assault and Rape Response.

16th – The Frontier Belle, a 138-passenger excursion boat that has given tourists a river's eye view of the Fort Smith and Van Buren area for the past nine years, is moving to Minnesota.

17th – Property taxes going up due to re-assessment of value of property.

18th – Fort Smith Transit city buses to begin operating on fixed route July 19th.

18th – Times Record reporter Amy Sherrill has won the highest reporting award of the Arkansas Society of Professional Journalists and the Arkansas Press Association.

18th – Fort Smith Municipal Court employs a full-time Spanish interpreter who attends each Municipal Court session Monday through Thursday.

18th – Two bilingual officers in the Fort Smith police department, Maria Rosales-Lambert and Virapol Sengmanivong, have become crucial parts of the city's effort to create better understanding between officers and the non-English speaking public they serve.

19th – Fort Smith Juvenile crime unit unique.

20th – Fort Smith Civic center honorees are Nancy Blochberger, Sondra Foti, Bruce Birkhead and Zero Mountain, Inc.

21st – Dam at Lake Fort Smith will be raised to assure an area water supply for the next 50 years, and water rates will go up to pay for expansion.

30th – Details of a \$5.7 million revenue bond issue to fund new construction and related improvements at the Fort Smith Regional Airport were presented to members of the Fort Smith Airport Commission.

30th – Coca Cola company introducing a special commemorative bottle for this year's Nike Fort Smith Classic on August 16 - 22 at Hardscrabble Country Club.

– • – **AUGUST**

1st – New Geographic Information System, mapping and technology, classes at Westark will encompass sixteen hours above the 60-hour Computer-aided Drafting and Design degree the college already offers.

1st – Fort Smith Public Library ranked in the 83rd percentile of similar sized libraries across the nation in the HAPLR Index – very high.

3rd – Sparks Regional Medical Center and Holt-Krock Clinic merger complete.

3rd – New “fluorescent green” crosswalk signs are placed in areas near schools to aid in student safety.

5th – Coordinators of the 1999 Masters National Cycling Championships are hoping the success of the event – along with a big pile of cash – will bring the 2000 Olympic Trials to Fort Smith.

6th – Fort Smith Regional Airport receives \$3,304 million in federal funds for construction of a new apron for the proposed terminal building.

9th – New computer aided dispatch system helps Fort Smith police dispatchers.

17th – Fort Smith Public School district is expected to benefit from more than \$71.6 million in projected revenue for the 1999 - 2000 school year.

18th – The Fort Smith area cable television system will add 50 new channels to its lineup effective September 13 as part of a multi-million dollar upgrade.

20th – The new dental hygiene program at Westark College has been designated “accreditation eligible” by the commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association.

22nd – Thanks to all golf pros and their sponsors for making NIKE history at the Fort Smith Classic – 79 pros and 79 sponsors listed.

25th – Internet Partners of America (IPA), A Fort Smith based internet service provider, acquired in March this year by One Main.Com, is expanding its Fort Smith operation with a more than \$3 million upgrade. IPA is also moving into new quarters at 310 Towson Avenue.

26th – Alma teens, Sally and Sarah Hobbs received certificates of appreciation for developing web sites for the Fort Smith Trolley Museum, the National Historic Site and the Old Fort Museum free of charge. They also developed a web site for the Fort Smith Tourism, Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB).

29th – Garrison Avenue considered for place on National Historic Register.

30th – Citizen's academy classes help bring community and police together.

30th – Detention center classes focus on troubled teens. (Article describes schooling at the Sebastian County Juvenile Detention Center to prepare students to return to public school when they leave the detention center.)

– • – **SEPTEMBER**

4th – C. Bean Transport to relocate its transportation division headquarters to Fort Smith, creating 240 jobs in the area.

6th – Officials say area “very ready for Y2K”.

6th – More than \$425,000 received by the Fort Smith Public School System to hire literacy specialists.

9th – The new Fort Smith Civic Center will have 1,250 tons of cooling capacity.

10th – Westark College will be one of the first five sites in the nation to deliver ACT's electronic testing and training services for individuals, educational institutions, businesses and other organizations.

10th – Former Rep. Carolyn Pollan, Fort Smith, and Rep. Ted Thomas, Little Rock, were named as top aides to Gov. Mike Huckabee.

12th – Construction to begin on new senior center at South 28th Street and Cavanaugh Road. The 13,000 square-foot building is scheduled to open in January 2001.

12th – Motorcycle unit a vital part to Fort Smith police.

13th – Darby ninth-grader Kelly Evans in top forty nationwide to compete in National finals of the Discovery Young Scientist Challenge. Top three winners will be awarded scholarships – \$10,000 for first place, \$5,000 for second place and \$3,000 for third.

16th – First leg of the Riverfront Walking Trail dedicated. It is the first phase of a long-range plan to connect the six-mile riverfront between Harry E. Kelley Riverpark and Fort Smith Park.

16th – Fort Smith based Willims Tool Co., a supplier of state-of-the-art technology for under-balanced pressure control drilling of oil and gas wells, purchased Weatherford International.

18th – Walgreen store opened in Fort Smith.

18th – Old Navy store coming to town.

20th – Fort Smith to host national cowboy reenactor championships.

22nd – City directors unanimously adopted ordinances September 21 affirming two revenue bond issues that will allow construction of an airport passenger terminal and continued work on expansion of Lake Fort Smith dam.

OCTOBER

1st – Federal legislation giving excess land at Fort Chaffee to the Fort Chaffee Public Trust at no cost was recently approved.

10th – Rosalie Tilles Children's Home continues its legacy 100 years after being founded in 1899.

15th – Southside high school's girls volleyball team clinches Conference AAAAA West regular season title.

15th – Fort Smith board of directors unanimously approved a 20-acre site just west of Ben Geren park for Fort Smith's First Tee Program. First Tee is a national program designed to create facilities and programs to make golf more affordable and accessible, with a strong emphasis on introducing children of all races and economic backgrounds to golf.

16th – Traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall on loan from Vietnam Combat Veterans Ltd. of San Jose, California, will be on display October 16 thru October 23 on the Westark College campus green.

19th – Riverfront Task Force told more than \$1 million needs to be trimmed off the lowest bid on the city's riverfront project to fall within budget.

20th – City buys two properties, 205 Garrison Avenue and 216 North A Street, needed for the \$5 million riverfront development.

21st – Fort Chaffee Public Trust will receive \$1 million to improve sewer lines and water storage from a bill signed into law by President Clinton on October 20.

24th – Beverly Enterprises moved into its new 318,000 square foot, \$40 million headquarters building located on Arkansas 253 in south Fort Smith.

25th – Dr. Charles S. Lane, Fort Smith Ear, Nose and Throat specialist, was awarded the 1999 Award for Excellence in Medical Missions. Dr. Lane, on separate occasions has volunteered medical service and spiritual hope in India, St. Vincent Island and New Guinea. He also collected needed diagnostic and surgery equipment needed at Kudjip Nazarene Hospital in New Guinea by giving his own equipment and equipment donated by St. Edward Mercy Hospital.

NOVEMBER

2nd – USA Truck acquires CARCO.

4th – For the fourth consecutive year, Dr. Benny L. Gooden, superintendent of Fort Smith schools has been named the Arkansas Educational Office Professional Administrator of the Year. Diane Wood, Woods Elementary secretary, was chosen the AEOP Office Professional of the year and Pam Lehn, secretary to the director of secondary education will be installed as the state AEOP president.

6th – Fort Smith's Oak Cemetery Commission will receive the Outstanding Achievement award from the Historic Preservation alliance of Arkansas.

10th – Dr. Art Martin of Fort Smith was presented Distinguished Alumni Award by the Greenwood Education foundation. (Greenwood Gazette, Greenwood, AR, Nov. 10, pg. page 1.)

11th – Town Club breaks ground on its \$1.5 million, two story future home in the 700 block of Garrison Avenue. This will be the last building to start construction on Garrison in this millennium.

12th – I-540 named scenic byway.

21st – Westark gets an 'A' for Y2K.

24th – City gives Andrews Field to Fort Smith National Cemetery for expansion.

30th – Fort Smith Regional Airport's new air traffic control tower and Razorback Terminal Radar Approach Control (TRA-CON) facility formally dedicated.

(From the November **Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce**.)

"The Westark College Board of Trustees approved a \$10 million, 30-year bond issue that will fund a new 3,100 seat multipurpose arena on campus. Also, Westark announced it was the first non-medical educational facility in the country to team up with the Health Channel to provide continuing medical education for physicians, nurses and allied health professionals in the Fort Smith region."

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DECEMBER

5th – Northside football Grizzlies capture AAAAA crown.

5th – City's 2000 general fund healthy.

6th – Heritage Foundation in its 30th year as curator of the Clayton House.

7th – United States to transfer Panama Canal to Panama on December 31.

13th – Kimmons Junior High school teacher Thongsavath Duong, a refugee from Laos, has been honored by the Arkansas Education Association in recognition of her role as a community leader and educator.

14th – Loislaw, the Van Buren-based provider of research information to the national legal community, announced it now has legal case histories from all fifty United States states loaded on Loislaw.com system.

17th – Fort Chaffee Public Trust reached an agreement with the Arkansas highway department on an interstate corridor that eventually will extend from Kansas City to Shreveport.

18th – As Christians prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ and the Jewish community completes Hannukah, area Muslims will be fasting to mark Ramadan, the ninth month on the Islamic lunar calendar during which, from dawn to sunset, believers abstain from food, drink and other personal pleasures.

22nd – Regina's House of Dolls II, a topless nightclub, opened its doors this past summer after U. S. Judge Jimm Hendren ruled that the city could not keep the club from opening at the proposed site.

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JANUARY

2nd – Area sees no Y2K problems.

2nd – Ground will be broken January 14 for the new Donald W. Reynolds Campus Center in front of the Breedlove Building. Because of the building, the 332-space parking lot on the site will no longer exist.

2nd – J. Tyler Keith, son of Joe and Tyffany Keith was the first baby born in Fort Smith in the new millennium.

2nd – Charles Schultz, 77, retires after almost 50 years of creating the "Peanuts" cartoon strip. Snoopy, perched on his doghouse in front of his

typewriter, looks over a farewell message from creator Charles Schultz in the last new daily "Peanuts" strip which will run in newspapers Monday, January 3.

3rd – The fifteen residents receiving the Spirit of the Frontier Awards on December 20 for blazing new trails include Tom Blake, Dr. Larry Bone, Jose Bunda, Barbara Conrady, Ray Evans, Dr. C. B. Garrison, Dr. Archie L. Hewett, the Rev. Kemp C. Holden Jr., Edward Jones, Judge Bernice Kizer, the Rev. A. J. Parish, Ramona Roberts, Sister Pierre Vorster and Bert Wright.

6th – Low mortgage rates and a hot economy helped propel area construction to new highs in 1999.

6th – Loislaws.com announced the launch of the www.loislawschool.com web site which contains the complete Professional Library series and most features available on the company's professional site, www.loislaw.com. The site debuted January 5 with more than forty schools as charter subscribers.

9th – Group continues effort to make sure the site of the Massard Civil War skirmish continues to remain as it was and is today.

9th – When the Fort Smith National Historic Site's \$7.5 million rehabilitation project is completed and the building reopens in May, it will be heated and cooled by a geothermal energy system.

11th – Sebastian County Park Board approved a proposal by Dan Bardin of Fort Smith to construct go-cart tracks in Ben Geren Park and to use an existing building at the park for a game room, souvenir shop and concession area.

13th – Arkansas Game and Fish Commission officials have agreed to a controversial nature center site at Fort Chaffee.

21st – Historic site funded for last restoration phase. Grand opening to be May 19.

21st – The section of south Third street between Rogers and Parker avenues will be permanently closed today and will be incorporated into a park as part of the renovation of the Fort Smith Historic Site.

29th – Winter dumps eleven inches of snow on Fort Smith in 24 hours. The last time a 24-hour snowfall reached double digit measurements in Fort Smith was January 6, 1988, according to the National Weather Service. The total snowfall for that day was also eleven inches. The 24-hour snowfall record for Fort Smith is 17.5 inches, which occurred February 18-19, 1921.

In Loving Memory

HELEN OLIVE HARPER

Helen Olive Harper, 102 of Fort Smith, fulfilled her wish to live in three centuries. Helen was born in Emporia, Kansas, on February 26, 1897 and died January 16, 2000. Her parents, John Hugh and Bertha Ashley Jones, moved their family to Fort Smith in 1902 where they owned and operated several restaurants and hotels, including Jones Restaurant at 501 Garrison Avenue, where the "bill of fare" menu may still be seen on the Fifth Street side of the building, now known as Old Town apartments.

She was preceded in death by her husband, W. Raymond Harper Sr., and two daughters, Helen Mae Bentley O'Neal and Doris Bentley Parker. She is survived by one daughter, Betty Faye Harper Griggs; one son, William "Bud" Harper and her daughter-in-law, Joan Harper, all of Fort Smith; seven grandchildren, Peggy

Duncan of Florida, Deborah Verdon of Texas, Patti Steinmetz of Jacksonville, Dana Parker of Memphis, Tenn., Ross Griggs and Dr. Mitchell Harper of Fort Smith and Kimberly Jo Reynolds of Harlingen, Texas; 14 great grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Luke Lutheran Church, 5401 Free Ferry Road, Fort Smith, AR 72903.

(**Memories of Helen Olive Jones Harper** was published in Vol. 15, No. 2, September 1991 issue of *The Journal* of the Fort Smith Historical Society.)

PAUL LITTLE II

The obituary for Paul Little II was published in the April, 1999 issue of *The Journal*. Earlene Upchurch Little, of Scarsdale, New York, formerly of Fort Smith, has asked that we add this

information to the information that was in the obituary from the newspaper, which we published:

Paul Little II was formerly married to Earlene Upchurch for forty-four years, and Paul Little III and Linda Little Roberts are her children. Since this was not mentioned in the obituary, people have taken that this was an inference that she was deceased and that her son and daughter were the progeny of the deceased's second wife, the former Rose Marie Sellitto of Houston whom he married in 1982 and with whom he had no children, but three step-children, as named.

(We are happy to make this addition, and are sorry the information was not available when the obituary was published. Please accept our apology for any misconception or inconvenience this has caused.)

C. O. HISSOM

C. O. "Pete" Hissom, 86, died Nov. 16, 1999. He retired from Harding Glass, was an Army veteran of World War II and was a member of Calvary Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife, Lillian; one daughter, JoAnn Schofield of Stockbridge, GA; one son, Joe of Danville AR; two sisters, Virginia Reall of Pinedale, CA, and Betty Tallman of Vienna W. Va.; and four grandchildren, Kyle Hissom, Debbie Brice and Durwin and Danny Schofield.

Memorial contributions may be made to Calvary Baptist Church, 2301 Midland, Fort Smith, AR 72904.

LUQURISA HENSON

Luqurisa Henson, 86 died January 15, 2000. She was preceded in death by her husband, Perry A. Henson, and a daughter, Mary Allyn Henson, and is survived by two sons, Michael Henson of Fort Smith and Perry H. Henson of Broken Arrow, Okla.; and four grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Southside Baptist Church, 2400 Dodson Ave., Fort Smith, AR 72901.

RUTH DANNER

Ruth Estes Danner, 94, died Nov. 14, 1999. She was a graduate of the University of Arkansas with a master's degree and was a teacher-principal in the Fort Smith schools from 1926 to 1971. She was the widow of John M. Danner.

She is survived by one daughter, Patricia Hartman of Midland; one son, John Danner of Montgomery, Ala.; three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

MARY LONG

Mary Elizabeth Long, 85, died Nov. 11, 1999. She was a homemaker, retired owner of Mary Long Children's Shop and former owner/operator of the Mary Joyce Dance Studio.

She is survived by her husband, Norman; one son, Charles N. Long of Fort Smith; and two grandchildren.

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

MARJORIE M. ENGLES

Marjorie M. Engles, 56, a teacher at Darby Junior High School in Fort Smith for 27 years, died October 14, 1999. She was a member of St. John's Episcopal Church where she served as a member of the Altar Guild, former Vestry member, Chalice Bearer, Sunday School Teacher and Certified Lay Eucharistic minister. At Darby Jr. High she was a sponsor of the Drug Prevention Club, Spanish Club, Partners in Christ and co sponsor of the International Club.

She is survived by her husband, Cecil Engles; two sons, Robert and Bryant Engles; her mother, Freda Elkins; and one brother, Herman Elkins, all of Fort Smith.

Memorial contributions may be made to Phillips Cancer Support House, 2520 Dodson Ave., Fort Smith, AR 72901.

CHARLES BEASLEY JR.

Charles A. Beasley Jr., 81, died Sept. 11, 1999. He was a retired senior vice president and trust officer of First National Bank, a member of First United Methodist Church and a Navy veteran of World War II.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Frances; three sons, Charles III of Newport, N.C., Robert of Broken Arrow, Okla., and John of Fort Smith; one sister, Brooksie Walker of Houston; nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

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

DOROTHY WILLIAMS

Dorothy E. Williams, 70, former member of the Fort Smith Historical Society Board who abstracted the 100 year old newspapers for The Journal for a number of years, died Dec. 19, 1999. She was a coordinator for the Literacy for Jobs project,

charter member of the Dallas Oaks Presbyterian Church in Fort Smith, board member of Altrusa of Fort Smith, member of the Fort Smith Business and Professional Women's Association, member of the Fountain of Youth and President of the League of Women Voters and the Literacy Council.

She is survived by four daughters, Judy Moir of Fort Smith, Patricia Williams of Booneville, Michele Johnson of Hinsdale, Ill. and Dottie Cooper of Northwest Arkansas; one son, Paul C. Williams III of Lees Summit, Mo.; one sister, Nell Williams of Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.; ten grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

SAM SEXTON, JR.

Sam Sexton Jr., 75, died Jan 5, 2000. A long-time businessman and attorney, he practiced law for 45 years. He graduated as valedictorian of the 1955 class of the University of Arkansas School of Law and was founder and senior member of the Sexton and Fields Law Firm in Fort Smith. He was a member of numerous civic and charitable organizations, and was instrumental in establishing numerous residential living facilities for the elderly and handicapped, including Gorman Towers and Allied Gardens in Fort Smith.

He is survived by his wife, Donna Sue Sexton; two brothers, Don Sexton of Booneville and Bill

Sexton of Paris; one sister, Mary Ann Brody of Fort Smith; two daughters, Diane Sexton of Little Rock and Sherrye Demi of Fort Smith; three sons, Sam "Chip" Sexton III, Farrell Sexton and Powell Sanders, all of Fort Smith; and nine grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Christ the King Catholic Church, 1920 South Greenwood, Fort Smith, AR 72901.

ROBERT L. "BOB" NUNLEY

Robert L. "Bob" Nunley, 65, of Bokoshe — one of the builders of Donrey Media Group and former publisher of the Times Record — died September 11, 1999 in Fort Smith.

Survivors include his wife, Fern; one daughter, Sharon Nunley of Lavaca; one son, Robert Nunley Jr. of Poteau; two sisters, Doris Marshall and Mary Howerton, both of Spiro; one brother, Frank Nunley of Spiro; and six grandchildren.

SISTER MARY COUTLEE

Sister Mary Coutlee, 96, of Catherine McAuley Convent of Mercy in Barling, Ark. and former principal at St. Anne's Academy in Fort Smith, died August 5, 1999. She retired in 1976 from full-time educational ministry, but continued as consultant in the Mount Saint Mary Alumnae Association. Sister's parents, Frank and Marie Motta Coutlee from Canada, and a brother Melie are all deceased. She is survived by one nephew, Paul and his wife, Renee, as well as many cousins.

Genealogy News

Rogers Cemetery and Old Burial Grounds of Fort Smith are both from a book named *Steep Hill and Jewish Cemeteries Sebastian County Arkansas, With Some Abandoned Cemeteries* compiled and published by Sue Clark. Sue also indexed Bernie, Ocker, Putman, and Fentress Mortuary Records at the Fort Smith Public Library and made them accessible for the first time. In addition to *Steep Hill and other Abandoned Cemeteries*, she published the *Oak Cemetery book, Early Marriages and Marriages in Upper Township Books A - D, Greenwood Books B & BA and the early Tax Records*. She and Virginia McPhail did all of Franklin County Cemeteries. Cemeteries included in the Steep Hill book are: Beverly, Booth, Cowne, Dake, Elmwood, Grober, Hackett, Haug, Hepseby, Jewish, Kersey, Lowery - Rye, McMurtrey, Nowland Springs, Old Burial Grounds of Fort Smith, Rogers Cemetery, Steep

Hill, (Steep Hill Cemetery map), Tate and Tatum. The book is fully indexed and also contains maps in the front of the book.

ROGERS CEMETERY

This cemetery was located on the north side of Grand Avenue on 17th Street and is clearly marked on the city maps for 1897 and 1903 as the Rogers Heirs Grave Yard, containing 8.38 acres of land. It was laid out by Captain John Rogers, the founding father of Fort Smith, in the early days of the city. J. Frank Weaver wrote in the *Southwest-Times Record* March 20, 1927,

"About 1850 Captain Rogers was induced by the agitation of one newspaper of the town, as well as by the appeal of people who had bought property in the vicinity of the Third Street burying ground, to set apart another place for burials. The place then chosen was fully a block in extent and

was located on a road that is now known as Grand Avenue."

Lots were sold and it was supposed to be a final resting place for the dearly departed, but it was ordered by the city council in 1901 that the dead buried in the old Rogers grave yard be removed. "About 20 years ago the city council condemned the Rogers or Race Track Cemetery, the last name being applied on account of its proximity to an ante-bellum race track, and directed that the remains buried there be removed to Oak Cemetery." The edict issued by the city council appears in the *Fort Smith Elevator*, Friday July 19, 1901 page 5, column. At the council meeting Monday night an ordinance was passed requiring the removal of the dead buried in the old Rogers cemetery. This ordinance provides that if the relatives of the parties buried in the cemetery do not remove the same within six months the city shall take up the work and make re-interment in the city cemetery." Oak cemetery records indicate a section of the cemetery which was set aside for the "Rogers transfers". J. Frank Weaver wrote "Some removals were made. I do not believe more than 25 per cent of the number originally buried."

Captain Rogers, wife Mary Flagg Rogers died September 14 1854. and on Oct 7, 1860 Captain Rogers died. His obituary says "He passed away venerated and loved and now sleeps in the cemetery which he himself laid out. The funeral of Captain Rogers took place on Tuesday morning, October 9, 1860, and was the largest and most imposing public procession ever seen in the city. Business was entirely suspended and all united in paying the last tribute of respect to the honored founder of Fort Smith."

An undated newspaper article written by Dorothy Woldert, his great grand-daughter states "The cemetery was then at what is now Grand Avenue and I Street. This is where the founder of Fort Smith was buried. His remains with those of his wife were afterward removed to Oak Cemetery." Their impressive monument in Oak Cemetery attests to this.

Margaret Mayer wrote an article which appeared in the *Southwest Times Record* on Nov 20, 1938. which tells about some of the oldest graves in the city. "Soon the living population of the lusty young town pushed the city limits far beyond where Captain Rogers had dreamed they would extend, and the bodies were removed from the Grand Avenue Cemetery. Now most of them are in Oak cemetery on South Greenwood Ave. Among the graves moved was that of Captain Rogers himself, and of his wife.

Also removed was the grave of Captain Gookin, whose death in 1842 antedates all others

recorded on markers in Fort Smith. Buried with Captain Gookin is his second wife, Rebecca Kannady Gookin, the great-great aunt of George Sparks and Neil Pryor of Fort Smith. Mrs. Gookin was a sister of Captain Rogers. Captain Gookin was a sea captain in the war of 1812.

Also buried in this lot is Aaron Barling, the great-great-grandfather of George Sparks. After spending seven years in the army he bought a farm, the site of the present town of Barling. He divided his time between Fort Gibson, where the garrison had been moved and his Farm. He died in 1854.

Jeremiah Kannady, the son of Mrs. Gookin and great-uncle of Sparks and Pryor, and his wife, Sophia B., also are buried in this lot, as are Cornelius D. Pryor, Kate Pryor, Neil B. Pryor, Reuben A. Pryor and Rebecca Barling, all of whom died in the 1850's. These bodies were removed to Oak cemetery about 50 years ago. "

This monument is in Oak Cemetery, but Jeremiah Kannady died in 1882 and his wife Sophia died in 1908 and they were buried there.

The Mitchell Sparks family was re-interred in Oak Cemetery in 1887, probably from this cemetery, since it was the public burying ground at the time. The only other cemeteries were family cemeteries, the Catholic cemetery and the cemetery at the garrison.

Miss Sarah Clark's burying ground was established circa 1853 and was about a mile southeast of the city. It was only an acre of ground, but was the beginning of the present day Oak Cemetery, which was purchased by the city in 1870 from the Clark and Pelley families. Weaver states "Its attractions were such that another resurrection took place, and many families removed their dead from the Catholic avenue grave yard, until no burials were made there afterwards. " Catholic avenue is presently Grand Avenue.

The 1887 and 1903 city maps, newspaper microfilm, microfilm of the St. Johns church registers, microfilm of the Weaver Scrapbooks and the Oak Cemetery Book are housed at the Fort Smith public library in the genealogy department.

There is no record of who was buried in the old Rogers grave yard, but I did find names of twenty-seven people in the Saint John's Episcopal Church Register who were buried in this cemetery between 1861 & 1869.

Toney Farmer died Feb 15, 1861 of a gunshot wound

? Eeds died Aug 3, 1861 of Dropsy of the chest

Karl Freiderich Kerrcher, age 10 mo, 3 days, died June 9, 1861

Charles Sparks, age 1 y, 5 1/2 mo, died June 19, 1861 (has a monument in Oak Cemetery)

Eudora Isabel Morley age 1 yr, 1 mo died Jun 25, 1861

Jesse Reed age 1 yr, 9 mos, died Aug 10, 1861

Effie M. Shook age 7 mos, died Aug 11, 1861

Wesley A. Clay, buried. Sep 17, 1861, d. Aug 10, 1861 of a gunshot wound received at the Battle of Oak Hill. (Weaver Papers Vol 5, p. 112. "Readers of *The Elevator* will remember that some time ago, in vacating the old cemetery on North Seventeenth Street, an iron coffin was taken and reburied in Oak Cemetery, which had contained the remains of a soldier. Wesley Clay killed at the Battle of Oak Hill.")

Abigail McCurrie, age 9 mos 27 days died Sept 18, 1861 of fever

Nellis Eds age 1 yr, 9 mos died Sep 27, 1861 of Diarrhea

Willie Sutton age 1 yr, 1 mo died Oct 6, 1861

Bobby Maupin age 1 yr, 8 mos, died Oct 1, 1861

John Franklin Thompson age 4 yrs, 7 mos died Jan 24, 1862

Capt. James M. Ward (C.S.A.) died Jan 29, 1862 of Gunshot Wound.

Annie Winnifred Schmieding age 1 yr, 10 mos died Feb 5, 1862 of Convulsions (has a monument in Oak cemetery)

Margaret Ellen Pryor age 10, died Mar 11, 1862 of Measles

Olympia Companion age 7 died Aug 4, 1862

Mary Isabella Baker age 39 died Nov 23, 1862 of Inflammation of womb

Bettie Sutton died Oct 15, 1862 of Enteritis

Susan Kate Polson age 3 1/2 died Feb 20, 1863

Andrew Jackson Clay age 21, died Mar 8, 1863 of Typhoid fever

John Davis Rogers age 1 y, 3 mos died Nov 16, 1866

Louraney Staggs age 63, died May 21, 1867 of Pneumonia

William Ernest Stebler, age 8 mos, 25 days died May 30, 1867 of Pneumonia

Percy Hamilton Cline, age 5 y, 7 mos died June 25, 1867 of scarlet fever.

Orville C. Word died July 25, 1868

Margaret Garrett, age 24 died Aug 13, 1869

THE FORT SMITH ELEVATOR FRIDAY JULY 19, 1901 5:1

At the council meeting Monday night an ordinance was passed requiring the removal of the dead buried in the old Rogers cemetery. The ordinance provides that if the relatives of the parties buried in the cemetery do not remove the same within six months the city shall take up the work and make interments in the city cemetery.

FRIDAY JULY 26, 1901 5:5 & 6 DESECRATED GRAVE YARDS SOME OF THE OLD BURIAL GROUNDS OF FORT SMITH AND THEIR LOCATION

"Good folks, for Jesus sake forbear
To dig the dust enclosed here;
Blest be the man that spares these stones,
And curst be he who moves my bones."

This was the epitaph chosen by William Shakespeare for his tomb stone and a recent order to move the "bones" from the old burial places in this city and vicinity, which deserve some mention in the annals of the town.

The first grave yard used was located on the bank of the Poteau river near the present iron factory. A few years ago someone in digging round turned up a skull, which caused much wonder and surprise. Sixty years ago when the writer first saw it, it was a small spot about thirty feet square, enclosed by a decayed picket fence. It was the burial ground for the garrison at the mouth of the Poteau in 1817. There were very few graves, mostly unmarked, of soldiers who had died in the hospital. There were two handsome marble slabs one marking the grave of a young officer; the other marking the grave of Surgeon Hammond (an early friend of the late Doctor Main) who died in 1841.

The old fence rotted away, cattle trampled down the briars and vandals carried away the marbles for hearth stones.

In the government reserve ground south of Garrison avenue and back of the big modern wholesale houses, there was a little grove of trees near Third street, which was for interments for a few years by the United States hospital, but very few buried, there, and the laborers while grading there for the railroad switch, were astonished at turning up some skulls, which caused wonder in our daily papers at the time.

There was another little graveyard, in the Sulphur Spring settlement, known as Nigger Hill, not very far south of the residence of Mr. D. J. Young, which was used to bury the dead in. Down on that high rocky bluff north of the city, on the old Sinclair place, owned by Doctor Main, was a grave yard, used for many years by the neighbors. The writer can recall several of our citizens buried there, among them Henry Gardner, an esteemed friend.

Doctor Main never interfered with them, but complained of the vandalism of treasure hunters, who were constantly digging up the ground in search of supposed money.

Of course, the needs of the community for a burial ground; attracted attention. Captain Rogers,

who laid out the city, designated the use of three lots on Fourth Street, near Dick Kerens' former residence. The city council put a picket fence around it and for several years was used as a city cemetery, and many of our prominent citizens and members of their families were, buried there. He never had deeded the lots to the city.

Time rolled on, the grave yard filling up rapidly some handsome and expensive monuments, evidences of affection from relatives, were erected. Year after year passed, the grave yard was filled up and during the cholera epidemic of 1851 many were buried outside of the fence and afterwards when the City graded the street their bones protruded from the soil.

The need of a cemetery induced Capt. Rogers to plot out a burial ground on Catholic avenue, so far out on the edge of the Race Track prairie that it would never be disturbed or in the way of buildings. He then notified the citizens to remove their dead from the grave yard on Fourth street. The order caused some surprise and indignation for many of our best and earliest settlers, who had built up the town were buried there, and the idea of tearing up the ground where "the rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep," was not a popular one; but he owned the ground and the resurrection work went on for some time. His sexton collected the fees, which were \$25 for disinterring and reburying the remains, and the price of a lot in the new grave yard was \$10. About twenty per cent of the remains were removed and about eighty per cent were unmarked and unsought for and are there yet and will lie until Gabriel blows his horn.

Were they removed with reverential care? Some few were by their relatives who were here to superintend. But the rest remained. The bodies were in different stages of decomposition; the grave diggers' would go down and find the coffin rotten; the decayed lid was thrown aside, and a pitchfork and long handled spade were used to scoop out the remains and dump them into a rough box prepared for the occasion.

It is painful to recur to the facts of this bodily resurrection and the disgusting details—

"Where the worms they crawled in
And the worms they crawled out."

and it is a blot on the manhood of our town, at the time, to permit or suffer such an indecent desecration. We were worse than the semi-barbarous Turks, we were worse than the Chinese, who worship the bones of their ancestors, and the American Indian, who wants his bones to lie with his fathers.

The revolting episodes in this "removal" made many shy of investing in the new grave yard, but

this doubt was removed by every purchaser of a grave lot receiving a deed for the same, and a bill was passed in the legislature exempting the cemetery from taxation.

The plot of the grave yard and records of the deeds to burial lots were filed in the court at Greenwood, and when the court house there was destroyed by fire in the early seventies were supposed to be lost with all our valuable county records.

The "proprietor" then offered the old lots for sale, but nobody wanted the bone yard, and after several years they were sold for \$75 a lot, and the purchaser held them for twenty years, until ignorant newcomers came along and built residences where corpse lights flicker in the lawns, and sprites whisper in the bedrooms.

There was a beautiful oak grove on the Poteau river south of the Fort, and when General Arbuckle died he was buried there (his remains were afterwards taken to his farm on Arbuckle's Island.) Many of our citizens were buried there, also the dead from the Garrison hospital. It was, finally, in 1870, adopted by the War department as a National cemetery. Col. McCloud built the wall around it.

Some time along in the sixties Miss Sarah Clark donated a few acres of ground to the city. It had been used and known as Sarah Clark's grave yard and is now our city cemetery. The council took hold of the matter in earnest, appointed a committee for its care, employed permanent sextons, built a substantial enclosure and framed laws for its protection and the result is that it is one of the prettiest and best kept grave yards in the state. Relatives of the dead have taken pride in ornamenting it with shrubbery and many costly and handsome monuments, and its attractions were such that another resurrection took place, and many families removed their dead from the Catholic avenue grave yard, until no burials were made there afterwards.

The Catholic avenue grave yard contains a great many unknown and unmarked graves. It is not likely that any remains can be found. In those days nearly all were buried in wooden coffins. Experience has shown that after forty or fifty years nothing can be found in the clay soil but a black streak.

Just why the council issued this flippant order is hard to conceive. They have no jurisdiction unless it is for sanitary reasons; but there have been no burials there for forty years. The city does not own the grave yard, it is private property, and every grave lot was sold in fee simple.

To the honor of the Catholic and Hebrew congregations, be it said, they do not trust their hallowed

burial grounds to the mercy or disposal of city councils. They care for them themselves as a sacred duty, and no amount of gold could induce them to sell or desecrate even an unused grave yard.

But the order will be ignored, not a grave will be disturbed and the ashes of the dead will lie there until the crack of doom.

W.

(This was written by W. J. Weaver)

**SOUTHWEST-TIMES RECORD
SUNDAY MARCH 20, 1927
PAGE 10, COLUMNS 1-4**

**HISTORY OF FORT SMITH REVEALED
IN MANY STORIES HINGING AROUND
REMOVING DEAD TO NEW
CEMETERIES**

**FIRST BURIAL GROUND OF TRADING
POST NOT DEFINITELY LOCATED BUT
PROBABLY WAS ON BANKS OF POTEAU**

BY J. FRANK WEAVER

Let Oak cemetery be cared for forever, for in its bosom rests the ashes of many of the city's honored dead.

Years ago workmen engaged in leveling a mound in the rear of an old two story frame building that stood at the southwest corner of North Third street and Garrison avenue, where the Berry Dry Goods store now stands, made a discovery that is described in the following story, taken from the *Fort Smith New Era*, an old Fort Smith newspaper.

There was found a few days ago some 30 steps in the rear of the old *New Era* office, between it and the old Garrison Wall, the remains of a large sized man, which had evidently been buried for a half century or more. Being present at the exhumation we picked up some parts of the body, the right half of the lower jaw-bone with teeth in a good state of preservation, etc. Also a button which on being cleaned turned out to be such as was used on soldier's pantaloons.

"In this connection we take pleasure in publishing the following communication from Colonel J. R. Kannady, one of our oldest citizens, which will be found of interest to the people here:

"A party of men at work leveling a mound on the government reservation about 150 feet from the avenue and over which the road leads from the town to the United States court building found some two feet below the surface a skeleton of a man. Portions of the bones are in a good state of

preservation, they also found some buttons showing that the person had been a soldier.

OLDEST GRAVEYARD DESCRIBED

"This mound was called the old graveyard when I first arrived in Arkansas in 1836. There were then portions of an old fence for many years around it yet, but from appearances it had not been used for a burial of the dead for many years previous. At that time, 1836, there was another burial ground on the banks of the Poteau river near where the old government saw mill was situated, that was evidently of later date, though it was not then used as a graveyard. A few head stones were standing, bearing as I remember, dates of 1821 to 1823, the names I have forgotten. The graveyard in use in 1836 was on the bluff a mile and a half from town. This had from appearances been used for many years previous to 1836. In 1838(9) Captain John Rogers, in laying off the town, selected a place for a graveyard near the corner of Wayne and Hickory, or A and H. streets. At this burial ground in 1848 I was present and assisted in the burial of a Mason, the first buried with Masonic honors in Fort Smith. A few years afterward Captain Rogers laid off the burial ground in the Fort Smith prairie and most all the bodies buried in the cemetery on Wayne street were removed to this prairie cemetery. This has again been abandoned and the town purchased nine acres of ground from Mr. Pelley one and one-half miles southeast from town, beautifully located and which, when better improved as it should be, will be a credit to our town. Not having statistics or memorandums to refresh my memory I have written this from recollections. My belief is that the bones found were buried in 1817 or 1818 and from all I can recollect, that was the first burial ground of the then military post of Fort Smith.

"(Signed) J. R. Kannady"

What Colonel Kannady wrote is very illuminating, but I believe he errs in his conclusion that the graveyard uncovered by the work men in 1880 was the first. He said headstones in the old Poteau burying ground bore the dates from 1821 to 1823, and that to my mind is pretty conclusive evidence that the graveyard in which the head stones bore dates was the first to be used, though the buttons found in the grave uncovered by the workers indicate that soldiers were buried there, doubtless civilians were buried there also.

OLD STOCKADE VISITED

The exact location of the first cemetery cannot now be fixed. However, all the old-timers I ever heard talk about the matter agreed that it was

located on the highest point on the east bank of the Poteau river, quite a distance above the stockade fort built by Major Bradford in 1817, and near where the Ketchum iron foundry was afterward located.

REMAINS OF THE OLD STOCKADE FORT WERE EXTANT AS LATE AS 1845

In his "Reminiscences," W. J. Weaver says he visited this burying ground shortly after he located in Fort Smith in 1841. He says it was about 30 feet square and in a very dilapidated condition. It had been surrounded by a fence, very little of which was left, having been knocked down by cattle or rotted down. It contained, he said a few graves, three of which were marked by marble slabs. One of the slabs was in memory of a surgeon, the other two marking the resting places of lieutenants. The unmarked graves were occupied by soldiers who had died in the hospital. There are no means of identifying the lieutenants whose headstones are mentioned, but, I believe it is reasonable to conclude that the surgeon whose grave was marked by one of the marble slabs was Dr. Thomas Russell, surgeon of the post, who died Aug. 24, 1818. Dr. Russell accompanied Major Bradford when the latter came up the river to construct the fort, and doubtless became a victim to the climate and the unwholesome conditions that prevailed. Thomas Nuttall, the naturalist and traveler, who visited the new post in the early part of 1818 and later in 1819 in his book on travels speaks highly of this young officer. So far as the records go to show, Dr. Russell was the first person to die in what is now the city of Fort Smith.

But who were the lieutenants, and where is the resting place of Major William Bradford? Major Bradford is said to have been a man of such enterprise and spirit. He resigned in 1824 after long and honorable service in the army, then made an unsuccessful race for territorial delegate to congress. He died in Oct 13, 1826. The Professor Josiah H. Shinn of Russellville, who spent a number of years in Washington engaged in historical research. told me that the army records show that Bradford died in Fort Smith. In all probability his remains were interred in either the old cemetery on the Poteau or the burying ground mentioned by Colonel Kannady.

HOUSE BUILT NEAR POST:

It is my belief that the last mentioned cemetery was established about 1824 or 1825. In 1824 the post was abandoned. After the abandonment it is not likely there were more interments in the Poteau cemetery. In the meantime, however, there grew up a smart settlement around the old

post consisting of the owners of the three or four trading houses, their families and employees, soldiers, whose terms of service had expired, and other persons who had squatted around the post, as was the case in all instances where military posts were established in the pioneer days. Doubtless, deaths occurred in this population and as the Poteau cemetery had been abandoned at the time of removal of the troops it is altogether probable that the burying ground uncovered in 1880 was selected for this interment.

Yellow fever prevailed and claimed a number of victims at Fort Smith in 1826, the disease being brought up the river by a company of soldiers that reached town by water.

When Fort Smith was abandoned in 1824, the soldiers comprising the garrison were transferred to Fort Gibson, and possibly some of them to Fort Towson, both of which posts were established at Swallow Rock, on the Arkansas river, about 12, miles above Fort Smith and named Fort Coffee. This post was abandoned in 1838 and the troops transferred to Cantonment Belknap at Fort Smith.

This brings us to the abandonment of the third burying ground, in which Colonel Kannady says the dead had been buried for many, years before his arrival in 1836, and which was located on a bluff about one and one-half miles north of the town. I am not positive as to the original ownership of the tract upon which this cemetery was located but eventually it passed into the possession of Dr. J. H. T. Main. In my boyhood days it was known as the "Gardner burying ground" on account of its proximity to a farm owned by John Gardner, a very early settler. As well as I can remember Gardner's residence was a commodious log house, and it must needs have been commodious for Gardner and his wife had a family of four daughters and three sons. Two of the daughters, Misses Emily and Lelia Gardner, were among Fort Smith's earlier school teachers. The oldest son of the family, Henry Gardner, a man, highly esteemed by all of his acquaintances, died several years before the beginning of the war between the states from an attack of pneumonia.

MARKERS THROWN OFF BLUFF

The period at which this cemetery was established is not very clear. I visited it once in the spring of 1872. I didn't recollect whether or not it had a fence around it at that time, but I remember that it contained quite a number of graves, some of which had marble headstones, others of which were marked by slabs of sandstone. Others were unmarked. The ground was covered with brush, and some of the gravestones had fallen to the ground. During the boom of the 1886-87 Dr. Main

sold the tract upon which this plot was located, and the new owner tumbled the headstones over the bluff into the river bottom to get them out of the way of the plow. This was a shameful act of desecration.

When the town in the 1840 period, entered its second growth, the people began to clamor for another cemetery. This induced Captain Rogers, when he laid out the town, in 1839, to reserve for this purpose a plot that was a short distance, north of the city. I believe four lots, were designated for that purpose. These lots lay in block No. 11, this block being bounded by what are now Second and Third streets, and C and D streets. I believe they lay at the north end of the block. The first Catholic church ever built in Fort Smith stood on C street just across from the cemetery and this fact has led some people of modern days to assume that the cemetery was a Catholic burying ground. I do not know where the earliest Catholic settlers buried their dead but assume that they used this place in a plot secured and consecrated to that purpose. This was infrequently done at that day in localities where the Catholic population was very sparse.

This was before the Catholics had bought the sixteenth section and established a cemetery of their own.

The new cemetery filled very rapidly and it was not long until people began to build houses around it. In my childhood days I was frequently in this cemetery as my house was but little more than a block from it. During the cholera epidemic of 1851, there were buried in it many victims of that dreadful plague. It contained a number of large gravestones and several old fashioned vaults, one of the latter, covered with a marble slab, marked the resting place of Sergeant Heckle of the United States Army. This vault at one time afforded the people of the town a subject for a period of exciting gossip. As the story ran, a citizen of the town had been informed by an old lady fortune teller that there was in one corner of the vault a keg of money that had been secreted there by somebody who had died after hiding it.

GRAVE IS INVESTIGATED

The fortune teller and her friend went one night to investigate. They pushed the corner of the vault covering aside and reaching down, discovered the object of their search. Suddenly the fortune teller's companion heard approaching footsteps. This alarmed them and they fled. Both

returned a night or two afterward but the keg with its precious contents had disappeared. This incensed the fortune teller, and she "peached" at the same time accusing her partner of having returned after her flight and made away with the treasure. Doubtless there are now people in Fort Smith who have heard their elders speak of this incident.

After he took up his residence in Fort Smith at the conclusion of the war between the states, Dick Kerens resided on Third street just across from this old cemetery.

About 1850 Captain Rogers was induced by the agitation of one newspaper of the town, as well as by the appeal of people who had bought property in the vicinity of the Third street burying ground, to set apart another place for burials. The place then chosen was fully a block in extent and was located on a road that is now known as Grand avenue. When this tract had been laid off, Captain Rogers notified the owners of lots in the Third street burying ground to remove their dead and bury them in the new tract. This created considerable indignation, for in the old cemetery rested many of the pioneers of the town, and the idea of disturbing their bones was anything but popular. But there was nothing to do but comply with the notification, none of the lot holders being in possession of title to the ground in which the dead had been interred.

ROGERS CEMETERY CONDEMNED

About 20 years ago the city council condemned the Rogers or Race Track cemetery, the last name being applied on account of its proximity to an antebellum race track, and directed that the remains buried there be removed to Oak cemetery. What rights the council had to make this order I cannot conceive. There had been no interments there within a third of a century. The ownership of most of the ground rested in people who purchased lots in it years before, but no protest was made against the order, for the greater number of the lot holders had lost their deeds and the original plot of the cemetery had been lost or destroyed. Some removals were made. I do not believe more than 25 per cent of the number originally buried and the property reverted to the heirs of the original owners, of the ground

There was at one time a small cemetery on what was know as Nigger Hill, not far from the D. J. Youngs residence, on a slope leading toward

Sulphur Springs, but it disappeared years ago. When it was used there is no way of determining, and how it came to be selected as a burial site is equally a matter of obscurity. In 1849 cholera broke out among California emigrants, who were camping around Sulphur Springs, and carried off quite a number of them. I have sometimes felt that the graves of those in the little cemetery might be those of victims of the plague. The disease was brought up the river by the steamer, Oella, two deaths occurring among the boats' passengers after her arrival at the wharf. *The Fort Smith Herald* at that time disclaimed the presence of this disease in the town but mentioned its prevalence at Fort Coffee, Fort Gibson and several points on the river between the latter place and Fort Smith. The columns of the Herald also show about that time a marked increase in the death rate of the town.

CATHOLICS OBTAIN SITE

In 1850 the Catholics obtained possession of the sixteenth section, purchasing it from the school directors of the town or townships. and is to be assumed they began burying their dead about that time in what is now known as the Catholic cemetery. This place does not, however, appear to have been formally dedicated to interments until some time in 1855, when there was a confirmation of 30 persons. Monsignor J. M. Lucey once wrote a brief history of the Catholic church of Fort Smith in which he spoke of confirmation of this class in the year I have mentioned. He said: "After this event Mr. Nagle ordained as priest and on the day of his ordination the cemetery was blessed and it must have been well blessed, for there were 14 clergymen present, and the ceremony lasted six hours." This cemetery is now a very attractive place, and for many years much care has been bestowed upon it.

Adjoining the Catholic cemetery is the burial ground for people of the Jewish faith, also a well kept and attractive place.

The National cemetery was selected under an act of congress of either 1832 or 1835, and has been in use as such ever since. At first it was known as a post cemetery. It has a beautiful location. Since 1901 it has been in charge of Sergeant Dillon, under whose care it has been kept in a condition that makes it a pride to the city. Unfortunately the earliest records of this cemetery are imperfect, some of them having disappeared. There is no danger that this burial ground will ever be removed from its present location. It will last as long as the government stands.

***Southwest-Times Record
Fort Smith, Ark.
Sunday Morning
November 20, 1938 page 6
Headstones Record Famous
Names in City's History
Needs of Dead Give Way to
Needs of Living as City Grows***

By Martha Mayer

When Captain John Rogers laid out the town of Fort Smith in 1835, he designated an area around what is now Sixteenth street and Grand avenue as the cemetery.

Except for those residents who were laid to rest on their own property, most of the leading early-day citizens were buried there. It was known as the "race track" cemetery because the horse racing track was just east of it.

Soon the living population of the lusty young town pushed the city limits far beyond where Captain Rogers had dreamed they would extend and the bodies were removed from the Grand Avenue cemetery. Now most of them are in Oak cemetery on South Greenwood Avenue.

Among the graves moved was that of Captain Rogers himself, and of his wife. The marker of this veteran of the war of 1812 reads

"Captain John Rogers founder of
Fort Smith. Born Beaver, Penn.,
July 5. 1780, died Oct 7, 1860."

1842 MARKER REMOVED

Also removed was the grave of Captain Gookin, whose death in 1812 antedates all others recorded on markers in Fort Smith. Buried with Captain Gookin is his second wife, Rebecca Kannady Gookin, the great-great aunt of George Sparks and Neil Pryor of Fort Smith. Mrs. Gookin was a sister of Captain Rogers. Captain Gookin was a sea captain in the war of 1812.

Also buried in this lot is Aaron Barling, the great-great-grandfather of George Sparks. Barling came to Fort Smith with the first troops in 1817. After spending seven years in the army he bought a farm, the site of the present town of Barling. He divided his time between Fort Gibson, where the Garrison had been moved, and his farm. He died in 1854.

Jeremiah Kannady, the son of Mrs. Gookin, and great-uncle of Sparks and Pryor, and his wife, Sophia B. also are buried in this lot as are Cornelius D. Pryor, Kate Pryor, Neil B. Pryor, Reuben A. Pryor and Rebecca Barling, all of whom died in the 1850's.

SEVERAL MOVED TO OAK CEMETERY

THESE BODIES WERE REMOVED TO OAK CEMETERY ABOUT 50 YEARS AGO.

The oldest permanent marked grave in this city, apparently is that of Colonel Robert Stuart Gibson, whose picture hangs in Carnegie library. His wife, Sarah Nicks Gibson, whose picture also hangs in the library, was the aunt of Cons P Wilson of Fort Smith.

Colonel Gibson's grave, with the marker bearing the dates, 1800-1845, is in a small, concrete walled grove in what was once his property on North Sixth street, near the old ferry, just across the Frisco railway tracks from the present Forest Park cemetery.

There is some doubt about where Sarah Nicks Gibson is buried. Miss Nell Wilson, daughter of Cons P Wilson, thinks she was buried beside her husband and that the marker must have been stolen as so many markers have been from the older graves but Carolyn Thomas Foreman, in an article on "General John Nicks and His Wife, Sarah Perkins Nicks" in the journal of the Oklahoma Historical Society, states that she is buried in the National Cemetery.

SARAH GIBSON SUCCEEDS MATE

Sarah Nicks Gibson was quite a personage. After the death of her first husband, General John Nicks, the settler of Fort Smith and later Fort Gibson, she received a special appointment to succeed him "for a sufficient time to dispose of the goods on hand." That was in 1831. She thus became the first woman to hold a federal job in the United States and the first business woman in Oklahoma.

She married Colonel Robert Stuart Gibson, a merchant, in 1835, and they lived in Fort Smith. They had three children, two of whom, Robert Stuart and Irene, are buried in the same lot. The third, Mary Ann, married General Richard Caswell Gatlin, and is buried beside him in National cemetery.

The Gibson property passed to the Gatlins and since has been sold to Harry E. Kelley, but this walled-in grove was set apart in the deed as the permanent possession of the descendants. Several members of the Gibson and Gatlin families are buried in it, and there are a few other graves nearby.

The oldest grave in National cemetery is that of Scioto Gatlin the first wife of General Richard Caswell Gatlin. The dates on her marker are April 25, 1827-Jan 3, 1852. Buried with her is her infant son, who died eight days after she did.

HUMBER GRAVE NEXT OLDEST

The next oldest grave in National cemetery is that of Captain Charles E. Humber, the father of Mrs. Nathaniel Dyke of Fort Smith. The marker states that he died Jan 2, 1858. He was captain of Company B, the Seventh infantry, stationed at the garrison here. He fought in the Mexican and Indian wars.

Probably the oldest "graveyard" in this vicinity is the Indian mound six miles south of Fort Smith between highway 45 and U. S. highway 71. This property for about 40 years belonged to the Stoppelman family, and it now is owned by Mrs. Betty Jones, whose second husband was the late Fred Stoppelman.

Mrs. Jones is certain this is an Indian mound, because all sorts of arrowheads have been found near it. But even if it isn't authentic, the Stoppelmans found plenty of uses for it. They made their own family burial ground on top of it (there are about 15 markers up there, all dated in the 1880's and 90's) and they dug a tunnel deep into the lower part of the mound, which is used as a potato shed to this day.

OLDEST GRAVEYARDS TORN UP

The oldest graveyards have all been torn up, either as a result of the expansion of the city or through the theft of the markers. In the former class are included the "Birnie bluffs" cemetery on North Sixth street, formerly the property of the Birnie family, and a graveyard on North Third street, whose location could not be learned.

One old graveyard is on the Cons P. Wilson property northeast of the city near Waldron road, adjoining the Meeks addition. It contains a lot of rough stones without inscriptions. The only lot that bears any evidence of attention is surrounded by a trellis and contains two markers, one for John N. Gott, May 8, 1857-Feb 2, 1881, and the other of Mary E. Gott, Sept 2, 1854-Jan. 27, 1911. The only other marked grave is that of James Cantwell grandfather of W. A. Cantwell, operator of the Cantwell Tourist court. He died April 18, 1876.

There used to be a grave there marked Cromwell, and it was rumored that it was the grave of a Revolutionary soldier, but the tombstone evidently has been stolen, according to Miss Nell Wilson.

The Collins estate, one-fourth mile east of Waldron road, back of the present Rose Lawn cemetery, was the site of an old burial ground. It

used to contain about 25 graves, but the markers have disappeared. Mrs. Tom Price, formerly Miss Mattie Collins, says that during her childhood this was known as the Indian graveyard, and she recalls that the graves were decorated with beautiful sea shells, but she doesn't know for sure whether it was an Indian graveyard.

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 name, dates places and submitter's name and address.

RIVERS

Need obituary of Dr. Walter Wicliff Rivers which was published in Huntington Hummer. Died April 5, 1906 and is buried in Center Valley Cemetery. – Charlotte Arrington, P.O. Box 153, Talkeetna, AK 99676.

(Apparently no copies or microfilm of the Huntington Hummer exist today. Can any of our reader's help Ms. Arrington?)

ROGERS

Looking for information about William Lafayette Rogers, born 27 Nov. 1876, son of Hugh Rogers and Mary Elizabeth Childers. – Lester Woods, 2090 University St. SE, Salem OR 97302.

FORMAN / FOREMAN

Need death date on Garrett Forman/Foreman, born 1806/1808 in Kentucky. In Arkansas census 1850, 1860, 1870 in Pope Co., Dover Twp. – Carol Sandlin, 37 Nicholson Drive, Chatham N.J., 07928.

HARTLESS / THURMAN

Looking for birth record for Rebecca Caroline Hartless, born July 30, 1892 in Fort Smith. Parents were Jefferson Spenser Hartless and Susan Caldonia Thurman, possibly married in Fort Smith ca 1886-1888. – Kay Bickel, 5488 24th Ave., Riverdale CA 93656.

BENNIGHT

Looking for burial place, around Jenny Lind, Arkansas, of five children of James Bennight who lived on Bear Hollow Road during the 1800s. – Sandra Dyer, 2111 Savanna Ct. N, League City, TX 77573.

BARTLETT

Need info on Bartlett family that moved to Greenwood, AR around 1850 from Missouri. My grandfather, Eugene O'Neal Bartlett married Bessie Yadon. – Bonnie Bunting, Rt 2 Box 358 Wagoner, OK 74467.

E-mail: raystrike@webzone.net.

FORTUNE / TEMPLETON

Seeking info on John W. Fortune and his wife, Martha Templeton, who were on 1860 Cu of Sebastian Co. AR. Children: Julia Elizabeth m. Robert Sloss Davis; Cora Lee m. James Fuquay Locke; Eleanor Beatrice m. Thomas Wesley Davis. – Beverly Davis Tilley, The Lookout, 338 Country Creek Lane, Fredericksburg TX 78624-7039 E-mail: bbtikt@fbg.net

CALDWELL

Searching for George Washington Caldwell (maybe George C.) Born 1860-1861, died 1907-1910. Early in 1910 his wife Lucy Ann Caldwell is shown as head of household in Sebastian Co., Barling twp., with seven children, youngest being born in 1908 in Van Buren, Ark., Crawford Co. George Caldwell married Lucy Cline in Braggs, OK 1892. – Ann Armour, 512 West 20th Street, Bartlesville, OK 74003.

STEPHENS / K.H.

Need information about John Richard (J.R.) Stephens who came to Fort Smith from Sherman, Texas in 1868, and the KH (Knights of Honor) organization he belonged to. – Mrs. Margaret Houston, 1332 East Rolling Oaks Drive, Memphis, TN 38119-4914.

CROSLEY

Looking for burial place of Ann (Mrs. Abraham Hughes) Crosley, died circa 1887; James Woodward Crosley, died 1881. All were said to have died in or near Fort Smith. – Kathy K. Marynik, 8417 Lakeland Drive, Granite Bay, California 95746. (email: kmarynik@hotmail.com)

1899 Newspapers

(Articles abstracted from microfilm at the Fort Smith Public Library)

FORT SMITH DAILY NEWS **APRIL 6, 1899-APRIL 9, 1899**

APRIL 6

Lunch Every Day at Harper Bros.
Warm roast beef and various delicacies
in season.
Drop in anytime between 9:30 and 4 p.m.
Everybody cordially invited
Harper Bros. 5th and Garrison Avenue

APRIL 7

FORT SMITH FURNITURE ASSOCIATION **FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS**

McCloud & Sparks Furniture Co.
Bed Steads and Kitchen Safes
Ballman-Cummings Furniture Co.
Bedroom suits, Sideboards, etc.
Fort Smith Chair Co.
Chairs, Wood, Cane and Cobble - seats
Miller & Jones Furniture Co.
Kitchen Center and Extension Tables
and Hatracks

GRAND OPERA HOUSE

Punch Robertson Co.
In up-to-date repertoire
One week solid commencing Friday, April 7.

TONIGHT

"Queen of Hearts"
Change of play nightly

MEDICAL DIRECTORY

Dr. H. Moulton
Practice limited to diseases of
Eye, Ear, Nose & Throat
Office in Halliwell Bldg.
Hours 9 - 12 am, 2 - 4 pm.
Call Mortons Drug Store

Other doctors advertising:

Dr. H. Weems	Dr. J. H. Foster
Dr. M. C. Marrs	Dr. E. H. Stephens
Dr. J. B. O'Kelly	Dr. John M. Wallace

Southern Broom Factory,
Largest Steam Factory in the South.
Fort Smith, Arkansas
Capacity 900 dozen per week. Manufactures
all kinds of brooms, Whisks and Mats

When Traveling

Whether on pleasure or business, take on every trip a bottle of Syrup of Figs, as it acts pleasantly and effectively on the kidneys, liver and bowels, preventing fever, headache, and other forms of sickness. For sale in 50 cent bottles by all leading druggists.

Manufactured by the California Fig Syrup Co. only.

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APRIL 9

Frank B. Dunlop Talks of the Original
Quartette of Fort Smith Angels
of Commerce

F. B. Dunlop, of the Speer Hardware Co. wears a countenance as chuck full of good nature as an eagle is of the principle of levity. When he laughs, little wrinkles chase themselves joyfully over his smooth-shaven face and his good nature is so contagious that to be in his company is to shift your burdens a peg or two into the future....

(Half page article - interesting reading).

Mr. Dunlop assisted in organization of the Traveler's Protective Assn. in Arkansas.

The marriage of Miss Mary Parke, daughter of Capt. Frank Parke and Mr. D. D. Taylor of Lexington, Kentucky, will marry April 19th at the First Methodist Church....After the ceremony will be at home in Lexington.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Matthews welcomed a little daughter this week.

NANCE & WHEATLEY have both phones. Ring them up for furniture, stoves, lamps, tinware, glassware, etc. Prices Lowest. Delivery Quickest. Furniture picked up for storage or shipping. Upholstering and repairing. All orders appreciated. 1001 Garrison Ave.

NEW PLUMBING SHOP

Bruce Bros. do the best plumbing and are fixed to do your work in the most approved manner.

25 Cents a Quart

For our fine California wines, port sherry, claret Angelical Try them.

Harper & Wilson

BUNGLING SHOOTERS

Yesterday afternoon Justice McDonald held to the grand jury a negro named J. W. Walker, who is charged with assault to kill another negro named Redding. The two men got into a controversy over a dusky dame — agreed to arm themselves and meet. One has a thumb almost shot off by the only shot that was fired.

Walker maintained that Redding knew so little of the uses of a pistol, he shot himself.

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FORT SMITH ELEVATOR APRIL 7, 1899 - April 14, 1899

APRIL 7 DIED

Rachel Louvena Faulkner, born in Cherokee Nation January 8, 1844. Died in her home in Hanson I.T. March 17, 1899. Married the honorable D. M. Faulkner, April 28, 1867....

(Long obituary)

Mrs. Mary Pendergrass, wife of Mr. John M. Pendergrass, died in her home in Franklin Co. March 22, 1899.

The March number of the New Era reached the *Elevator*. It is a new monthly magazine published at South McAlester by John W. Edgell....Its field is a big one, and its title a splendid one, for a new era is certainly dawning for the Indian Territory.

Dr. M. A. Simmons Liver Medicine clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind, cures headaches, regulates stomach, bowels and liver.

DIED

Monday night at the T. B. Carnall home on Massard Prairie, Mrs. N. B. Tubbs, age 38 years. Leaves husband and several children.

The new Belle Point Hospital which replaces the Charity and St. John's Hospitals, is in operation at the building used by the latter on North A Street. A new building is projected for the near future.

THE CHOCTAW ROUTE

Choctaw, Oklahoma & Gulf Railroad
A New Line for Arkansas
Traffic Department

— • —

APRIL 14

The new City Council was organized for Business last Monday night — (Mayor Garrett's Annual Message to the Aldermanic Body, reviewing the municipal situation....see article about Mayor Garrett in this *Journal*.)

MARRIED AT LAVACA

On Sunday April 9th, Mr. B. L. Joyce and Miss Lillie Cox, both of Lavaca, Ark., were married at the latter's residence in Lavaca.

The Frisco line will on April 26th sell tickets to Galveston at the low rate of \$6.00 for the round trip, with final return limit May 2, 1899; via Texas, Midland and Houston, and Texas Central R. R. or Gulf Colorado & Santa Fe Ry, giving a choice of the only two first class routes to Galveston with through service, including Pullman and observation sleepers and making six hours shortest time.

Train will leave Fort Smith at 10:30 a.m., April 26th, arriving at Galveston 8:55 the following morning. For further information call on W. A. Vickers, Agent

The rails for the Fort Smith Electric Street Railway have been shipped from Cincinnati and will arrive here in a week. Track laying will begin as soon as the steel arrives.

Fast Diamond Dyes for Cotton make unfading colors that cannot be washed out in Soapsuds or Faded by Sunlight.

The Painters' Union of Fort Smith was organized Wednesday night (April 13) with a membership of 36. The following officers were chosen: O. E. Branning, president; Sam L. Wallace, Vice President; Ed F. Hall, secretary and treasurer; Ed Austerman, conductor; Van Stom, warden; George Ward, John Wright, Ross Mosely, trustees.

They adopted the 9-hour work day and a scale of 25 cents per hour.

A company has been formed in this city which will conduct a wholesale drug business. Among the stock holders are Dr. John W. Morton, Dr. B. Hatchett and W. J. Johnston of this city, and Messrs. Whitlow and Smith of Fayetteville. Over \$60,000 of the capital, which is expected will be \$75,000, has been subscribed.....

"HELL ON THE BORDER"

Third time and last call —
Books complete by May 1st

Dr. J. W. Pipkin - Specialty of Chronic Private, Nervous and Female troubles.

Tumors, Facial Blemishes and Superfluous hairs removed by electricity. I will give \$50.00 for any case of stricture that I cannot cure by Electrotherapeutics.

Index

- 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.
 (-) - dash between page numbers indicates the name of the person, place, etc. is carried throughout the story.
 (gp) - group picture
 (pc) - postcard

- A -		Bourland, Fagan	16	Cornish	8
Abernathy, Mrs. John	8	Bradford		Coutlee	
Americal Dental Association	29	Major	39	Frank	34
American Baseball League	3	William	39	Marie Motta	34
Andrews Field	31	Breedlove Building	31	Mellie	34
Arbuckle, General	37	Breen, William	15	Paul	34
Arbuckle's Island	37	Brewer, Jim	8	Sister Mary	34
Arkansas Best Corporation	11	Brice, Debbie	33	Coward, Noel	27
Arkansas Education Association	17	Bridges, Lloyd	19	Cowne Cemetery	34
Arkansas Heritage Month	27	Brody, Mary Ann	34	Cox, Lillie	45
Armour, Ann	43	Brown, John	19	Cravens, Jerry	14
Arrington, Charlotte	43	Bruce, Wallace	14	Crawford Construction	27
Austerman, Ed	45	Bruce Bros.	44	Cromwell	42
Autry, Allen Hill	8	Bryan, John	27	Crosley	
- B -		Bumpers	3	Ann	43
Bailey, William Worth	21	Bunda, Jose	32	James Woodward	43
Baker		Bunting, Bonnie	43	Cross, Earl	8
Diane	19	Burial grounds	34-43	Crown jewels	15
Mary Isabella	36	Bush, George	3	Cummbie Family	7
Ray	2, 13, 26	- C -		Czar of Russia	4
Ballman-Cummings Furniture Co.	44	Cable television	29	C. Bean Transport	29
Banning, O. E.	45	Caldwell		- D -	
Bardin, Dan	32	George C.	43	Dake Cemetery	34
Barling		George Washington	43	Danner	
Aaron	35, 41	Lucy Ann	43	John	33
Rebecca	35, 41	Calhoun, Rory	19	John M.	33
Barrett Family	7	Camp Chaffee	4, 11	Ruth Estes	33
Bartlett, Eugene, O'Neal	43	Cantwell		Darby Junior High	2, 30
Bartlett Family	43	James	42	Davidson, Mildred Davis	5
Bassett		W. A.	42	Davis	
Erma Jane	5	Cantwell Tourist Court	42	Dessa	4, 7
Gracie Syble	5	CARCO	30	Jonathan	4, 5
Orville	10	Carnall, T. B.	45	Reuben Eastin	4
Orville Lee	5	Carter, Jimmy	3	Reuben Jefferson	4
Bataan Camp, Phillipines	18	Catton, Bruce	19	Rhoda	7
Battle of Oak Hill	36	Cemeteries	34-43	Robert Sloss	43
Beach, Betty Jo	4	Chamber of Commerce	31	Ruben Jefferson	7
Beasley		Chancey, Dr. J. P., Jr.	11	Serena Francis	4
Charles III	33	Charity Hospital	45	Thomas Wesley	43
Charles Jr.	33	Chautauqua Association	25	William Jr.	4
John	33	Chemical warfare	3	William Sr.	4
Mary Francis	33	Childers, Mary Elizabeth	43	Davis Family	4
Beland Manor	28	Choctaw Route	45	Demi, Sherrye	34
Bell, Joyce Sharp	7	City cemetery	13	Depression	9
Belle City Singers	22	City of Fort Smith	11	Dewhurst, Colleen	19
Belle Point Beverages, Inc.	11	Civic Center Honors	29	Dillinger, John	3, 10
Belle Point Hospital	45	Clark		Dillon, Sergeant	41
Beller, Kathleen	19	Sarah	35, 37	Discovery Young Scientist Challenge	30
Ben Geren Park	30	Sue	34	Donald W. Reynolds Campus Center	31
Benedict, Paul	19	Clay		Dong Dok, Laos	18
Bennight, James	43	Andrew Jackson	36	Doyle, David	19
Berlin, Irving	8	Wesley A.	36	Drennan, Darin	20
Bernie Funeral Home	34	Clayton House	31	Drutgen, John Van	27
Berry, Carl	25	Clearing House of Community Services	27	Dr. Seuss	3
Berry Dry Goods	38	Cleveland, Grover	3	Duffy, Julia	19
Beverly Cemetery	34	Cline		Duncan, Peggy	32
Beverly Enterprises	30	Lucy	43	Dunlop, Frank B.	44
Bickel, Kay	43	Percy Hamilton	36	Duong, Thongsavath	2, 17*, 31
Birkhead, Bruce	29	Clinton, Bill	3	Dyer, Sandra	43
Birnie Bluffs Cemetery	42	Coca-Cola Bottling Company	11	Dyke, Mrs. Nathaniel	42
Birnie Family	42	Collins		- E -	
Birnie Funeral Home	16	Fred D.	16	Eastin, Nancy	4
Biswell Springs	6, 7	Mamie Rebecca Suratt	16	Ebb, Fred	27
Biswell Springs School	6	Mattie	43	Echols, W. J.	14
Black Friday	9	Collins Estate	42	Echols and Johnson	15
Blake, Tom	32	Commemorative Coca Cola bottle	29	Ecole Superior Pedagogic	18
Blochberger, Nancy	29	Companion, Olympia	36	Eddleman, Janice Bufford	2
Bolsheviks	3	Conrady, Barbara	32	Edgell, John W.	45
Bone, Larry	32	Constable, Jeff	20	Edmondson	14
Book of Golden Deeds Award	27	Cooke, Charles M.	15	Eds, Nellis	36
Booth Cemetery	34	Cooper, Dottie	34	Eighteenth Admendment	9

Eisenhower, Dwight	3	Gardner		Hatchett, B.	45
Electric Park	24# - 26	Emily	39	Haug Cemetery	34
Electric railway	12	Henry	36, 39	Haupt, Herman Gen.	19
Elkins		John	39	Hayden, Sterling	19
Freda	33	Lella	39	Heckle, Sergeant	40
Herman	33	Gardner Burying Ground	39	"Hell On The Border"	45
Elmwood Cemetery	34	Garrett		Hendren, Jimm	31
Engles		Ella	14	Henry, Greg	19
Bryant	33	Gladys	14	Henson	
Cecil	33	Margaret	36	Luqurisa	33
Marjorie M.	33	Mayor	45	Mary Allyn	33
Robert	33	Ollie	14	Michael	33
Evans		Tom Ben	2, 12, 13*	Perry A.	33
Kelly	30	T. B.	14	Perry H.	33
Ray	32	T. B. Jr.	14	Hepsey Cemetery	34
- F -		Garrison, C. B.	32	Heritage Foundation	31
Farmer, Toney	35	Garrison Avenue	29	Hess, John	28
Faulkner		Garvey, Ginnie	27	Hewett, Archie L.	32
D. M.	45	Gass, J. B.	13, 14	Hilgartner, Jay	20
Rachel Louvena	45	Gatlin		Hirohito	3
Fentress Funeral Home	34	Richard Caswell	42	Hissom	
Ferguson, Dr. B.V.	7	Scioto	42	C. O. "Pete"	33
Feydeau, Georges	27	Gehrig, Lou	3	Joe	33
First Baptist Church	7	Geiler, Harold	21	Kyle	33
First Tee Program	30	General fund	31	Lillian	33
Fishback, William	26	General Motors Corporation	7	Hobbs	
Flood, 1927	9	Geyser, John	19	Sally	29
Ford		Gibbs, Lucy	4	Sarah	29
Gerald	3	Gibson		Hoffman	
Henry	7	Irene	42	Conrad	14
Jason	28	Mary Ann	42	J. A.	12
Ford Motor Company	3	Robert Stuart	42	Holcomb, John Bradley	28
Foreman		Sarah Nicks	42	Holden, Kemp C., Jr.	32
Carolyn Thomas	42	Gillette, J. Walter	25	Holt-Krock Clinic	29
Garrett	43	Girl Scouts	3, 8	Home Demonstration Club	7
Forman, Garrett	43	Gooden, Benny L.	31	Hoover, Herbert	3
Fort Biscuit Company	26	Gookin		Hope	
Fort Chaffee	21, 30	Captain	35, 41	Bob	3
Fort Chaffee Public Trust	30, 31	Rebecca Kannady	35, 41	Leslie Townes	3
Fort Coffee	39	Gott		Horne, Lena	3
Fort Gibson	39	John N.	42	Horton, Michael	19
Fort Smith Chair Co.	44	Mary E.	42	Houston, Margaret	43
Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce	11	Graham, Billy	4	Howard Elementary School	18
Fort Smith Chorale	22	Grand Opera House	44	Huckabee	
Fort Smith Civic Center	29	Grant, Ulysses S.	19	Cooper	19
Fort Smith Classic	29	Greenwood, Arkansas	3, 7	Mike	30
Fort Smith Convention and		Greenwood Education Foundation	31	Hughes, Mrs. Abraham	43
Visitor's Bureau	11, 29	Grey, Zane	8	Humber, Charles E.	42
Fort Smith Electric Street Railway	45	Griggs		Hunter, Ian McLellan	19
Fort Smith Jaycees	11	Betty Faye Harper	32	Hurley, T. J.	13
Fort Smith Juvenile Crime Unit	28	Ross	32	- I -	
Fort Smith Light & Traction Company	24	Grober	14	Immaculate Conception Parish	26
Fort Smith Little Theater	27	Grober, F. T.	12	Internet Partners of America	29
Fort Smith Municipal Court	28	Grober Cemetery	34	Interstate highway	31
Fort Smith Museum of History	27	- H -		I-540	31
Fort Smith National Weather Service	28	Hackett Cemetery	34	- J -	
Fort Smith Park	30	Hall, Ed F.	45	Jeter, John	21
Fort Smith Police	29, 30	Hammered dulcimer	22	Jewish Cemetery	34
Fort Smith Police Department	28	Hammon, Surgeon	36	Johns, Forrest	20
Fort Smith Public Library	29	Hammond, John	19, 20	Johnson	
Fort Smith Public School District	29	Hanley		Joice	4
Fort Smith Regional Airport	29, 31	Ray	20	Lyndon B.	3
Fort Smith Social Studies Educators	47	Steven	20	Michele	34
Fort Smith Symphony	2, 21, 22	Harner, Preston	15	Johnston, W. J.	45
Fort Smith Transit	28	Harper		Jones	
Fort Smith Trolley Museum	11, 25, 29	David	19	Bertha Ashley	32
Fort Towson	39	Helen Olive	32	Betty	42
Fortune		Helen Olive Jones	22	Edward	32
Cora Lee	43	Joan	32	Elisabeth	18*
Eleanor Beatrice	43	Mitchell	32	Jim	20
John W.	43	William "Bud"	32	John Hugh	32
Julia Elizabeth	43	W. Raymond, Sr.	32	Jones Restaurant	32
Fosse, Bob	27	Harper Bros.	44	Jordon, James Carroll	19
Foster		Harper & Wilson	44	Joyce, B. L.	45
Dr. J. H.	44	Harris, Julius	19	Jung, C. J.	8
Rhoda	4	Harrison		- K -	
Serena Francis	4	Benjamin	3	Kannady	
Foti, Sonda	29	Ella	15	Colonel	39
Frisco Line	45	Isabella (Bella) Ann	15	Jeremiah	35, 41
Frontier Achievement Awards	2	William Henry	15	J. R.	38
Frontier Belle	28	Harry E. Kelly River Park	30	Sophia B.	35, 41
Fuller, John	13	Hartless		Keach	
- G -		Jefferson Spenser	43	James	20
Gallows	14	Rebecca Caroline	43	Stacy	19, 20
Gammell, Robin	19	Hartman, Patricia	33	Keith	

Joe	31	McCullough, Sarah Fitzjarrald	2, 28	Oak Cemetery	2, 14, 15, 26, 35, 36,
J. Tyler	31	McCurrie, Abigail	36	38, 40, 41, 42	
Sister Judith Marie	28	McDonald, Justice	44	Oak Cemetery Commission	31
Tyffany	31	McGinnis, Mrs.	15	Oates, Warren	19
Kelley	14	McLaglen		Ocker Funeral Home	34
Harry E.	42	Andrew V.	19	Oglesby, Ira	14
James	12	Victor	19	Old Burial Grounds of Fort Smith	34
KFSM Almanac	20	McLoud, Col.	37	Old Fort Days Futurity and Super Derby	28
Kemp, Jack	15	McLoud Sparks Furniture Co.	44	Old Fort Museum	29
Kennedy		McMurtrey Cemetery	34	Old Navy store	30
Allen	14	McPhail, Virginia	34	Olkewicz, Walter	19
John F.	3	McPhee, Martin	28	One Main.Com	29
Kenney	14	Meeks Addition	42	Osburns' farm	8
Kerens, Dick.	37, 40	Methodist Church	6	O'Kelly, Dr. J. B.	44
Kerrcher, Karl Freiderich	35	Michael's Mansion	28	O'Loughlin, Gerald S.	19
Kersey Cemetery	34	Midland Valley Railroad	26	O'Neal	
Kerwin, Brian	19	Miller & Jones Furniture Co.	44	Arlene	5
Kesner, Dr. John W.	8	Minnear, Walter	21	George Lee	5
Ketchum Iron Foundry	39	Miss Laura's Visitors Center	26	Helen Mae Bentley	32
Kimmons Junior High School	17, 31	Missouri Pacific Railroad	16	Robin Leigh	5
Kimmons Parent Teacher Association	17	Mobberley	21	Roger Lee	5
Kizer, Bernice	32	Moir, Judy	34	- P -	
Knights of Honor	43	Monsalve, Hestor	28	Page, Geraldine	19
Kujawa, Stan	24	Moore		Painters' Union	45
Kuper	14	Andrea Leigh	5	Pales, Dr. Marx	21
- L -		Arlene Mozelle	5	Palestine	4, 8
Lake Fort Smith	29, 30	Cynthia Kay "Cindy"	5	Panama Canal	31
Lampe, Neil	26	Deborah	4	Pantet, A. A.	14
Lane, Charles S.	30	Dessa	2-11	Parish	
Laos	17	Dessa Davis	3*	A. J.	32
Laotian Buddhist Community Activity Center	17	Don	5	James	16
Lap dulcimer	23	Donald Jeffrey	5	Lela Mae	16
Lee, Robert E.	19	Herschel	4	Parke	
Leekley, John	19	Herschel A.	6	Frank	44
Lehnen, Pam	31	James Denmark	6	Mary	44
Leonard, Zenobia	8	James Franklin	5	Parker	
Lick, C.A.	14	Jared Don	5	Dana	32
Lincoln		J.D.	9	Doris Bentley	32
Abraham	19	Lee Arthur	5	Parks	13
Blanche	28	Nancy	4	Paxton, J. W.	14
Little		Roger Neil	4, 5	Peanuts	31
Earlene Upchurch	32	Rosemary	4	Peck, Gregory	19
J. J.	13	Terri Lynn	4	Pelley	38
Paul II	32, 33	Trudy Jane	5	Pelley family	35
Paul III	33	Truman	4	Pendergrass	
Locke, James Fuquay	43	Wanda Lucille	4	John M.	45
Loislaw	31, 32	Willis Trueman	5	Mary	45
Long		W. Trueman	2, 5, 6	Pepper, Mrs. George	14
Charles N.	33	Morley, Eudora Isabel	36	Perry, Admiral	7
Mary Elizabeth	33	Morton, John W.	45	Peterson, Dennis	20
Norman	33	Mortons Drug Store	44	Peyser, Penny	19
Looney		Mosely, Ross	45	Phi Gamma Delta	14
Gary Don	4	Moulton, Dr. H.	44	Phillips	14
Linda Gayle	4	Mount Pelee	3	Phonsaya	
Rodney Dale	4	Mountain Home	8	Amphone	18
Rosemary	5	Mousetrap	3	Danny	18
Virgil	4	Multicultural center	18, 28	Pierce, Carl	14
Lowe, Thaddeus	19	Musical Coterie	22	Pipkin, J. W.	45
Lowery-Rye Cemetery	34	Musicals	10	Pleasant Ridge School	8
Lucey, J. M.	41	- N -		Police Department	13
Lucking, William	19	Nagle, Mr.	41	Pollan, Carolyn	30
- M -		Nance & Wheatley	44	Polson, Susan Kate	36
Main		Napier, Charles	19	Post, Wiley	10
Doctor	36	National Bank Holiday	9	Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park	19
J. H. T.	39	National Cemetery	31, 37	Prendergast, Wm.	14
March, Rev. Harvey	7	National Cowboy Reenactor championships	30	Price	
Marconi	3	National Cycling championship	28	Kathryn	21
Marionnettes	27	National Historic Site	27, 29, 32	Mrs. Tom	42
Marrs, Dr. M. C.	44	Neiman, Adam	21	Pryor	
Marsh, Patrick	20	New Guinea	30	Cornelius D.	35, 41
Martin		New Theater	2	Kate	35, 41
Amelia	3, 13	Nguyen, Ai-Chau	18*	Margaret Ellen	36
Amelia Whitaker	2, 28	Nicks		Neil	35, 41
Art	31	John	42	Neil B.	35, 41
Marynik, Kathy K.	43	Sarah Perkins	42	Reuben A.	35, 41
Massard Skirmish	32	Nigger Hill	36, 40	Psaltory	22
Masters National Cycling Championships	29	NIKE	29	Punch Robertson Co.	44
Matthews, Joe	44	Nixon, Richard	3	Putman Funeral Home	14, 34
Maupin, Bobby	36	Nongkhai Camp, Thailand	18	Pyrex	3
Mayer		North Pole	7	- Q -	
Margaret	35	Northside Grizzlies	31	Queen Lilioukalani	15
Martha	41	Nowland Springs	34	- R -	
McAuley, Catherine	34	Nunley, Robert L. "Bob"	34	Race Track Cemetery	35
McClendon, Karl	6	Nuttall, Thomas	39	Raney	
McConnell, Bud	10	- O -		Charles	26

Charles D.	15	Southern Wholesale, Inc.	11	- U -	
Ray Family.	7	Southside High School.	30	Union Grove.	8
Reagan, Ronald.	3	Sparks		Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church.	10
Reall, Virginia.	33	Charles.	35	Upchurch, Earlene.	33
Redding.	45	George.	35, 41	USA Truck.	30
Reed, Jesse.	36	Mitchell.	35	- V -	
Refugee camps.	18	Sparks Regional Medical Center.	29	Varsity Grill.	26
Regehr, Duncan.	19	Spencer, Christopher.	19	Vaughn, Robert.	19
Regina's House of Dolls II.	31	Spicer		Verdon, Deborah.	32
Rex, Charles.	21	Bertha.	4	Vernon, John.	19
Reynolds		Gearl.	5	Vietnam Memorial Wall.	30
Charles.	14	Spirit of the Frontier Awards.	32	Von Braun, Exilda Josephine	
Donald W.	28	Spiro Mounds.	20	Marguerite St. Pierre.	22
Kimberly Jo.	32	Spiro State Bank.	11	Vorster, Sister Pierre.	32
Richardson, Don.	27	Spradling, County Judge.	12	- W -	
Riverfront development.	30	Spradling Elementary School.	18	Wagoner, Loring.	18
Riverfront Task Force.	30	Staggs, Louraney.	36	Walgreen store.	30
Riverfront Walking Trail.	30	Stallings, Rev. Oscar.	7	Walker	
Rivers, Walter Wicliff.	43	Stanley Steamer.	3	Brooksie.	33
Roberts		STARR program.	28	J. W.	45
Linda Little.	33	State police office.	28	Wallace	
Ramona.	32	Stebler, William Ernest.	36	Dr. John M.	44
Rogers		Steep Hill Cemetery.	34	Sam L.	45
Captain.	36, 40	Stephens		Wang, Ya-Hui.	21
Hugh.	43	Dr. E. H.	44	Ward	
John.	34, 35, 38, 41	John Richard.	43	George.	45
John Davis.	36	Stewart, James.	19	James M.	36
Mary Flagg.	35	Stom, Van.	45	Ware Family.	7
Will.	10	Stone, Christopher.	19	Warner, Harry P.	14
William Lafayette.	43	Stoppleman Family.	42	Watts	
Rogers Cemetery.	34, 36, 40	Student union.	28	Walter H.	4, 5
Roosevelt		St. Anne's Academy.	27	Wanda.	5
Franklin D.	3	St. Edward Mercy Hospital.	30	Wayne, John.	19
Theodore.	3	St. John's Hospital.	45	Weatherford International.	30
Rosales-Lambert, Maria.	28	St. Luke's Lutheran Church.	22	Weaver	
Rosalie Tiles Childrens' Home.	30	Sulphur Springs.	36, 41	J. Frank.	34, 35, 38
Rose Lawn Cemetery.	42	Superior Federal Savings Bank.	18	W. J.	38, 39
Rounds, David.	19	Suratt		Weems, Dr. H.	44
Russell, Thomas.	39	Albert.	15, 16	Wegman, Henry.	13
Ryan.	15	Alene.	15	Welk, Lawrence.	3
Rye, J. O.	14	Clara.	15	Werner, Bob.	27
- S -		Ella D.	16	Westark College.	21, 28, 29, 30, 31
Sanders, Powell.	34	Ernest.	15, 16	Western Vaudeville Association.	25
Sandlin, Carol.	43	Henry.	16	Wheeler Street.	16
Schaap.	14	Henry Fletcher Jr.	16	Whitaker, Elizabeth G.	4
Schaap, John.	12	Henry S.	2, 15, 16*	Whitlow.	45
Schafer, Lothar.	20	Isabella Ann.	16	Widder, Dr. Roger.	21
Schmieding, Annie Winnifred.	36	Lela Mae.	16	Williams	
Schofield		Lutie.	15	Dorothy E.	33
Danny.	33	Mamie Rebecca.	15, 16	Nell.	34
Durwin.	33	Mary.	15	Patricia.	34
JoAnn.	33	Mildred.	15	Paul C. III.	34
Schultis		William W.	16	Williams Tool Company.	30
Larry.	23	Willis.	15, 16	Wilson	
Leahe.	23	Sutton		Cons P.	42
Lorna.	2, 22-23*	Bettie.	36	Nell.	42
Lorna Dickson.	22, 23	Willie.	36	Tennie.	8
Scott.	23	Swallow Rock.	39	Woodrow.	3, 8
Schultz, Charles.	31, 32	Swortzell, Lowell.	27	Windshield wipers.	3
Scruggs.	14	- T -		Winfield, Paul.	19
Sebastian County Park Board.	32	Taber, Tina.	22	Woldert, Dorothy.	35
Self, William.	19	Taft, William Howard.	3	Wood, Diane.	31
Sellitto, Rose Marie.	33	Taliano's Italian Restaurant.	11	Wooten, Carol Sue.	21
Sengmanivong, Virapol.	28	Tallman, Betty.	33	Word, Orville C.	36
Sexton		Tate Cemetery.	34	World War I.	8
Bill.	34	Tatum Cemetery.	34	World War II.	11
Dan.	34	Taylor, D. D.	44	Wright	
Diane.	34	Templeton, Martha.	43	Bert.	32
Donna Sue.	34	Terrell		John.	45
Farrell.	34	Shirley Ray.	5	Wright Brothers.	3
Sam III "Chip".	34	Thailand.	17	Wyman.	14
Sam, Jr.	34	The Blue and the Gray.	2, 19	Wyman, Hank.	12
Shaeffer, Miss.	8	Thellman, John.	21	- Y -	
Shakespeare, William.	36	Thomas, Ted.	30	Y2K.	28, 31
Sherrill, Amy.	28	Thompson, John Franklin.	36	Yadon, Bessie.	43
Shinn, Josiah.	39	Thurman, Susan Caldonia.	43	Young, D. J.	36, 40
Shook, Effie M.	36	Tiley, Beverly Davis.	43	- Z -	
Shor, Dan.	19	Times Record.	28	Zero Mountain, Inc.	29
Shores, Del.	27	Titanic.	3, 8		
Simmons, M. A.	45	Todd, Tess.	22		
Simon, Neil.	27	Torn, Rip.	19		
Sinclair.	36	Town Club.	31		
Smith.	45	Traveler's Protective Association.	44		
Snoopy.	31	Truman, Harry.	3		
Southern Broom Factory.	44	Tubbs, Mrs. N. B.	45		